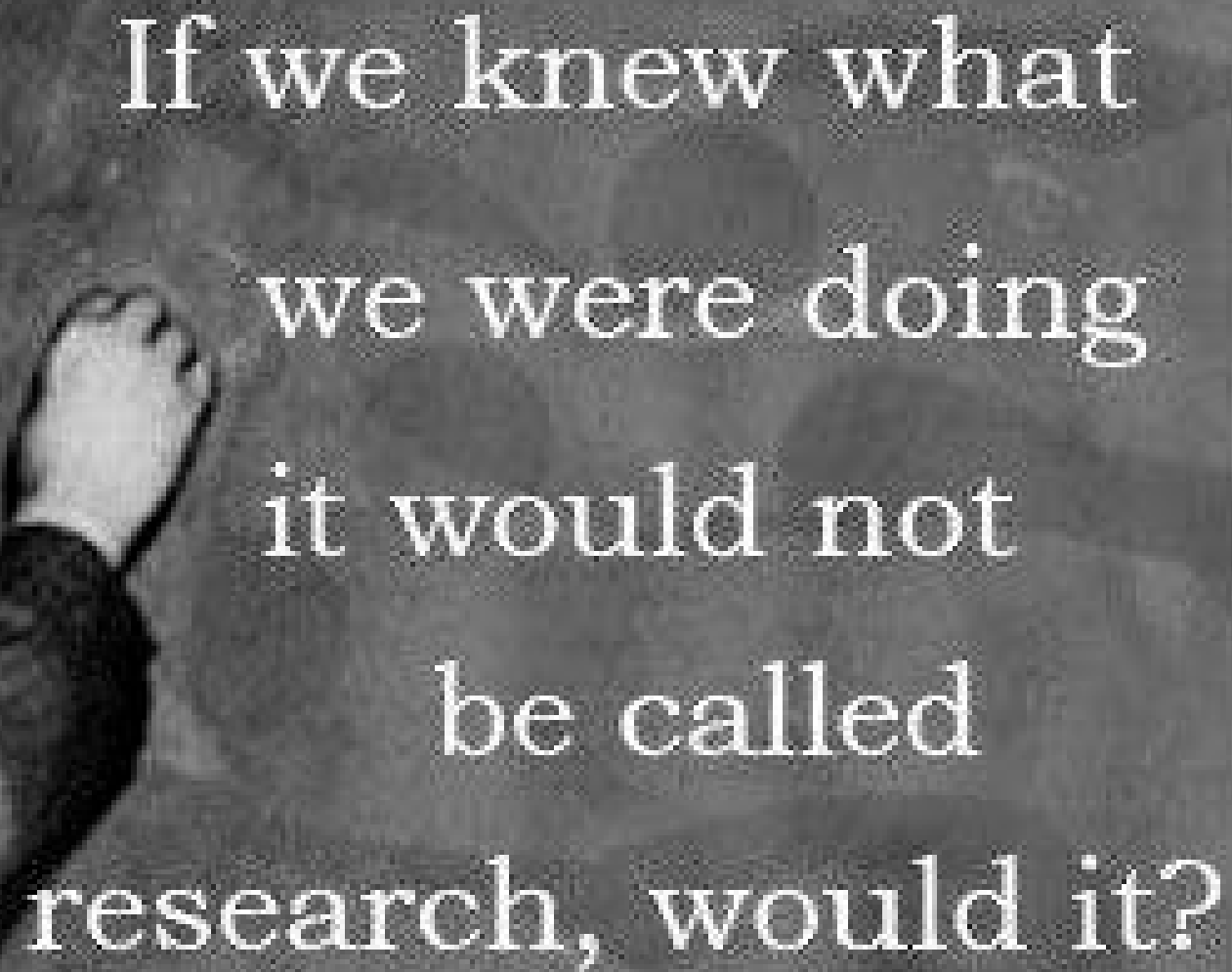




Life As A (International) PhD student

Rachael Taitt

2nd year PhD student at Institute des Nanotechnologies de Lyon (INL)

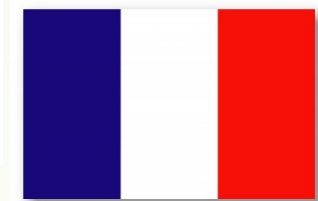
A black and white photograph of a hand pointing at a chalkboard. The hand is on the left side of the frame, pointing towards the center. The chalkboard is filled with white text. The text is arranged in six lines, centered horizontally. The background of the slide is a light green color with a red arrow pointing right at the top left and some thin, dark lines on the left side.

If we knew what
we were doing
it would not
be called
research, would it?

My Academic Journey



Undergrad
Bsc. Chemistry



Masters
Msc. Physical
Chemistry



PhD





Questions I asked myself

- What interests me?
- Who in my network can I speak to for advice?
 - Is a PhD necessary for me?

How I chose my subject

Does this topic excite me?

How are the resources of the lab?

Do I think I can work with well with the team?

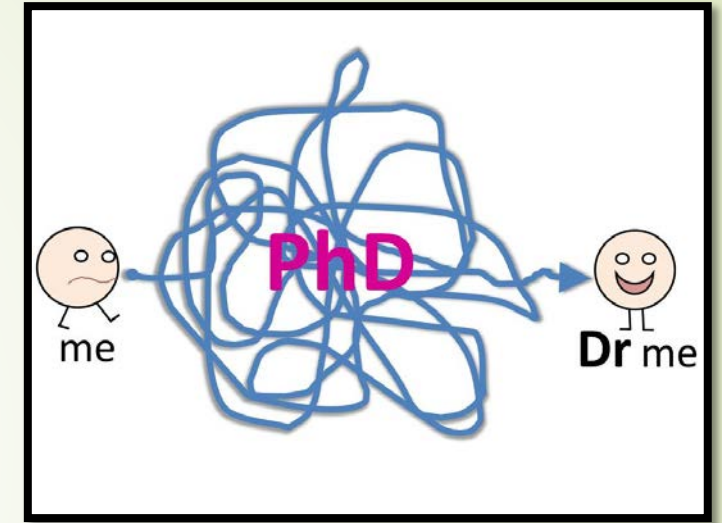
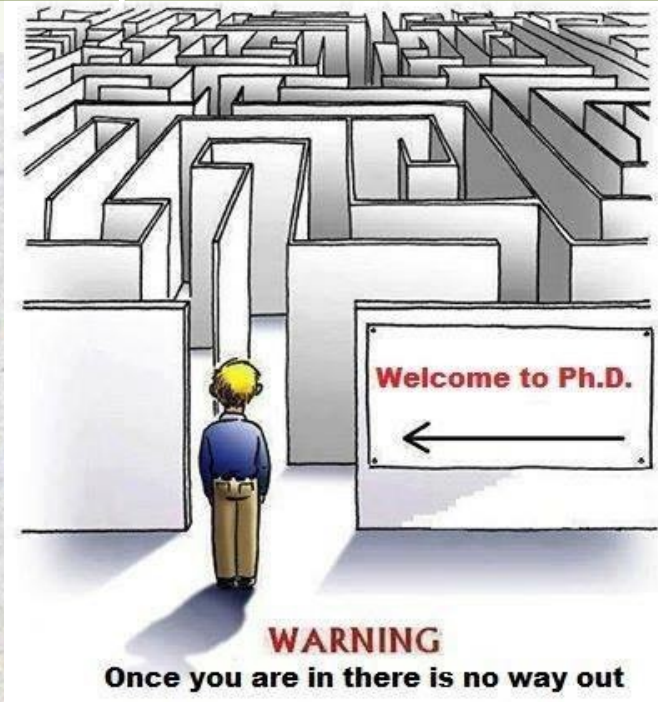
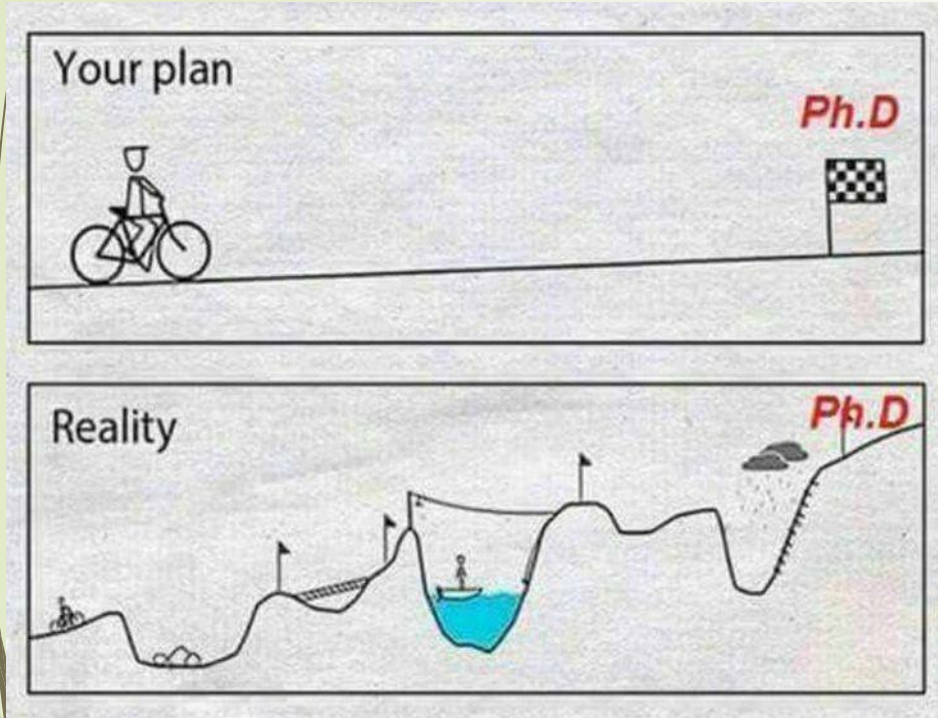
What are the opinions of the current PhDs of the lab environment?

Can I have a good social life here?

Can I see myself living here?

- Funded by Ecole Doctorale EEA (Electronique, électrotechnique et automatique)

The Actual PhD Experience: Debunking the myths



THE TRUTH: It is hard, but not impossible.

The Actual PhD Experience: Debunking the myths

- Define clearly the objectives of your thesis
- Know your doctorate school's requirements to obtain the PhD
- Be open to new ideas, and always eager to learn
- Manage expectations
- Organization is key!!

THE TRUTH: It is hard, but not impossible.

Bonuses to PhD Life

- ❑ Best of two worlds: A student, but salaried and NO EXAMS!! ;)
- ❑ You can focus on what you really like
- ❑ Meet new, diverse and interesting people
- ❑ Travel!! (conferences, summer and winter schools)

It's a great adventure!
Explore your field and the world around you!!



Have a good reason
for starting, and then
remember it.

