

Research Cameo: the end of one journey, the beginning of another

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Defining 'cameo'

'A short, descriptive literary sketch which neatly encapsulates someone or something'

(<http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/>)

- ◉ Where I am
- ◉ How I got here
- ◉ What my future might look like

Heads Above the Parapet: Midwifery Leadership Development

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Main Findings

- ◉ For the purposes of this presentation...
- ◉ Three central narratives:
 - The path to leadership
 - I am still a midwife
 - Between a rock and a hard place
- ◉ Individually, cohesive and coherent narratives
- ◉ But a clear understanding of complexities of making the transition to leadership

Introducing Liminal Space

- ◉ Personal conundrums:
 - Narratives of identity
 - PhD as academic apprenticeship?
 - Alternative futures
- ◉ 'Liminality': a parallel challenge
- ◉ Re-examining data to explore challenges of identity transition



Anthropological Focus

- ◉ Van Gennep (1909; 1960)
- ◉ Familiar contexts: adolescence, pregnancy
- ◉ Three stages of transition:
 - Separation: initiate stripped of social status
 - Liminal period: time of transition
 - Re-assimilation: initiate afforded new status
- ◉ Being 'betwixt and between'

Journeys through Liminality

Separation (pre-liminal)

- Leaving behind some part of clinical identity
- Retaining core 'midwife' identity
- Acknowledgement of no longer being in the 'gang'
- The place of band 7

Transition (liminal)

- Seeing the bigger picture
- Leadership Development programmes – new networks, possible futures
- Secondment opportunities and 'apprenticeships'
- Coaching and mentorship

Re-assimilation (post-liminal)

- Bringing learning into practice
- 'Being' a manager/leader
- The boundary spanning midwife
- Role and social identity



Separation

- ◉ A tiny cog in a huge wheel?
- ◉ Relating instead to a narrative of autonomous practitioner, advocate for women/midwives
- ◉ Serendipity and a studentship
- ◉ Physical and metaphorical separation



Transition

- ◉ Seeing a bigger picture
- ◉ Developing new networks
- ◉ Learning new languages
- ◉ Considering possible futures: research, NHS, policy?



Re-assimilation

- ◉ Stepping into the unknown
- ◉ ‘Accidentally’ in academia?
- ◉ (Re)establishing identity
- ◉ The boundary spanning midwife

Current Role Identity

- ◉ Challenges of establishing/maintaining hybrid identity: what my family think I do
- ◉ Rest and be thankful
- ◉ Life as a research fellow
 - Retriever of information
 - New projects
 - Carrying on the doctoral work

Future Possibilities

- ◉ A liminal existence?
- ◉ Clinical academic career paths
- ◉ Life in academia
- ◉ Bridging divides and being brave

Being an Explorer

‘An explorer is somebody who often makes dangerous, difficult and unique journeys for the main purpose of bringing back news from faraway lands. [Being an explorer] is habitually including personal challenges, as much as it might be delusional, but it is almost always driven by curiosity and a great willpower to make a difference’

– Mikael Strandberg



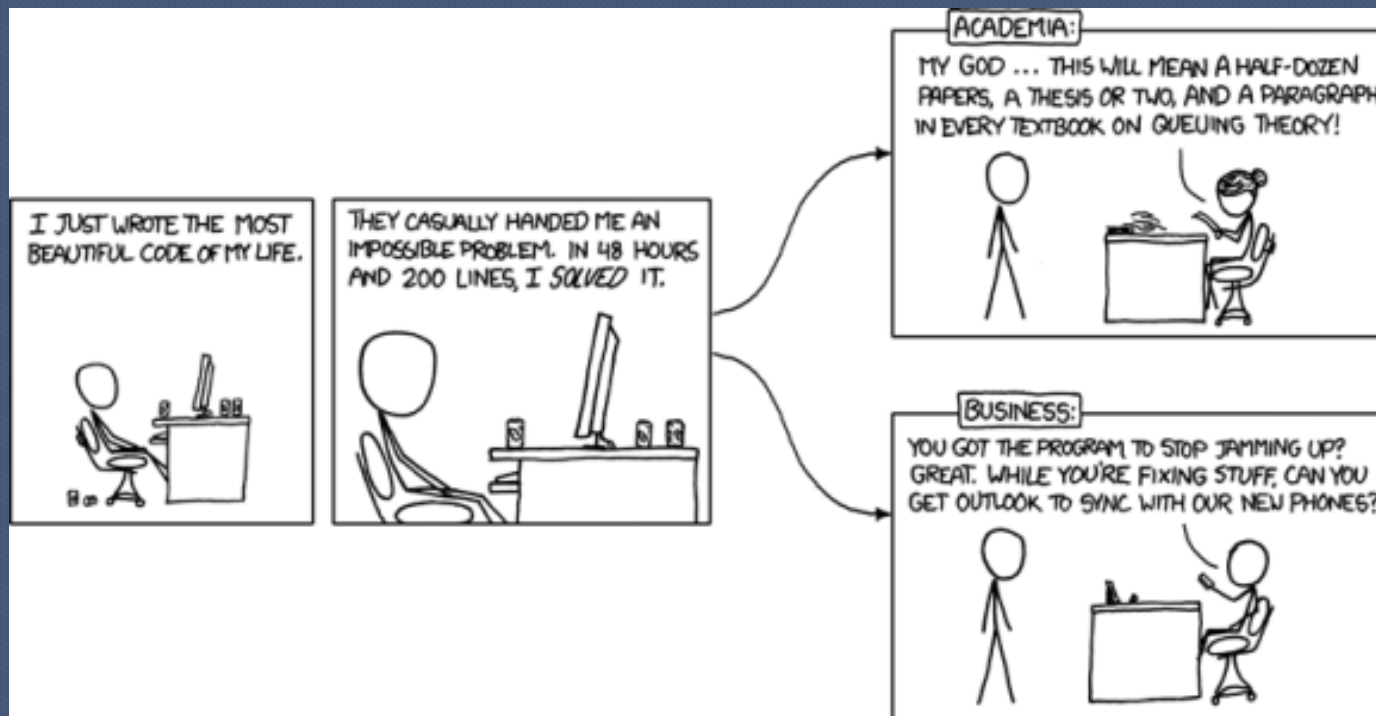
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/kensington-explorersinresidence/9-tips-how-to-become-a-mo_b_4004390.html

Thinking of Exploring Research?

- ◉ Do it!
- ◉ A changing environment?
- ◉ But be sure to leave a trail behind you:
 - One foot in clinical life
 - NHS clinical academic careers
 - Thinking big in midwifery
 - Finding support



Why Research Matters



Thanks for Listening...

◉ Questions?

◉ Links to my world:

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