

## Is there life after the Ph.D.?

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### **About Me**

Research fellow

Jun 2013

Assistant professor

Sep 2016

Associate professor

Jan 2017











Jun 2016

Unemploy ment

Dec 2016

Thesis defense





Is there life while pursuing a Ph.D.?



#### **Overtime**

- Research fellow worked 400 hours overtime (2013)
  - To be the best you have to work overtime. (by Floyd Mayweather)
  - It takes 65 muscles to frown and 13 to make a smile. Why work overtime? (by B. J. Palmer)





#### **Pressure**

- Many Ph.D. candidates struggle mentally (2017)
  - No pressure, no diamonds. (
     by Thomas Carlyle)
  - If you do what you love, it is the best way to relax. (by Christian Louboutin)

pursuing a Ph.D. = what you love?





## **Conflicts**

- Many Ph.D. candidates have problems with their supervisors (2017)
  - Creativity comes from a conflict of ideas. (by Donatella Versace)
  - You don't have to love the people you work with regularly, but you had better like them. (by Leon F. McGinnis)





## **Uncertainty**

- The proportion of temporary employees is higher in the university and college sectors than in any other industry in Norway (2016)
  - 1,850 temporary employees in selected job categories in 2010
  - in 2015
    - 37% of them were permanent
    - 30% of them were still temporarily employed
    - 33 % were no longer employed at the same institution

<u>Understandably</u>, scientific assistants, fellow students, and post doctors have been omitted.



### **Time Constraint**

- Many Ph.D. candidates do not complete within the prescribed time, which is three or four years (2016)
  - 34% of those who started the Ph.D. in 2009 had not been completed after six years
  - 76% of those who started the Ph.D. in 2002-03 completed after eight years





It is better to suffer short-term pain rather than long-term torture.



## **Writing Thesis**

- When the scholarship period is over, but the dissertation is not completed
  - generally not entitled to unemployment benefit
  - may be entitled to unemployment benefit after submitting and completing all the work on the dissertation



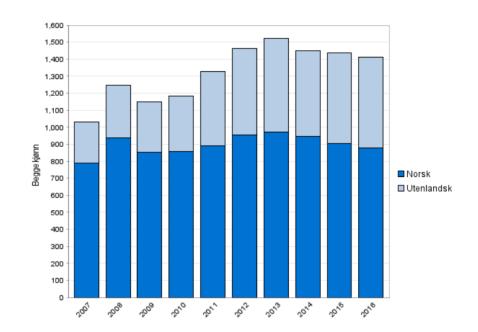


Is there life after the Ph.D.?



## **Foreigners**

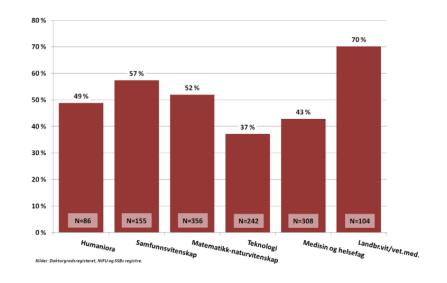
- 1,410 doctoral degrees were completed in 2016 - the lowest number of five years
  - 37.7% of doctoral degrees were completed by foreigners
  - 67% of doctoral degrees in technology were completed by foreigners





## Unemployment

- About half of foreigners left Norway immediately after completing their doctoral degrees (2013)
  - 37% of foreigners who completed their doctoral degrees in technology from 2000 to 2007 were not employed in Norway after two years





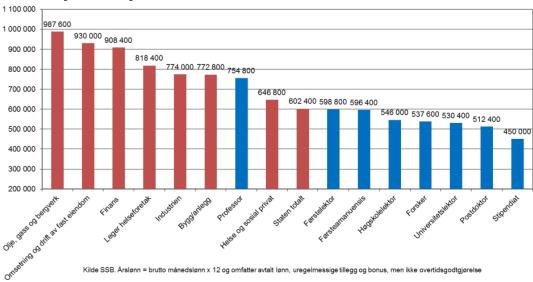
## **Fewer Norwegians**

- I suspect that oil companies prefer a skilled employee rather than a theorist from the University (2013)
  - the average age for a permanent position as associate professor at a university is 43
  - before that, he or she must suffer through years of temporary work, unemployment and so on
  - for some lucky few, a time-limited postdoctoral position
  - but the worst is the salary



# Academia = Low-paid?

 Average annual salary for employees with more than four years of education (2014)





### **Theorist?**

- The doctoral degree is too narrow (2011)
  - many doctorates are offered only temporary positions and frustration
  - they must be prepared for a working life outside the research
- What do we do with doctoral education if the universities themselves think that Ph.D. researchers are so narrow? (2016)

Over the course of your post-student career, the marketplace will change dramatically. (by Leon F. McGinnis)



## **Industry**

#### Educational level that is most relevant to the business (2016)

	Alle	Har ansatt master/tilsv.	Har ansatt bachelor	Har ansatt lærer	Har ansatt fagskole- utdannede
Utdanning under nivået for fullført videregående opplæring	1,2	0,6	1,4	3,1	
Videregående yrkesfaglig opplæring	9,9	8,4	9,9	3,1	17,3
Videregående studieforberedende opplæring	0,8		0,9		0,9
Fagskoleutdanning	4,7	3,9	3,3	3,1	8,2
Bachelorgrad eller annen høyere utdanning under					
nivået for mastergrad	55,3	50,0	60,6	69,2	57,3
Mastergrad/hovedfag	26.5	34.8	22.5	21.5	15.5
Doktorgrad	1,6	2,2	1,4	0	0,9
N (= 100 prosent)	253	178	213	65	110



## **Education = Success?**

- You do not need education to succeed (by Olav Thon)
  - I have a Ph.D., but nobody needs me.
  - When I was at NAV for the first time, my case manager read my papers and mumbled: "Hmmm. You have a Ph.D. We may regret that this may take a while."





## Responsible?

 Prospective Ph.D. students must be prepared for the fact that they will probably not end up with a career in research

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n	. PULITARPA: I	LAKEEK DEVEL	UPMFNI FUK	DUIL TURAL	LANDIDAIFS

SUB OBJECTIVES	MAIN ACTIVITIES	RESPONSIBLE
SUB OBJECTIV 1: UiB doctoral candidates will have a good knowledge of the career opportunities that exist both within and outside academia as well as how their own careers can be developed	Alumni surveys will be conducted in order to chart candidates' careers and their satisfaction with the PhD education	DRA
	UiB will produce a career development guide for use in the departments and research groups	DHR
	Develop courses on how to write good applications for research funding.  Develop courses in bibliometrics and publishing	DRA, UL, Faculties
	Establish a talent development program for doctoral candidates	DRA, DHR
	Appraisal interview for all PhD research fellows at UiB	DHR, Faculties, Departments
SUB OBJECTIV 2: UiB's PhD education will supply all sectors of the labour market with research and development expertise	Develop courses for candidates seeking a career outside academia: awareness of personal skills, transferable skills, industry needs and job searching	DRA, DHR
	Promote PhD education (also Industrial and Public Sector PhD schemes) to the labour market	CD, Faculties
	PhD candidates at UiB will be offered course in pedagogy	DE

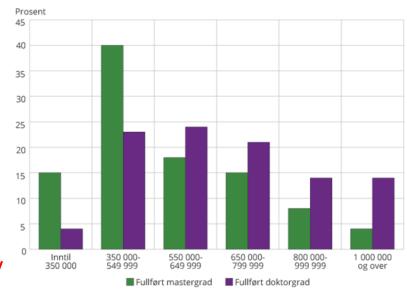
You?



## Pays off?

- Higher income with a Ph.D. (2015)
  - half of full-time workers with a Ph.D. earned over 650,000
  - 15% of people with a Ph.D.
     earned over 1 million

**five years** after they took a master's / doctoral degree in Norway in 2008





#### **Doctorate**

#### Doctorate

– from Latin docere, "to teach"

#### Doctor's degree

— from Latin doctor, "teacher"

#### In Norway

anyone who holds a Ph.D.
 degree can apply for a permanent position as associate professor





### **Research Career**

#### Some advices (2017)

- look for opportunities outside of academia
- begin early
  - Concentrate on getting a Ph.D. first, do not think anymore than that. (by Katrine Vellesen Løken)
- get your experience, be active, be open to opportunities
- be realistic
  - Stay in the right place at the right time; think strategically about your choice of subject and supervisor. (by Knut Holtan Sørensen)







There is more in your life than your Ph.D.

There are lies, damned lies and statistics. (by Mark Twain)

