



THE LONDON SCHOOL  
OF ECONOMICS AND  
POLITICAL SCIENCE ■



# Publish or Perish? Thinking about the long term

LSE-Southeast Asia Early Career Researcher (ECR) Network Workshop on Academic Publishing

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22 May 2019

Graham Wallas Room, Old Building, LSE

Professor Hyun Bang Shin

SEAC Director

Professor of Geography and Urban Studies



Didn't publish so perished (Image credit: [CartoonStock.com](https://www.cartoonstock.com))

## 'It's cut-throat': half of UK academics stressed and 40% thinking of leaving

Frequent rejection and a loss of control are making university staff isolated and ill, new research shows



▲ Prof Matthew Flinders says young academics can find the many rejections 'horrible'. Photograph: Christopher Thomond/The Guardian

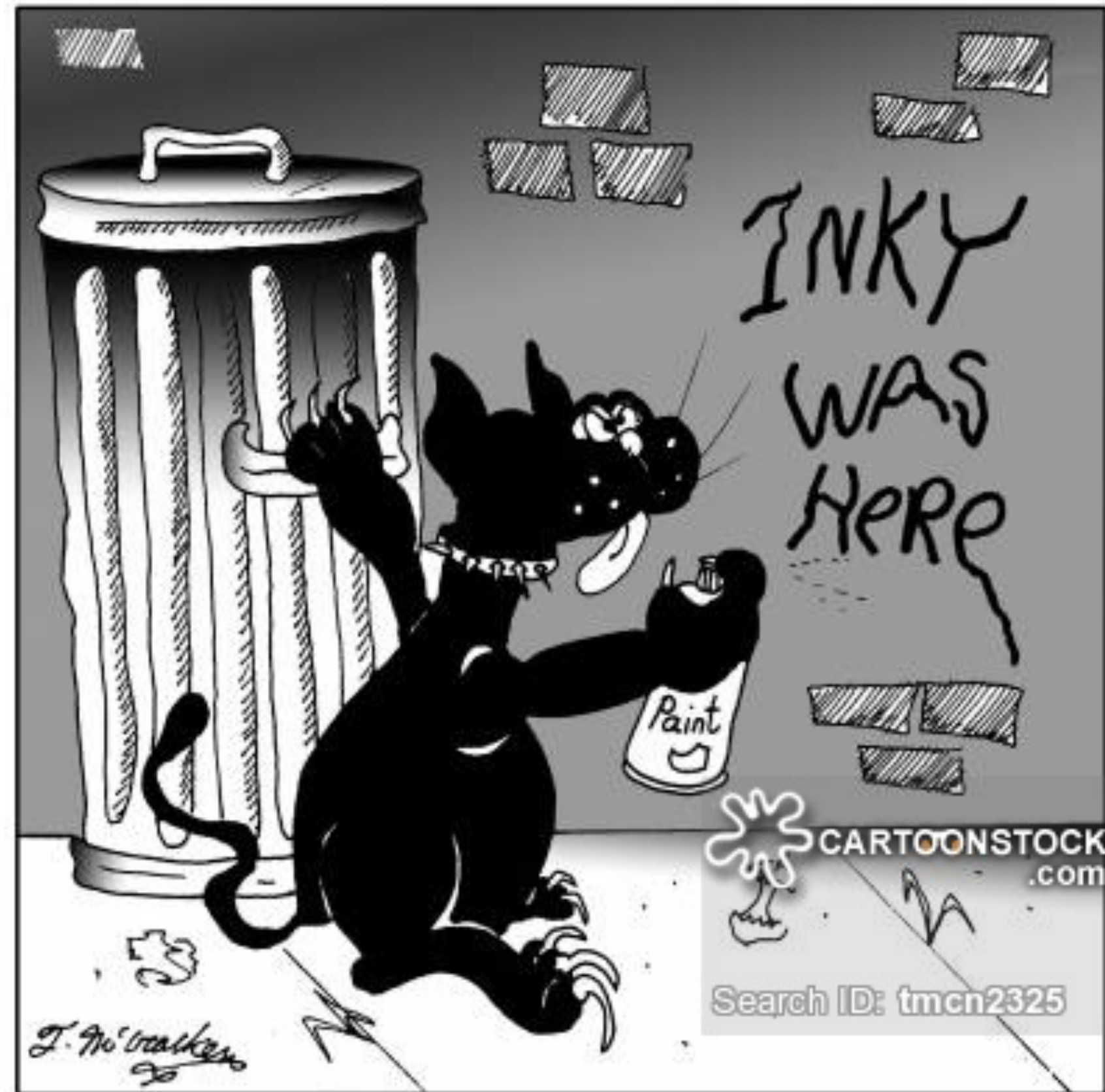
The Guardian, 21 May 2019

“...universities aren't preparing young people properly for working in higher education. He argues that early career researchers need to be taught resilience, because the level of failure and rejection can be brutal”

Most reputable journals will have 10-15% acceptance rate.

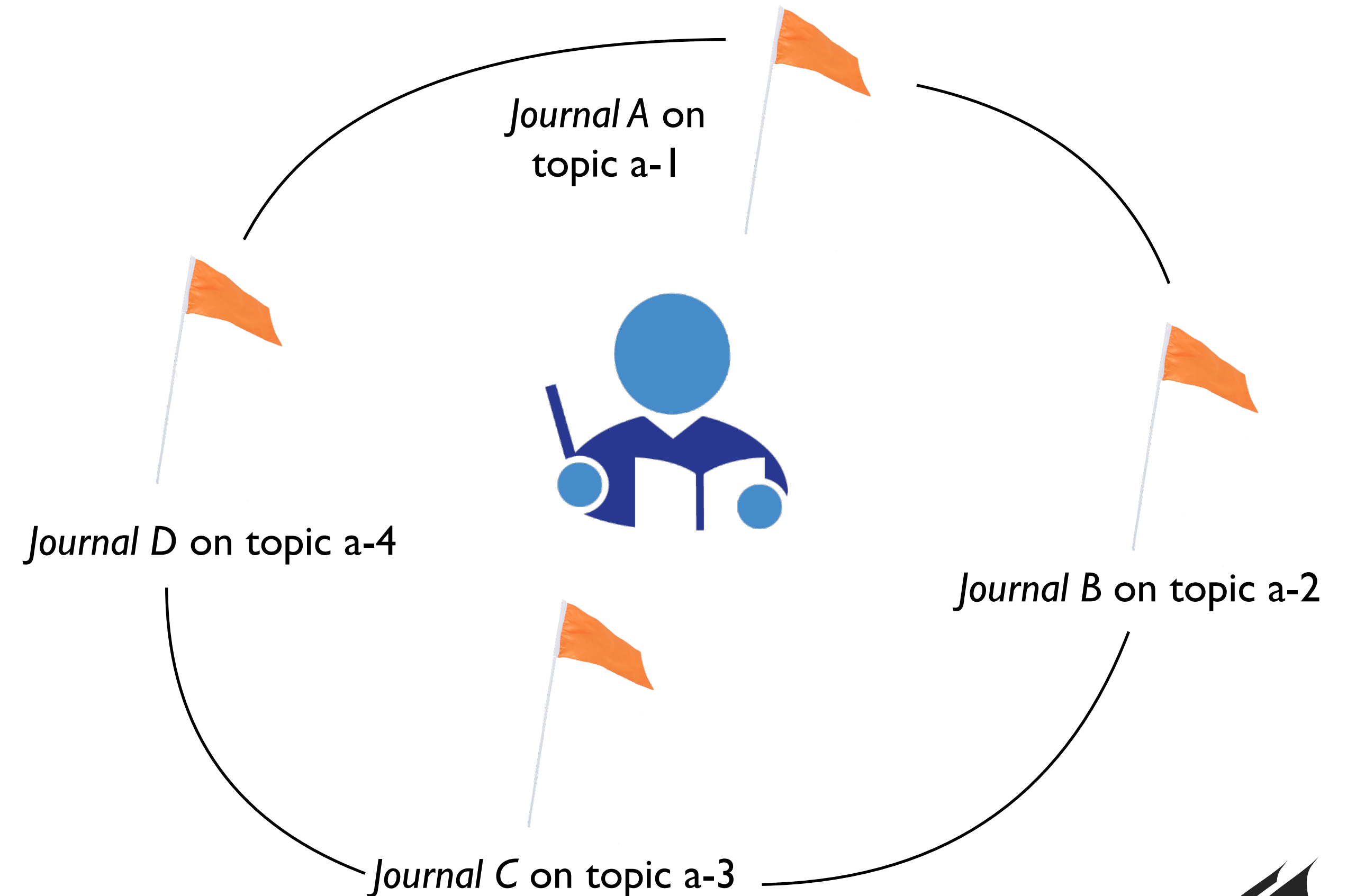
# Publications as Markers of your 'Academic Territory'

*This territory, including what you write about and where you publish, is what defines you in the field*



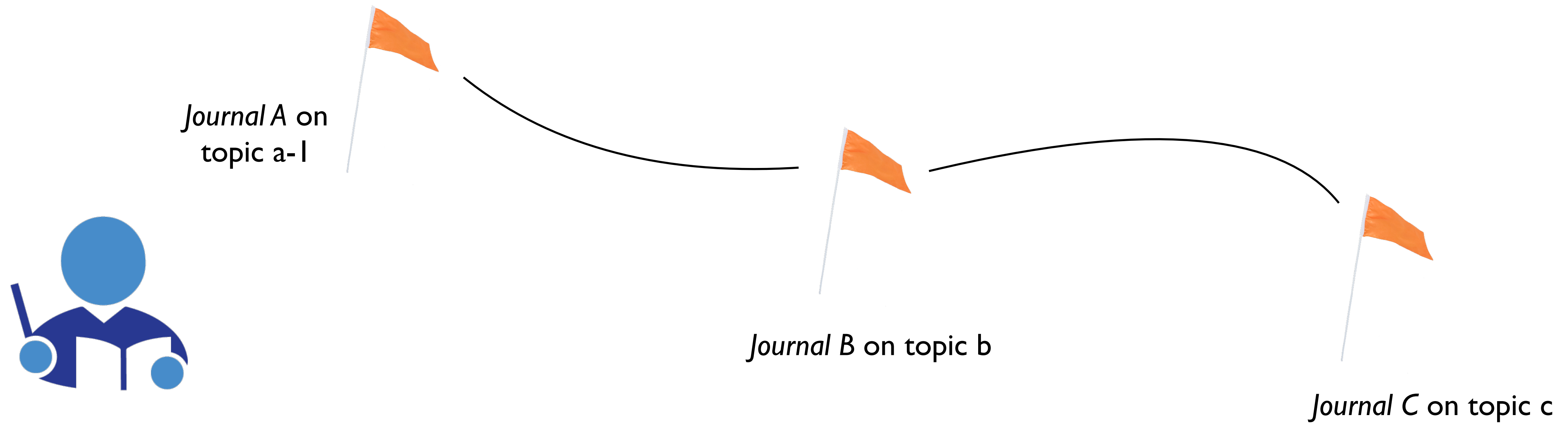
Inky marks his territory the new and improved way.

Image credit: [CartoonStock.com](https://www.cartoonstock.com)



SOUTHEAST ASIA

# Build your core: Avoid stretching yourself on a thin line



# Mode of Publications?

## Choosing between Books, Chapters, Articles and Public Writing



- Study the practices in your own discipline. Some disciplines do not write books, and others value books
- Peer-reviewed journal articles as primary outputs for most disciplines
- But, do not discount book chapters, especially when you are invited by esteemed scholars who act as editor(s)
- Consider publishing your PhD thesis as monograph
- Do not discount public writings such as blogs



# Publications as Markers of your 'Academic Territory'



## By Applicant

### + For students and undergraduates

- **AAG Council Award for Outstanding Graduate Student Paper at a Regional Meeting** brings a grad student selected for best paper during each regional division meeting to the AAG annual meeting
- **AAG International Geographic Information Fund** offers student travel, research, or paper awards in GIS/spatial analysis
- **Community College Travel Grants** brings two-year students to AAG's annual meeting
- **Darrel Hess Community College Geography Scholarships** assist students to transfer into bachelor programs
- **Marble-Boyle Undergraduate Achievement Awards** in Geographic Science recognizes academic performance and leadership
- **Mel Marcus Fund for Physical Geography** supports field-based research by faculty with students (professors apply)
- **Specialty/Affinity Group Competitions** for members belonging to AAG

### + For scholars and professionals: grants

### + For scholars and professionals: recognition

### + For authors

### + For highly distinguished nominees

- 2017 AAG Latin America Specialty Group
  - Mara Noguiera, London School of Economics and Political Sciences, Best Paper Award PhD Level, "Conserving the (segregated) city: the role of the middle-classes in shaping urban space the case of Belo Horizonte/ Brazil"
- 2017 AAG China Specialty Group
  - Yimin Zhao, London School of Economics and Political Sciences, Travel award, "Space as Method: Field Sites and Encounters in Beijing's Green Belts"

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International  
Convention of  
Asia Scholars

## International Convention of Asia Scholars

Accelerating Research in Asian Studies since 1997

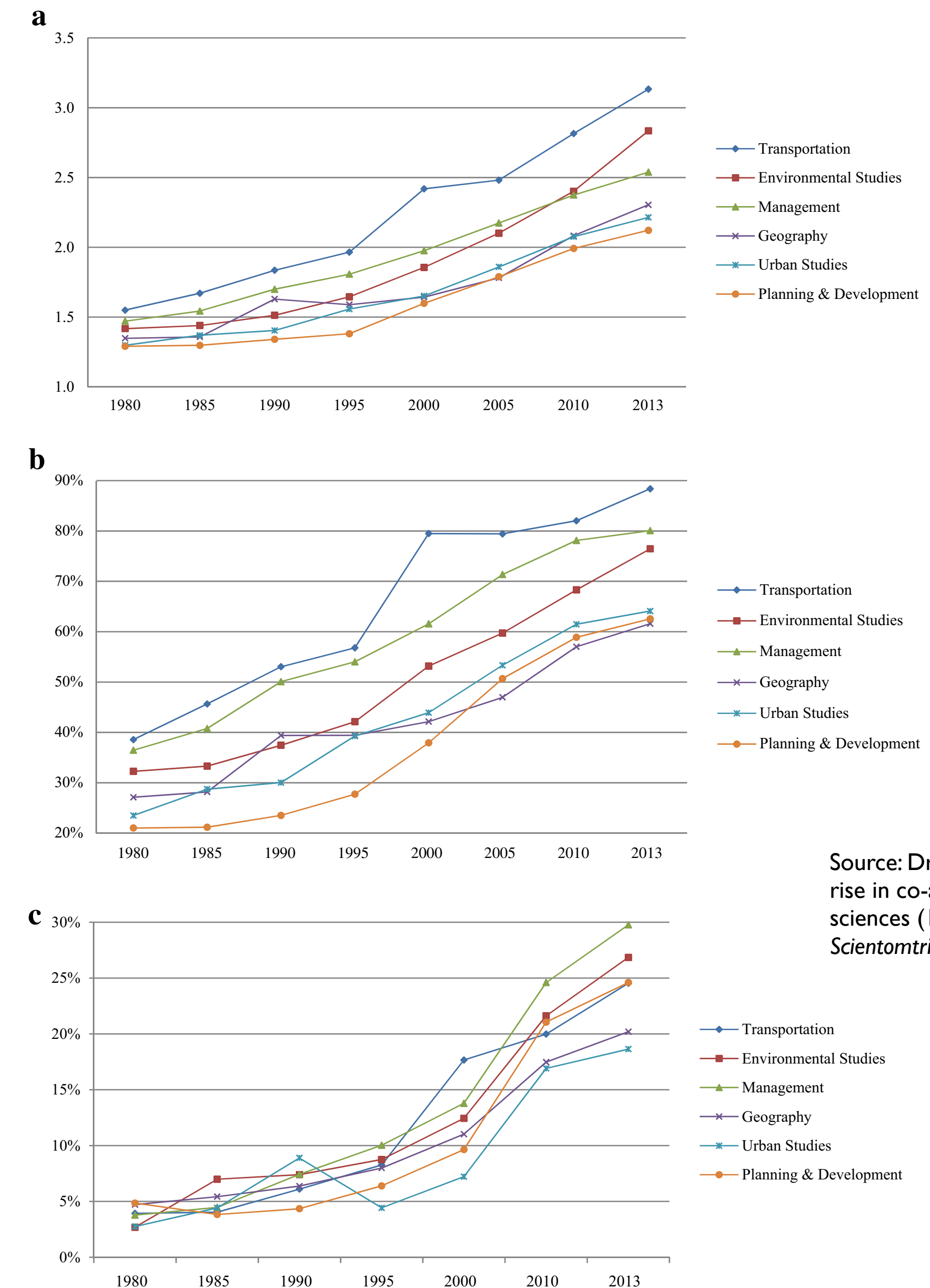
### Shortlist Dissertations Social Sciences

Title	Author	Defended at	Defended
From a colonial institution to a neoliberal real estate developer: Comparative analysis of universities in the urban process in East Asia	Do Young Oh	London School of Economics and Political Science	2017
Modeling China: Business, Politics, and Material in China's Museum Industry	Aleksandra (Leksa) Lee	University of California, Irvine	2016
The Art of Being Small: Exploring the Transnational World of Lao Small-Scale Traders in the Yunnan-Laos-Thailand Borderland	Simon Christian Rowedder	Department of Southeast Asian Studies, National University of Singapore	2018
The Hegemony of Urbanisation: Questioning the Production of Space by the State in Beijing's Green Belts	Yimin Zhao	London School of Economics and Political Science	2017
The Political Economy of Gender Interventions: Social Forces, Kinship, Violence, and Finance in Post-Conflict Timor-Leste	Melissa Johnston	Murdoch University	2018



# Publishing Solo or as Joint Author?

- Study the practices of co-authorship in your discipline
- Rule of thumb: Healthy mix of single- and co-authored outputs. A greater weight on single-authored outputs in social sciences especially in the ECR stage
- Establish the scope of each joint author/ collaborator before writing
- Remember that what you produce becomes your marker



Source: Drongstrup, D. (2016) The rise in co-authorship in the social sciences (1980–2013). *Scientometrics* 107(2): 455-476

**Fig. 1** **a** Mean number of authors per article Management, planning and geography. **b** Share of co-authorship management, planning and geography. **c** Share of international co-authorship management, planning and geography

## Being a Prolific Writer? *Quality matters*



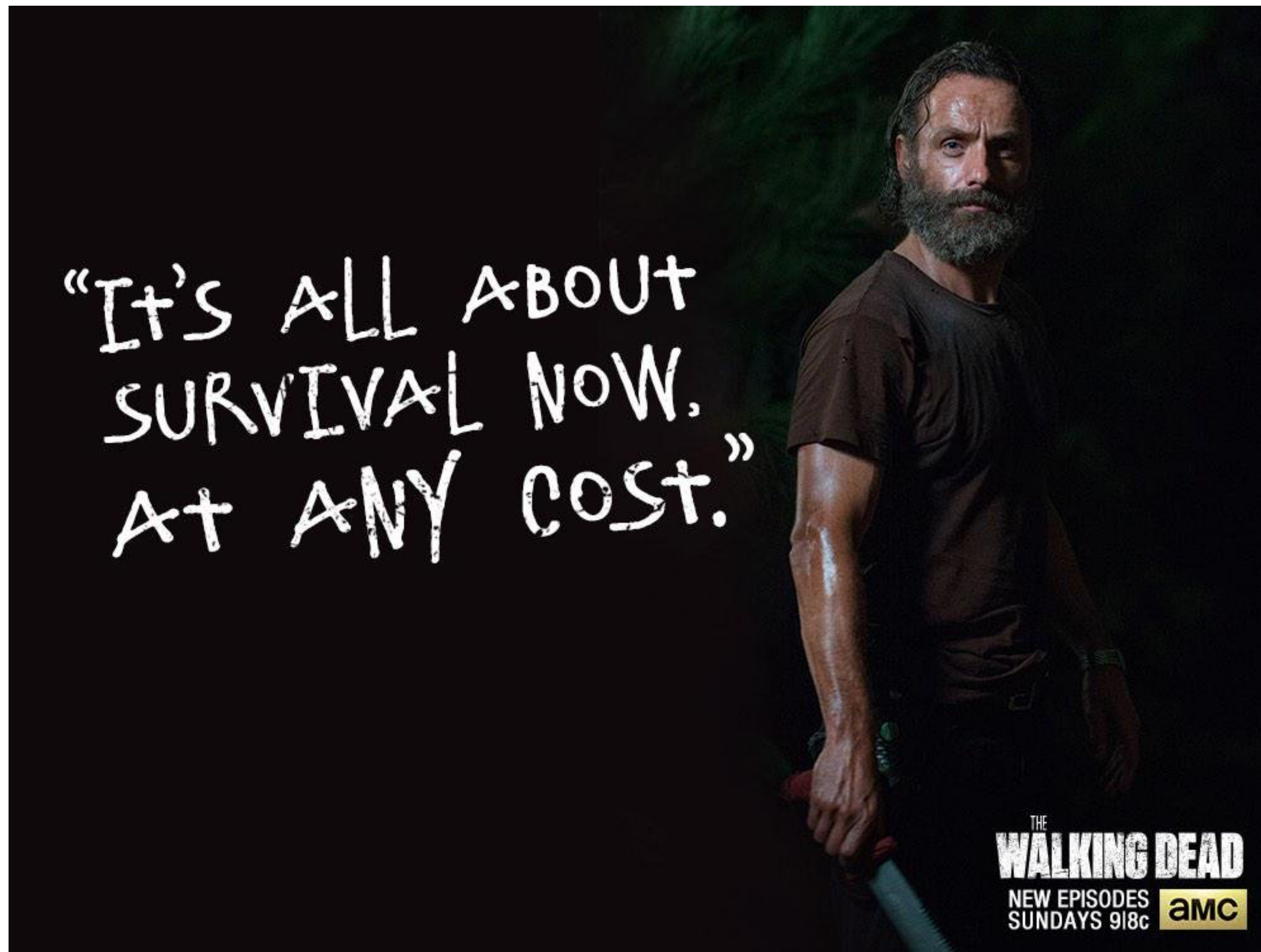
“The average number of outputs required per FTE will be 2.5...”

“A minimum of one output will be required for each staff member...”



Promotion and review: “Candidates should normally present four research publications, though this is not a binding requirement and overall quality is more important than quantity”





- Promotion Criteria
  - *Research productivity and excellence.*  
“A candidate should demonstrate intellectual originality, a high level of productivity in work of significant interest, and valuable contributions to research-based knowledge”
  - *Strong and very high quality teaching.*  
“A candidate should demonstrate success in the classroom and advising, and a commitment to the education of LSE students”
  - *Contributions to departmental and/or School governance and administration*

Thank you.  
And, good luck!

