

TRINE POULSEN, LUND UNIVERSITY

PHD CAREER PATHS OUTSIDE ACADEMIA

PHD CONFERENCE

- ▶ **PhD Career Paths Outside Academia - employability and entrepreneurship for young researchers**
- ▶ **27-28 February in Aalborg, Denmark**
- ▶ **EU Interreg Project Science for Society**
 - **Aalborg University, Aarhus University, Central Denmark Region, Lund University, OsloTech and University of Oslo**

THE 4 SKILL SETS OF A PHD

▶ Generic research skills:

- Analyzing data, critical thinking, innovation, fundraising, troubleshooting, problem solving, project management, communication, team work

▶ Subject knowledge:

- Understanding of a subject area and the ability to apply that knowledge in another context.

▶ Technical skills:

- Practical techniques, methodology, analysis, systems, languages

▶ Personal skills:

- Perseverance, flexibility, patience, integrity, enthusiasm

WHAT EMPLOYERS THINK MAKE PHDS EMPLOYABLE

- ▶ Data analysis
- ▶ Problem solving
- ▶ Drive and motivation
- ▶ Project management
- ▶ Interpersonal skills
- ▶ Leadership
- ▶ Commercial awareness

WHAT EMPLOYERS ARE CONCERNED PHDS ARE LACKING

- ▶ Commercial awareness & experience
- ▶ Awareness of aims of industry
- ▶ Career motivation
- ▶ Team working skills/short term task working
- ▶ Experience of meeting deadlines
- ▶ Flexibility

HOW TO BECOME EMPLOYABLE

▶ Be self-aware

- Consider what you do and why you do it, e.g.
 - ★ What skills would you like to develop?
 - ★ What motivates you?
- Use exercises or attend workshops on competency mapping
- Ask your colleagues what they think your strengths are

HOW TO BECOME EMPLOYABLE

- ▶ Learn to articulate your strengths
 - How are you good at X?
- ▶ Know your options, the job market and what is required
 - What can you do with a PhD in particle physics?
 - Who is doing something you would like to do?
 - Who are the relevant employers?
 - And what do they ask for?

SUMMARY

- ▶ Be aware of your strengths and weaknesses
- ▶ Know how to sell yourself
 - The employer might not be aware of the skills of a PhD
- ▶ Be ready to take a job you feel is “beneath you”
 - You will have to prove your worth and then you can rise quickly on the career ladder

DISCUSSION

- ▶ What are the difference between a job in and outside of academia?
- ▶ For seniors: Why did you choose a job in academia?
- ▶ For students: What are you planning to do after the PhD and why?