Applying for Grants and Conducting Research: The Tortoise Approach
Workshop Agenda

• Purpose: Grant support network
• Your Cheering Squad
• The Judging Process
• Race Preparation
• Success
• Discussion
The Hare and the Tortoise (Aesop)
• Fable learnings
Your Cheering Squad

- Family & Friends
- Mentors
- Slave drivers
- Program officers
- Research office
- Adjudication committee
- Supporters
- Colleagues
- Dean

? ? ?
Race Preparation: The Judges

- Funders: SSHRC, NSERC, CIHR
  - Competitive grants

- Improve your odds with persistence
  - Follow all instructions: application process and regulations (financial administration)

"Patience, persistence and perspiration make an unbeatable combination for success" Napoleon Hill
SSHRC Standard Research Grants (SRG)

- 2008-2010 success rate - 34%
- SSHRC awards research engine
- 3-year cycle (approx $80,000)
- Eligibility criteria
  - New and regular scholars
### Recent SRG results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SSHRC</th>
<th>2008-2009</th>
<th>2009-2010</th>
<th>2010-2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Applications</td>
<td>2,731</td>
<td>2,880</td>
<td>2,717</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awards</td>
<td>904</td>
<td>941</td>
<td>986</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4As</td>
<td>855</td>
<td>930</td>
<td>773</td>
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<tr>
<td>Success rate</td>
<td>33.1</td>
<td>32.7</td>
<td>36.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>RTS awarded</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>0</td>
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</table>

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Your Cheering Squad: Program Officer, help desk

- **Roles**
  - Guidance but not feedback on applications
  - Is not an adjudicator

- Read the guidelines first

- Online application process

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Peer Review Adjudication Committees

- 24 bilingual committees
  - Which committee do you fit into?
    - Who are the members?
    - Consult your program officer
  - 2 independent assessments / application
Peer Review Adjudication: Ranking

- Rank ~ 100 files/committee in a week
  - Short time to impress them
  - Submission guidelines, content, format, length matter
  - External assessments considered

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Peer Review Adjudication: Scoring

- Fundable categories
  - > 6.0 in record of research and program of research
  - Fundable but not funded (alternate or 4A)
Peer Review Adjudication: Scoring

• New scholar (5 years)
  • Record of research (track record) 40/60%
  • Program of research (proposal) 60/40%

• Regular scholar
  • Record of research (track record) 60%
  • Program of research (proposal) 40%
Race Preparation

TIME
- Instructions
- forms

COST
- Financial
- regulations

SCOPE
- Mirror them obsessively
- Application

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SCOPE: Application - Program of Research

- Optional notice of intent (~Aug)
- Application (~Sept)
  - Write for the generalist
  - Be honest, convincing, engaging, unambiguous
  - Show your study’s importance/significance
Evaluating the record of research

• 6 years of significant quality work
  • Research originality, impact, quantity
  • Other scholarly work
  • Academic and non-academic productivity and dissemination
  • Prior grants
  • Student training
Is it ready to submit?

- 1 p. summary
- 6 p. proposal (detailed description)
- 2 p. references
- 4 p. team, student training, previous and ongoing research,
- 2 p. budget
- Attachments
Evaluating the program of research

- Original and helps advance knowledge
  - Literature review
  - Theoretical framework
  - Methodology
  - Dissemination
  - Training
SCOPE: Application - Program of Research

- Stand on the shoulders of giants
- Actively tell an interesting and solid story
SCOPE: Application – The Story

• Some research has been done but there is a gap
  • An important problem
  • Discuss your proposed research in the context of the literature, theory
    • Show a conceptual framework
I am prepared to address the problem by doing this study and here’s how (methodology)

- Use an appropriate design and methodology
- Confidently state your contribution(s)
- Outline your dissemination plans
SCOPE: Application - The Story (cont’d)

• Write and edit...again and again
  • Barriers to writing

• Show how your track record makes you the one to do the study
SCOPE: Application - The Story Logistics (cont’d)

- Team and student roles
  - What will they do, contribute, learn?
- Research contributions (before)
  - Tangible, not drafted papers
- Exceptional circumstances
  - Leaves, illnesses
- Previous grants including 4As
COST: Budget

- Budget in detail and justify
  - Top % get the research time release
  - Use university rates of pay (RA levels, consultants)
- Refer to budget in application
- Example: Transcriptionist
  - Budget: 0.16 cents/line, 1 h interview (est.) = $150
  - Actual: 1 line=65 strokes, 41,153 strokes= $101.30
COST: Budget in detail

- People, travel, contract services, equipment, supplies...
- Be ready to hit the road running
  - Grants are retroactive to April yet results are announced in May
  - 1-year extensions
TIME: Schedule

- Part of application
- Long lead time
- Multiple deadlines
  - Funder, university, mentor, personal deadlines
- Life happens
Timeline

2010

- Workshops, Read books
- Funder material
- Literature review

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Many interpretations of success

1 Drafted a proposal for funding
2 Submitted proposal for funding
3 Applied for/received a university starter grant
4 Conducted a pilot study
5 Conference paper
Many interpretations of success

6 Conference paper plus proceedings
7 Rejected journal paper
8 Accepted journal paper
9 4A’d
10 Funded
11 ...
12 ...
Discussion ...Thank you

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