

Research Work or Entertainment? What does PE do to Researchers?

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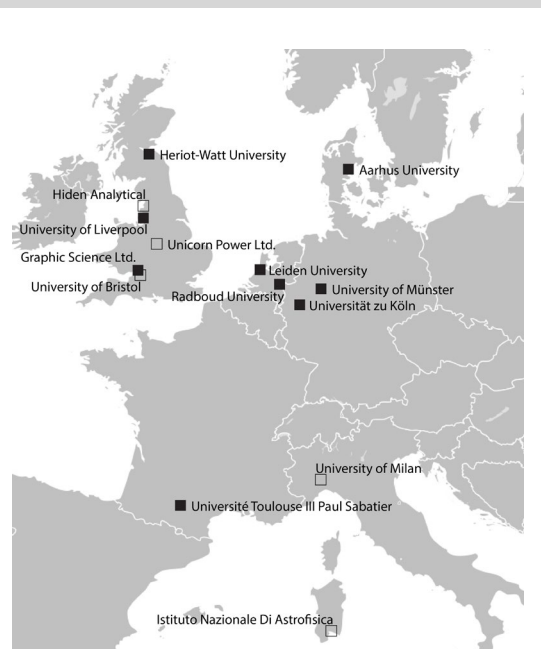
GRACE Seminar

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the extensive and ubiquitous role of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in space

- My PhD: ethnographical account of how a research network implements a change of culture through making public engagement a part of the PhD requirements.
- A lot can differ depending on
 - Country
 - Research Institution
 - Discipline
 - Any other factors influencing the local culture of research
- Report by Viewforth Consulting in 2017 about the hidden economic value of PE in the UK:
 - 3.2 billion pounds
 - 24,493 FTE jobs
 - 40 millions hours of work
 - Of which 28.6 millions hours were performed by academics.

Motivations for researchers to engage

- Personal growth/ personal taste
 - To improve communication skills
 - Have fun, break from daily routine
- Moral duty
 - Giving back to the tax-payers.
 - Promotional dimension: demonstrating the importance of their research, creating a “spark” for science.
 - Informing young people about career paths and opportunities
 - Role-model function – people who are in minority in academia tend to have a stronger sense of moral duty and the importance of representation.
 - Fostering more inclusion.

=> Individually-led and rewarded activity.





Enablers

- Encouraging local culture of research, commitment of the institutions, discipline...
- Official recognition or reward.
- Past experience.
- Training.
- Opportunities to learn PE practices among peers, apprenticeship.



Barriers

- Isolation.
- Perceived lack of skills.
- Professional and financial instability.
- Academic mobility : English is the international language, but it means that researchers can be cut from the local environment.
- Ambiguous messages about PE:
 - Disapproval of supervisors
 - Professional stigma
 - But also funders and institutional encouragement to engage
 - Excellence and the tacit culture of exclusion

Benefits

Learning new skills.

Getting excited about one's research again.

Collaboration across disciplines.

Replacing your research in a broader context.

Opened up one's mind to different perspectives.

Emotional experience.

Creating more links between intimate identity and academic identity.