

Early career researcher: Interview Schedule

1. Research job/project currently working on

Q1a. Changed job/role? [this is the area of biggest change so we need to revisit it]	
Q1b. What research project(s) are you involved in at the moment? How many?	
Q2. What is your role/status in the projects?	
Q3. Are you part of any research groups/centres? Which ones? [if not go to Q5a]	
Q4. Has your job status changed during the last year	
Q5. Check with ECR or their CV what they have published in past year	
[Mentoring/training]	
Q6. Have there been any changes in the quality of the mentoring you have received in the last year? If so how?	
Q7. Who is now doing your mentoring if you have any – status of person or persons?	
Q8. Does the organisation you now work for consider you as still in training and, if so, what training do they offer?	
Q9. Do you give training to other ECRs who are junior to you?	

2. Career aims [some of these questions might not need asking if job changes]

Q1a. Are you now aiming to have a career as a university researcher?	
Q1b. Did you once plan this career but no longer have this aim?	
Q1c. If you have changed your mind – for what reasons?	
Q2. Where are you in your career development/progression? In other words, where do you see yourself?	
Q3a. Have you given up academic research?	
Q3b. Is this temporarily and do you hope to go back to it? If yes, why?	
Q4. What is your main motivation for doing your current research? E.g. adding to knowledge, having an interesting career or well-paid career?	

3. General (scholarly) communication behaviour

Q1a. What types of content do you read for your research?	
Q1b. How do you disseminate your research?	
Q1c. What types of scholarly outputs do you cite in your publications? [Looking out for social media here]	

<i>Q2. The above are all practices central to scholarly communication. Do they differ from those of your research mentors in current and previous jobs and if so in what ways?</i>	
[Discovery/usage]	
<i>Q3a Where do you go first to search for the scholarly information you need, and, if you can, name starting points in the order to you most commonly use them? [Double-check on their use of publisher websites and library discovery systems]</i>	
<i>Q3b. Where do you actually find the information you need and, again, which is the most common places you go to?</i>	
<i>Q3c. Do you mind if the version of the scholarly paper you get is the one that is finally published or some earlier version?</i>	
<i>Q4a. Do you search for scholarly papers on your smartphone? Q4b. Do you view scholarly papers on your smartphone? Q4c. Is this a regular activity?</i>	
[Changes]	
<i>Q5. Have your attitudes to traditional scholarly communication practices changed since our first interview with you in 2016? What caused these changes?</i>	

4. Influence of social media (including scholarly social networks)

<i>Q1. Do you use social media in your scholarly activities? Check regarding finding research information; disseminating research information; networking; collaborating.</i>	
<i>Q2. Thanks to social media are you getting closer to your peers elsewhere?</i>	
<i>Q3. Does social media give rise to or enhance research collaboration? If so, how? [might have covered this in Q1]</i>	
<i>Q5. Do social media help build & enhance your reputation? If so, how?</i>	
<i>Q5a. Using RG and in what main respects?</i>	
<i>Q6. Has engagement with social networks enabled you to do more original research? If, so please describe?</i>	
<i>Q7. How important (from 0-not important to 5-very important) are the following to you in your research</i> ResearchGate Academia Twitter Facebook LinkedIn	

Mendeley Kudos Wechat Others (prompt)	
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5. Authorship, publishing and open access

[authorship]	[make sure you have a CV from them to help here]
<i>Q1. What kinds of contributions have you made to the papers that you have co-authored? Is this disclosed at all in papers</i>	
<i>Q2. Does your research team/department/university have an authorship policy? [Prompt for what it is as it might have changed]</i>	
<i>Q3. Would you do things differently if you had the say in this?</i>	
<i>Q4. Do you have more or less influence on the choice of journal where your research is being published than you had when we first interviewed you?</i>	
<i>Q5. In 2017 we asked you which criteria you/your group used in deciding which journal should be approached first and if there was a rejection what journal should be approached next. What is the present situation and are there any noticeable changes in the decisions reached?</i>	
<i>Q6. Have you used language editing services? If so, which ones</i>	
<i>Q7. What are your views of mega-journals such as PLOS One? Would you publish in them and if not why not?</i>	
<i>Q.8. Have you any ideas about ways in which the results described in your publications might be made easier for other researchers to reproduce? [This is a question about the reproducibility of scientific research]</i>	
[open access]	
<i>Q9. Does your research team publish in OA journals? If so, is this a result of a departmental/university/funders policies?</i>	
<i>Q10. As an author what do you see as the advantages and disadvantages of publishing in an open access journal?</i>	
<i>Q11a. Do you deposit your papers in institutional or subject repositories?</i>	
<i>Q11b If you do deposit is it because of a mandate?</i>	

<i>Q12a. Does OA publishing advance science and research?</i>	
<i>Q12b. Are you worried that it will dilute the quality of publications? [Prompt for explanations]</i>	
[innovating]	
<i>Q13. Do you have a preference for journals with innovative features, such as video articles (e.g. Jove), when placing your research? Yes or no? Why?</i>	
[publishing strategy]	
<i>Q14. Is there pressure on you to publish in particular top-ranked journals? If so, describe the pressure and explain what they think top ranked is?</i>	
<i>Q15. Do you have a conscious publication strategy relating to your research? If so, what is it?</i>	
<i>Q16. Would you prefer to make public your research findings in less formal ways, such as blogs in addition to publications, which could make them more visible? If so, why?</i>	
[data, software]	
<i>Q17a. Have you have produced data or software in the course of your research?</i>	
<i>Q17b. If, yes, have you made this data more visible (open)? If so how/where. If not, why not?</i>	
<i>Q17c. Have you ever published your data as supplementary materials of an article? Or a as a data paper?</i>	
<i>Q17d. Would you like the data to be made more visible?</i>	

6. Peer review

<i>Q1. Do you have experience in responding to comments from peer reviewers on papers you have written and, if so, how did you find the experience? Did it work well? [Examples welcomed]</i>	
<i>Q2a. Have you been a reviewer? If so, what did you learn from the experience?</i>	
<i>Q2b. Did you have any training and if so how was it done? If not, would you have liked some?</i>	
<i>Q3a. Do you think peer review could be improved and if so how?</i>	
<i>Q3b. Have you had experience of open peer review, when the name of the reviewer and the reviews are made available to the author, either as an author or as a reviewer and in any case what do you think of it?</i>	
<i>Q3c. Have you had experience of double blind</i>	

<i>peer review where the name/affiliation is not made available to the reviewer and if so what do you think of it?</i>	
<i>Q4. Most peer review is organised by publishers. Do you think this is a good idea or do you think it should be done by other entities - for example, learned societies?</i>	

7. Employment, reputation and career progression

<i>Q1. In your experience, how are early career researchers treated? For, instance are there policies regarding employment?</i>	
<i>Q2. How are early career researchers evaluated? What are the criteria and are they objective? How good/bad is evaluation?</i>	
[career progression]	
<i>Q3. Have you sufficient freedom to develop your career along the path you would like? Please describe?</i>	
[open science]	
<i>Q4. Are you familiar with the terms Open Science or Open Scholarship and if so are you sympathetic with the concepts involved?</i>	

8. Sharing and collaborating

<i>Q1a. How do you share your interim research results and your ideas/speculation to those who are not in your research group or other collaborations?</i>	
<i>Q1b. How do you share your research findings, data and publications (full content not just a link) outside your research group etc.?</i>	
<i>Q2. Do you think the existing platforms that allow sharing meet your needs? If not, what improvements are needed?</i>	
<i>Q3. Do you collaborate with researchers in other: a) subject fields; b) countries? And if so in what ways?</i>	
<i>Q4. Is there a risk of losing competitive edge through sharing and collaborating with people outside your research group?</i>	
<i>Q5. Is your sharing/collaborating behaviour different from that of your research mentors in current and previous jobs? If so in what ways?</i>	

9. Alternative Metrics

<p><i>Q1. How, if at all, do you employ: a) download data, b) social media indicators in your daily research work (searching for articles, etc.), in presenting your research, identifying leading researchers, etc.</i></p>	
<p><i>Q2. How important do you think that alternative metrics, such as likes, recommendations, tweets, followers and downloads are in demonstrating the impact of your research.</i></p>	

10 Unethical behaviours

<p><i>Q1. For you what is unethical behaviour in scholarly communication?</i></p>	
<p><i>Q2. Are you aware of any research misconduct, such as fraudulent/fabricated data or alteration of images in your field? If possible, please supply examples.</i></p>	
<p><i>Q3. Are you aware of any publishing misconduct including plagiarism, author identity theft or unethical citing behaviour in your field? If possible, please supply examples.</i></p>	
<p><i>Q4. Do you believe there is more scrutiny today which will keep the lid on any unethical behaviours?</i></p>	

11 Impact

<p><i>Q1. To you what represents research impact?</i></p>	
<p><i>Q2. How important is it that the research you are involved in should have an impact on: a) your peers; b) on policymakers; c) on industry; d) on the general public? Societal impact? Rank in importance.</i></p>	
<p><i>Q3. What is the best way to influence those groups you think you should be reaching out to?</i></p>	
<p><i>Q4. If you had the time/opportunity to do more to increase the impact of your research, what would you do?</i></p>	

12 Transformations

<p><i>Q1. Do you think that a big opportunity for the current generation of researchers is to fundamentally change the way that the scholarly communication system works? If yes, why?</i></p>	
<p><i>Q2. If so, do you have any overall picture of what form a changed system of scholarly communication might take?</i></p>	
<p><i>Q3. Do you think that five years from now academics will still be typically recruited, promoted and obtain funding solely on the basis of their publication record and citation scores based accumulated reputation? If so, why?</i></p>	
<p><i>Q4a. Do you think journals will still have a central role five-years down the line? Probe why?</i></p>	
<p><i>Q4b. Do you think commercial publishers will still have a central role five-years down the line? Probe why?</i></p>	
<p><i>Q4c. Do you think libraries will still have a central role for researchers five-years down the line?</i></p>	