

Compass Conference -workshops

5.10.2023

On site workshops

Morning sessions (From 10 to 12)

1. "Beyond the Ivory Tower: Exploring Diverse Career Pathways for Master's and PhD Graduates".

Hosted by Dr. John Rowel

Place: 6th floor, room 6211

2. "Cultivating an Entrepreneurial Mindset for Researchers".

Hosted by Mr. Antti Leppilampi

Place: 8th floor, room 8202

3. "Workshop Title: Intellectual Property Rights and Entrepreneurship".

Hosted by Dr. Natacha Estèves

Place: 6th floor, room 6205

Afternoon sessions (From 13.30 to 15.30)

4. "Owning My Academic Career – Keys to Self-Management and Self-Leadership".

Hosted by Rebecca Meier, M. Ed.

Place: 6th floor, room 6211

5. "EU project funding – fuel for your research".

Hosted by Ms. Maria Radvanska

Place: 8th floor, room 8202

6. "Boosting equality in research and development".

Hosted by Dr. Merja Drake

Place: 2nd floor, room 2003

Online workshop

Developing Transferable skills during the PhD is key for career success.

Hosted by Dr. María Soriano

Morning session

1. Workshop Title: "Beyond the Ivory Tower: Exploring Diverse Career Pathways for Master's and PhD Graduates"

Workshop Description

As the academic landscape continues to evolve, it becomes increasingly vital for Master's and PhD students to consider the array of opportunities that lie beyond traditional research careers. This workshop aims to shed light on the exciting and often overlooked avenues available to graduates, encouraging participants to explore diverse and fulfilling career paths. By delving into the world of non-canonical professions, we will uncover the transferable skills and unique experiences that make researchers highly sought-after assets. Embrace the possibilities, broaden your horizons, and embark on a journey of self-discovery to unleash the full potential of your advanced degree!



Dr. John Rowel holds a PhD in Biochemistry from the University of Cambridge, and went on to work as a researcher in the fields of muscle stem cells and regenerative medicine. Outside of academic research, he has worked as a Biotech consultant, project manager, chief operational officer for a large network of research institutes, and even a photographer. Currently John is the Ulysseus Innovation Hub Manager for ageing and well-being at the Université Côte d'Azur in France

Morning session

2. Workshop Title: "Cultivating an Entrepreneurial Mindset for Researchers"

Workshop Description

This workshop is tailored for PhD students from who are eager to explore the intersection of research and entrepreneurship. "Cultivating an Entrepreneurial Mindset for Researchers" not only helps you grasp the essence of entrepreneurship but also guides you in finding innovative ways to infuse your research into existing businesses. Dive into the world of entrepreneurial traits, gain inspiration from successful researcher-entrepreneurs, and learn strategies to bridge the gap between your research and established enterprises.



Mr. Antti Leppilampi, is a dynamic senior lecturer at Haaga-Helia University of Applied Sciences. With over 9 years of experience in business education and an MBA in International Business Management, Antti is a guide to innovation. His passion lies in helping students discover their inner motivation in life, which can manifest in entrepreneurship. Beyond the classroom, he's led impactful projects in green initiatives and digitalization in Southern Finland.

Morning session

3. Workshop Title: Intellectual Property Rights and Entrepreneurship

Workshop Description

This workshop will introduce the participants to Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) and their importance for researchers and entrepreneurs. IPRs are some of the most valuable assets for companies, big or small. Consequently, understanding what they are and how they can be managed to turn innovation into market value and competitiveness is crucial. Whether you are an innovator yourself, support others in the innovation process or work in an innovative business, IPRs will be essential tools you will have to familiarise yourself with.

This workshop aims to give an overview of the different IPRs, as well as how they can be managed to increase visibility, generate revenues and more generally promote your business growth. This webinar will also give an overview of the various services that can support you as a researcher and future entrepreneur when dealing with IPRs.



Dr. Natacha Estèves holds a PhD in Law from Sciences Po Law School. She has received her master's degree in international Economic Law from the Panthéon-Sorbonne University in Paris. She has been a post-doc researcher at the Max Planck Institute for Innovation & Competition in Munich. Her research focuses on open usages of patents. Currently project manager at the MCI for a European project, she oversees all intellectual property topics within that project.

Afternoon session

4. Owning My Academic Career – Keys to Self-Management and Self-Leadership

Workshop Description

Self-Management and Self-Leadership seem to be vague and dazzling terms. Yet they are viewed as key competencies to academic success and as important assets to withstand various challenges and crises on the career path. In this two-hour workshop we will touch upon certain aspects of self-management and self-leadership in order to, boost your academic confidence. You will have time to reflect on yourself, discuss with others and work on strategies to effectively own your academic career.



Rebecca Meier, M. Ed., is responsible for academic staff development and postdoc support at the Graduate Centre of the University of Münster. Previously, she worked as a researcher and academic assistant at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities at Paderborn University. Through her own dissertation project, years of teaching and training, international experiences as well as leading different (post-) doctoral committees she has gained expertise in the operation of academic systems and career paths.

Afternoon session

5. EU project funding – fuel for your research

Workshop Description

The participants will assess the viability of their research focus in the context of international collaboration, expand their research networks and gain insights into attributes of EU funding. Based on that they will be able to redirect their research emphases, get motivated to use the Ulysseus Alliance ecosystem for amplification and consider EU funding as a catalyst of their forthcoming endeavours.



Maria Radvanska, holding the position of a Head of Department of Project Activities at University Science Park TECHNICOM within the Technical University of Kosice (TUKE), has been operating in the realm of EU funded international projects since 1999. She is also projects' and financial manager of Ulysseus Alliance activities at TUKE. She has been an integral part of largest EU business support network Enterprise Europe Network for over 20 years, first at a regional business consultancy company, later helped to open and now leads the Network branch at TUKE.

Afternoon session

6. Boosting equality in research and development

Workshop Description

In this two-hour workshop, you will get information about the EU requirements for equality in research and development. We will discuss, ideate, and create tools how to take equality into account at various stages of research. You will also learn what HRS4R (Human Resources Strategy for Researchers quality label) is and its importance to your university in the viewpoint of equality.

Dr. Merja Drake is a Principal Lecturer in Journalism and Communication at Haaga-Helia. She is recognized for her advocacy of equality and non-discrimination within the university. In 2020 and 2021, she led the Haaga-Helia Gender Equality Plan working group, developing a communication plan and strategies to embed equality and non-discrimination goals into the university's daily operations. In spring 2023, she organized a seminar in partnership with Indiana University on "Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Higher Education."

Online Workshop

Developing Transferable skills during the PhD is key for career success

Workshop Description

This workshop will show the participants the importance of developing transferrable skills, such as a global mindset, innovation, and proactivity to succeed in their next career steps. These skills are highly valuable both inside and outside academia. The best organizations around the world are looking for talented individuals who, in addition of holding a PhD, have a skillset that make them the 360° professionals they are longing for their companies. Consequently, learning how to develop these skills is crucial for career success and employability.

This webinar aims to provide an overview of the most valuable transferable skills for leading organizations and will provide attendees with tips, ideas, and tools to build a more international, innovative, and excellent profile.



María Soriano holds a PhD in Genetics and Molecular. She has expertise working at different organizations in USA, London, Spain and Sweden. She is the co-founder and CEO at IMFAHE where she is dedicated to design, develop, and implement career development strategies and international educative programs of impact to promote internationalization, innovation, and career profiles of excellence.