

Mathias Weidinger

cv of failures

For each project that eventually succeeds, there are some that never pan out and a few more that I give up on. My failures have shaped me just as much as my brighter moments. Yet, it is not common place to list them and make them public - it should be, though. Presenting only polished versions of our professional lives can be detrimental to ourselves, to others, and to science.

The incentive structure behind a stellar CV is to avoid trial and error for fear of failure, which in turn stifles innovation and risk taking. Worse still, our practice of self-idealization exacerbates gate keeping in science, panders to anxiety culture, and discourages those, who might otherwise make invaluable contributions, from taking up research in the first place.

If the scientific community is to become more accepting, diverse and inclusive, it will have to start with how we present ourselves to one another. This CV of Failures is an attempt to balance the record and provide some perspective. The idea is due to a 2010 article in *Nature* by Melanie I. Stefan, PhD.

Unsuccessful Job Applications

- April 2021 **University of Oxford** Development Econ. Research Assistant
- April 2021 **University of Cambridge** Environmental Econ. Research Assistant
- March 2021 **London School of Economics** Public Econ. Research Assistant
- February 2021 **London School of Economics** Development Econ. Research Assistant
- February 2021 **UNICEF Office of Research - Innocenti** Social Protection Consultant
- April 2020 **University of British Columbia** Predoc at Vancouver School of Economics
- April 2020 **University of Oxford** Predoc at the Global Priorities Institute

Unsuccessful Program Applications

- 2019 **Tinbergen Institute** MPhil Economics
- 2018 **University of Oxford** MPhil International Development
- 2018 **London School of Economics** MSc International Development
- 2018 **London School of Economics** MSc Environment and Development
- 2017 **King's College London** Exchange Semester
- 2017 **Hong Kong University** Exchange Semester

Miscellaneous Mishaps

- 2021 Programmed a bot to web-scrape google and linkedin. Both temporarily banned me from their platforms (the moral of the story: be smart, use a VM and VPN).
- 2018 - ... Emulsification (mixing oil and water) evades me. As a consequence, I regularly fail at making vegan hollandaise or mayo and get unreasonably frustrated with it.

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