

Post-doc Experiences

DocSoBe: Life After PhD Event, 14 May 2025, Turku

Dr. Özlem Celik

Collegium Fellow, Turku Institute of Advanced Studies (TIAS) and Department of Social Research, University of Turku



Journey to Post-doc(ing)

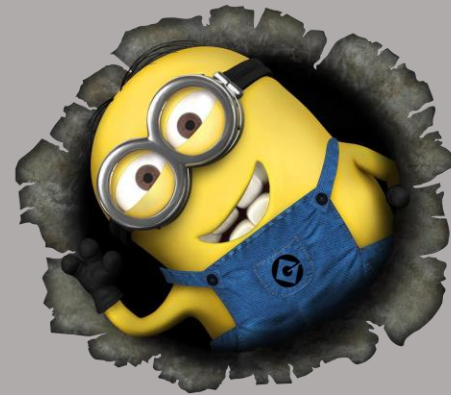
- 2013** **Ph.D. Urban Studies and Planning**, The University of Sheffield, UK
- 2008** **M.A. Sociology**, Middle East Technical University, Graduate School of Social Sciences, Turkey
- 2001** **B.A. Urban and Regional Planning**, Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University, Faculty of Architecture



Bachelors



Master



PhD



Post-doc

WORK EXPERIENCE

2024- **Collegium Fellow**, University of Turku, Turku Institute for Advanced Studies (TIAS) and Department of Sociology

2024- **Visiting Scholar**, University of Helsinki, Global Development Studies

2022-2023 **University Lecturer**, University of Helsinki, Global Development Studies

2021-2022 **University Researcher**, University of Helsinki, Global Development Studies

2019-2021 **Postdoc Research Fellow, University of Helsinki, Global Development Studies and HELSUS**

2018-2019 **Swedish Institute Post-doctoral Research Fellow, Lund University, Department of Human Geography, Sweden**

2017-2018 **Visiting Lecturer**, MA in Mediterranean Studies Program, University of the Peloponnese, Greece (Teaching Exchange Program)

2017 **Visiting Researcher**, University of Sheffield, Urban Studies and Planning Department

2016-2018 **Lecturer**, Yaşar University Department of International Relations, Turkey

2013-2016 **Principal Researcher, Financialisation, Economy, Society and Sustainable Development (FESSUD) EU 7th Frame Project, Department of Political Science and Public Administration, Middle East Technical University, Turkey**

2011-2014 **Teaching Assistant**, University of Sheffield, Department of Urban Studies and Planning

2006-2008 **Secretary General**, Member of Central Executive Board and the Chief Executive of National Chamber of City Planners of Turkey, Ankara

2005-2006 **Assistant to Secretary of General**, Chamber of City Planners of Turkey, Ankara

2013-2016

FESSUD Project, Department of Political Science and Public Administration, Middle East Technical University, Turkey

- Job application: Team-member
- Invited to apply for the job (leading a WG at SOAS)
- EU 7th Frame Project
- 12 Partners
- Working in different WPs
- Working with different disciplines and international scholars
- Learning a new language of 'economy scholars'
- Project admin
- Support group of post-docs in different countries
- Networking: 2nd postdoc, publications, PhD examiner
- Start learning how to put boundaries (how to say no 😊)

2018-2019

Swedish Institute Post-doctoral Research Fellow, Lund University, Department of Human Geography, Sweden

- Individual grant
- Swedish Institute Grant (specific for certain countries)
- A colleague shared her application
- Advisor and grant-holder of Raoul Wallenberg Human Rights Institute, Sweden
- My own boss
- Mentor- FESSUD WP leader from Lund Uni
- Networking: all the grants I received after this post, invited to write book chapters, funding applications, advisor for a post-doc, invited speaker, supervision MA, strong ties with Lund and Malmö
- Getting better at putting boundaries 😊

2019-2021

Postdoc Researcher, University of Helsinki, Global Development Studies and HELSUS

- Job application – jobs.ac.uk
- No specific project
- Pursue my own research
- Kind of my own boss – not much support
- Networking: University researcher, Lecturer, Urbaria, starting a network with Malmö Uni, organised panels, workshops, invited speaker, PhD and MA supervision, new collaborations
- Definitely good at putting boundaries and saying no 😊

What have been the hardest parts?



Precarious work conditions



Competing with your colleagues



Continuously applying for
funding & jobs

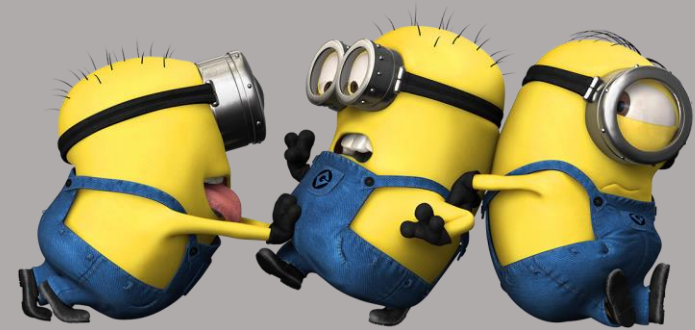
What have been the hardest parts?



Feeling alone, isolated
& not being a part of a
community



Micro-management
rather than mentoring

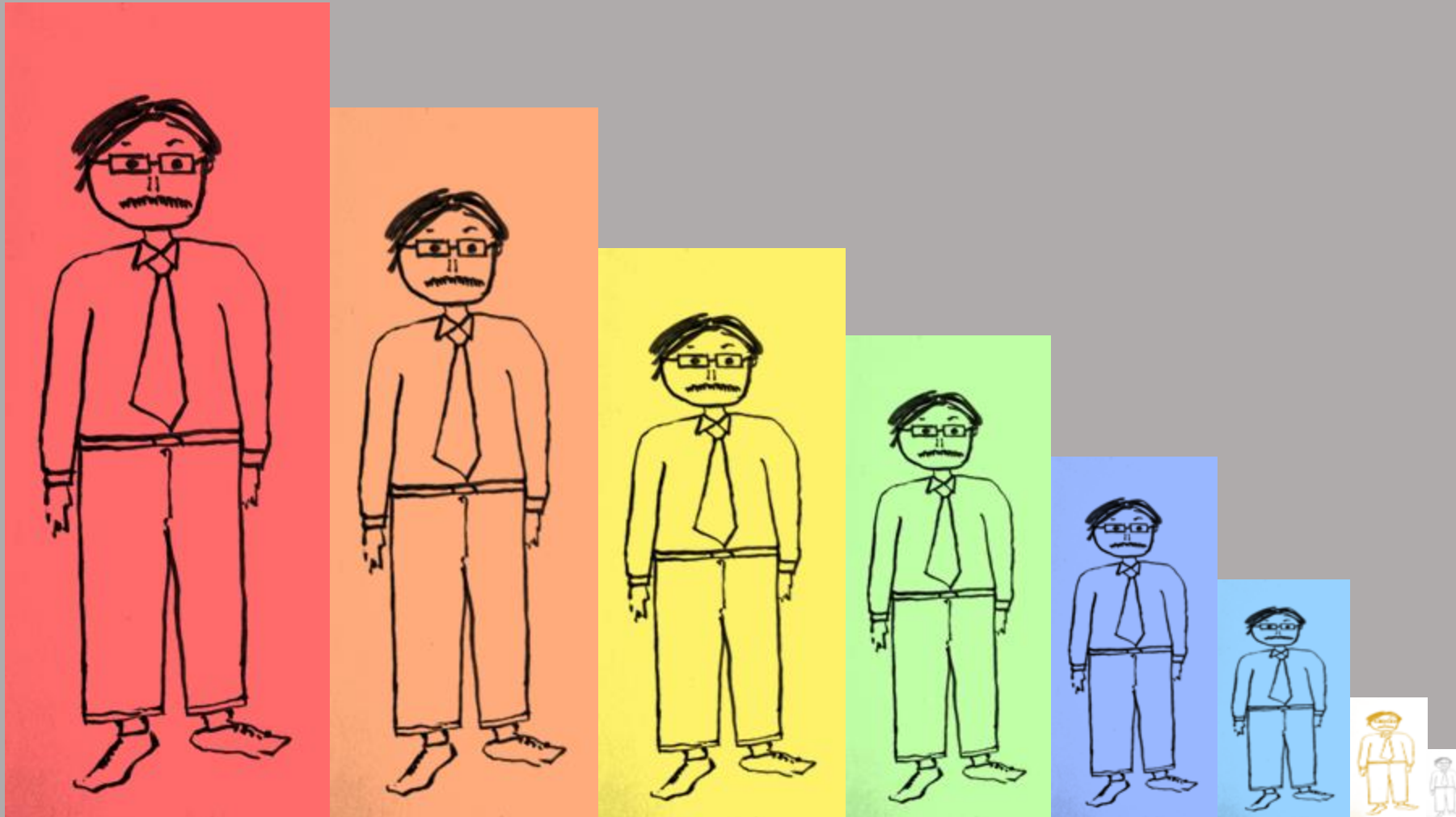


Power relations

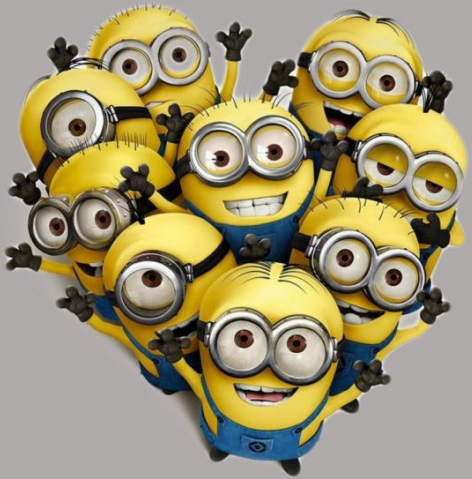
Have you met your inner critical voice?

- Have you ever noticed an inner critical voice commenting about your work, career, writing, public talk, etc.?
- What does it say to you?
- Can you draw your inner critical voice? Be creative, draw it in any form you like.
- Does it have a name? Or can you name it?
- Think about the frequency of this voice and at which points it appears.

Let me introduce you, Osman, my very own
critical inner voice!



What I enjoyed the most?



Creating new networks



Enjoying the
different skills as
strength

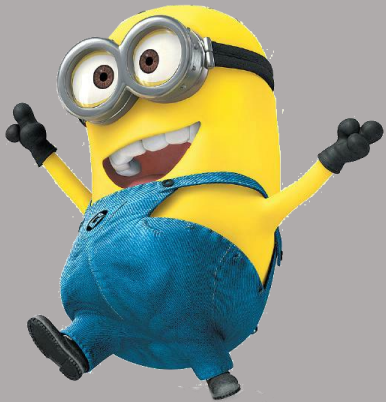


Meeting like-minded
colleagues



Having proper
holidays without
guilt

What I enjoyed the most?



Being your own boss



Finally doing the research
you always dreamt of



Not being scared of
applying for
funding



Having proper
holidays without
guilt

After this meeting, think and write:
What would you say to your inner critical voice?



Questions?