

# **AUBG, Eco222: Economic History, Fall 2014**

## **Week 14: How to Make Independent Research?**

Designing, financing and implementing a  
successful (historical) research project

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# 1. Elements of a research project

Your project:

0. Abstract
1. Introduction and motivation
2. Literature (A critical Lit. review)
3. Methodology (Research methods)
4. Data
5. Expected results and contributions
6. Conclusions and recommendations
7. Bibliography
8. Budget
9. Timeline of the project

# 1.1. Intro / Motivation

- Why is this idea interesting?
  - For society
  - For the policy makers
  - For the financial donors of my project
- What is the novelty I am trying to introduce?
- Place your study within a historical context: a recent political debate; an economic trend; a debate in the literature

**The intro ends with a specific hypothesis you will be testing, and how you are going to go about it + possibly your main results: in a sentence or two.**

## 1.2. Literature

- How other researchers have approached my idea?
- Are there close hypotheses to the one I am trying to test?
- The narrower the literature debate, the closer it will be to my topic – the deeper the critical analysis.
- Specific features of the models / results other have designed and obtained.
- The more top **journal** sources, the better
- Give emphasis to the more recent papers
- My **niche**
- The lit. review ends with a specific niche/gap you identified in the literature

## 1.3. Methods

- Key: How am I going to fill the gap I have just identified?
- How am I going to test MY hypothesis
- Describe the testing procedure
- Describe the logic of your model
- Is there anything new in your model that has not been tried before (and is worth doing)
- How are you going to fill the model with data? Do you have the data? How are you going to get the data?
- Describe the data concisely but fully
- Bridge the methods to the expected results

## 1.4. Results and contributions

- What does testing the model show?
- Who is going to use your results?
- Are the results logically filling the gap?
- Are they corresponding to your hypothesis: apply common sense
- So What?
  - For policymaking
  - For a given industry
  - For a given organization
  - For explaining something which has not been explained so far: your **contribution** to the field.

## 1.5. Conclusions

- A few sentences on:
  - What did I do?
  - How did I do it?
  - So what?
- A side note:
  - Never lose the perspective on:
    - who is financing your study,
    - are you fitting within the scope of the organization you apply for financing

## **2. Sources of financing for your ideas**

2.1. In BG...

2.2. **At CERGE-EI, Prague: the annual New Talent Competition: check [www.cerge-ei.cz](http://www.cerge-ei.cz)**

2.3. EU research and innovation programs:  
Horizon 2020 – international consortia key to success.



# 3. Other sources of financing

## 3.1. Student competitions

- BMA; Unicredit; BNB; Open Society

## 3.2. Global Development Network, GDN

- annual research competitions
- essay competitions: e.g. Reinventing Foreign Aid

## 3.3. Economics Education and Research Consortium (EERC)

- annual research competitions for researchers from the CIS countries and their teams

# 4. Managing a research team

- Project idea → theory and empirics → division of labor:
  - Collecting data
  - Researching the newest methods to test hypotheses in the field
  - Coming up with results
  - Summarizing and analyzing results
  - Writing the project → the article
- Scaling up geographically: more access to EU funding

# 5. Publishing

## 5.1. The research ladder

- Articles in high impact factor journals
  - Articles in lower-level journals
    - Working papers
      - Monographs, chapters in books
        - Conference proceedings

## 5.2. The publishing process

I have an article. Where do I publish it?

## 6. Exercise

- A student research presentation
- A professional researcher presentation
- If T allows: a winning/losing project proposal review.

# 7. Additional info

Yours truly,

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