
EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS WORKSHOP · ECSS 2026
Development Workshop for Early Career Researchers (ECRWS)
Passion, depth, persistence, and the courage to stand by meaningful ideas.
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What is success?

A successful career should enrich who we are, not diminish who we become.

Research is not a race to outperform others, but a journey of discovery of knowledge, of others, and of ourselves.

A journey where curiosity, integrity, relationships, and personal values have their place and sometimes take priority over professional ambitions.

> **I believe that a successful career should be part of a fulfilling life, not a substitute for it.**



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Success is a consequence, not a goal

Passion gives meaning

A genuine interest in research questions keeps us motivated, especially when progress is slow.

Discipline turns ideas into progress

Research requires organization, perseverance, and sustained effort. Passion alone is not enough.

Humility keeps us open

The more we learn, the more we realize how much remains unknown and how much we can learn from others.

Humility is not in contrast with ambition.
It is what makes our achievements opportunities of growth.



Highlights from my research journey

My beginnins: PhD in France and early research career at CNR

My main research interests: Natural Language Processing and Information Retrieval

My current role: Full Professor and Head of the Information and Knowledge Representation, Retrieval and Reasoning (IKR3) research Lab.

Academic service: Head of Department, Vice Rector for International Relations

Throughout my career, I have always been driven by strong motivation



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The Paradox of Academic Success

Are we measuring what matters, or just what is easy to measure?

WHAT WE MEASURE

- Number of publications
- Citations and bibliometric impact
- Grants and funding

WHAT IS HARDER TO MEASURE

- Originality and scientific courage
- Scientific integrity
- Mentoring and lasting impact

Metrics are useful indicators. They should never become the purpose of research.

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Are we losing sight of what Science Is really about?

When quantity becomes the goal, quality is at risk.

More papers, more conferences, more submissions

But are we producing more knowledge?

Peer review under pressure

Overloaded reviewers, superficial evaluations, declining trust.

AI-generated papers and reviews

Are we using AI to advance science, or simply to produce more content?

Science is not about producing more papers. It is about producing knowledge we can trust.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Building a meaningful research career

Follow your curiosity

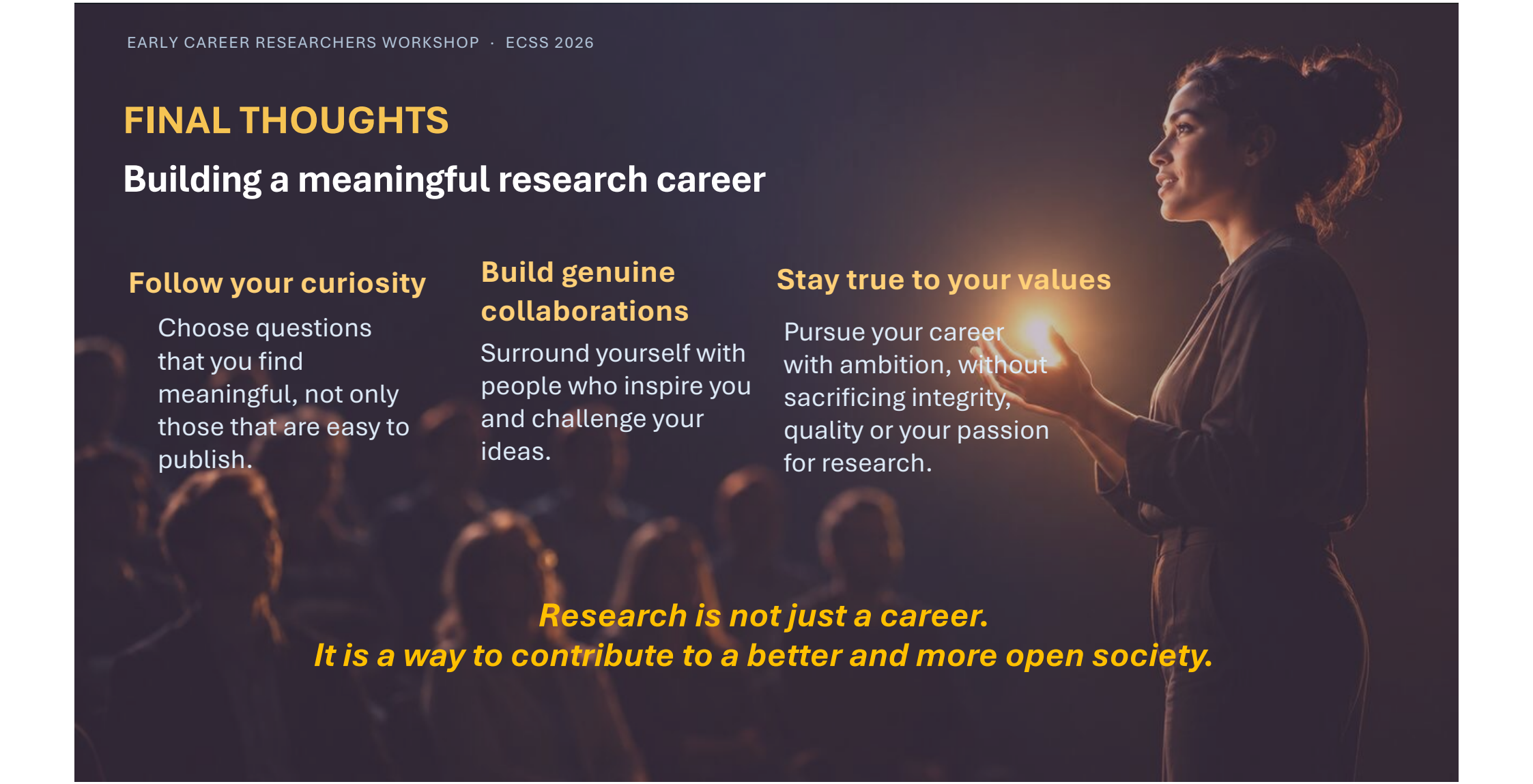
Choose questions that you find meaningful, not only those that are easy to publish.

Build genuine collaborations

Surround yourself with people who inspire you and challenge your ideas.

Stay true to your values

Pursue your career with ambition, without sacrificing integrity, quality or your passion for research.



Research is not just a career.
It is a way to contribute to a better and more open society.

Courage and openness

Have the courage to stand by your ideas.
Remain open to criticism.
Revise your position when evidence requires it.

Defend your ideas with conviction, and revise them with humility.

