

Lisa Brush Presentation at External Funding Workshop
SWS Winter Meetings 2005

Notes by Tamara Smith, Career Development Committee Member

- I. Background
 - a. Associate professor at the University of Pittsburgh
 - b. 15 years experience w/writing grant proposals
 - c. Fellowships for graduate school from Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society and National Science Foundation
 - d. Feminist Researcher
- II. When you are asking for funding for your project, you are essentially asking for taxpayer support to do your best work.
 - a. What do you need in order to make it worth it?
 - i. Early grants are usually investments in your human capital.
 1. How is this helping me develop as a scholar?
 2. Any grant received as a graduate student is important, because it shows that you have a track record of being fundable.
- III. Contradictions
 - a. Social Science Ph.D.s applying for where the money is
 - i. Usually health and crime
 - b. Structural contradictions
 - i. K-awards from NIH are usually 5 year mentored awards
 1. the post-doc, laboratory model in medicine butts up against the individual, independent research model for social research and criteria for assistant professors
 - a. assistant professors are rewarded for solo publications; the mentorship program and other large grant awards expect you to publish jointly with a larger team and to continue building your career in a mentored (rather than independent) context – it's a contradiction to pose it this way, but that's the way these K awards are structured
 - ii. Being a "junior" faculty vs. being "mid-career"
 - a. You need to juggle your feelings of where you think you should be in your career!
 - b. Apply based on actual criteria ("< 12-years post-doc = junior") rather than your feelings.
 - iii. The ironies of buying out time
 1. Many feminists are in academia to teach and to make a difference to women; when we buy out time to do research, there is less formalized teaching space
- IV. Research Agendas
 - a. Remember that the funder is trying to shape the research agenda!

- b. Issues may come up that challenge your integrity as a feminist researcher.
 - i. For example, you may learn that there is a lot of sexual assault occurring, but if it is not in the funder's best interest to recognize this, you may be in a position of knowing this and not being able to create change.
 - ii. It is true that research is always a transformative experience. You need to always ask yourself if you like who you would be/would become if you actually received a grant that you apply for.