

# Moving on from Academia: What Are My Options?



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# Chicken or egg?

- Common practice in careers guidance
  - Work out your preferences, your strengths etc, then compare to opportunities
- My personal approach
  - Looked at what was out there, got some ideas, then worked out what was realistic





# Getting started

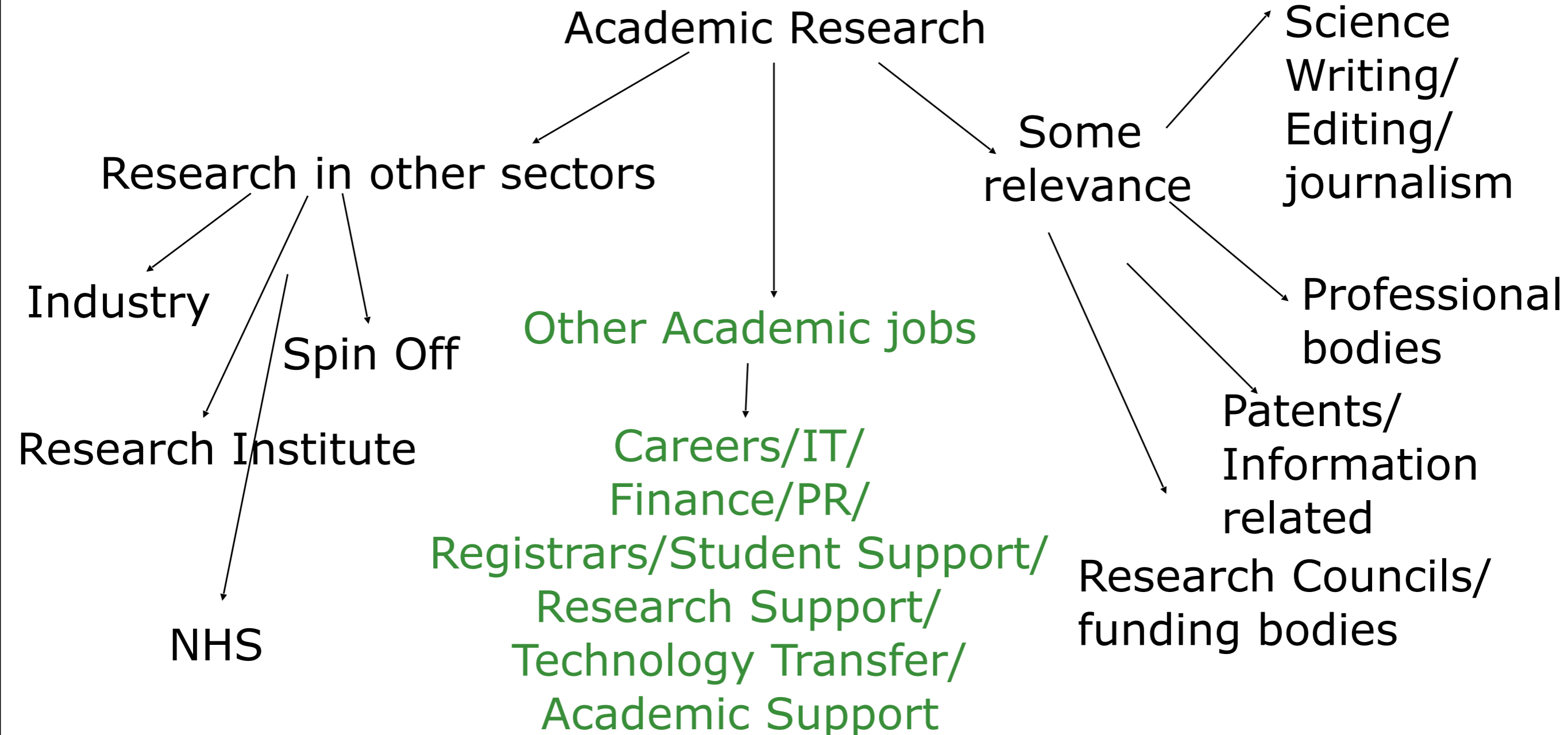
- Which careers have other experienced academic researchers moved into?
- Which careers support the research process (and will therefore value research experience)?
- Which careers will value academic experience?



# Other researchers

- Case studies & support from professional bodies
- Science Careers, Nature Jobs, Prospects (not just scientists)
- Careers Services
- Social Media

# So, what are the alternatives?



Or something completely different!



# More ideas

- Big company “function”
  - Research and **Development**
  - Human resources
  - Finance
  - General management
  - Sales
  - Marketing
  - Manufacturing



# More ideas

- **Public sector**
  - Civil service
  - Local government
  - Education
  - Social work
  - NHS Management
  - Police/Armed Forces





# More ideas

- Small company
  - Technical specialism
  - General management
  - Administration
  - IT





# More ideas

- Some “off the wall”
  - Not for profit/charity
  - Start your own business
  - Retrain completely
    - Law
    - Accountancy
    - Alternative medicine
    - Novelist



# The skills gap

What can researchers do differently or better?



# The skills gap

What can researchers do differently or better?

Information skills

Science/lab skills

Policy and influence

Charity research

Networking

Training and development

Outreach

Project work

Research admin



# Your turn

- Get into groups of three or four
- Try to mix your disciplines
- Introduce yourself to the others
- Now generate as many career ideas as you can - anything goes





# Your task

- What careers might appeal to academic researchers?
- Try to identify themes (i.e. research/creative/education etc)
- Be as creative as you can-consider anything initially!
- **FIVE** minutes



# your turn

six themes

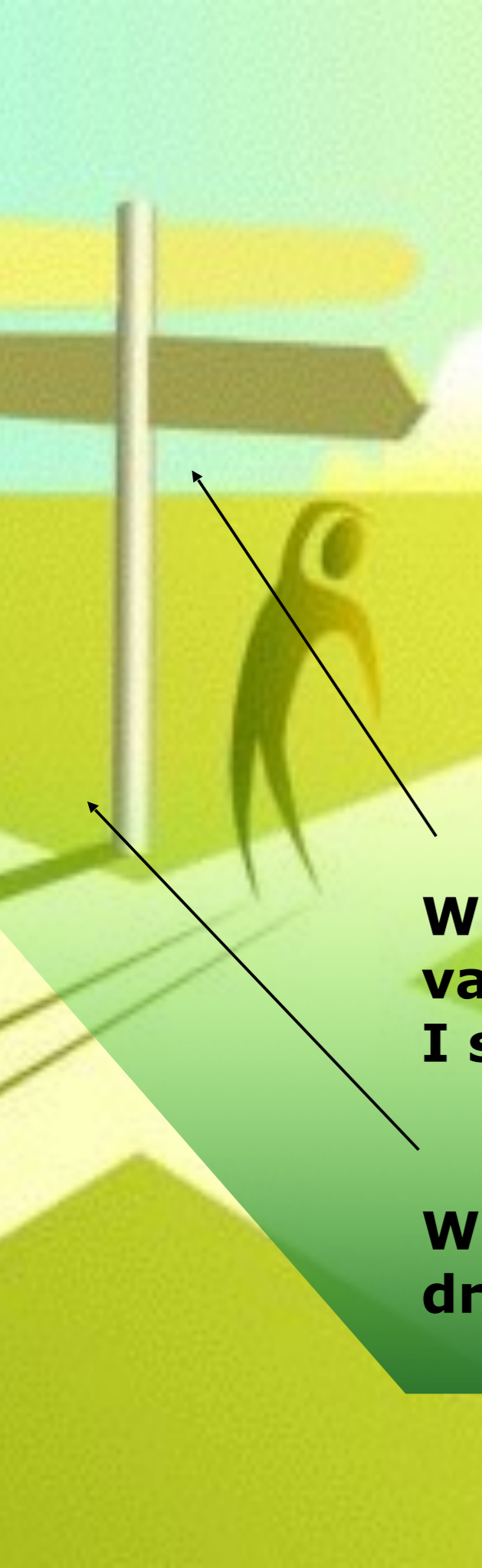
generate ideas: jobs  
that relate to the  
themes

be creative and don't  
shut off possibilities



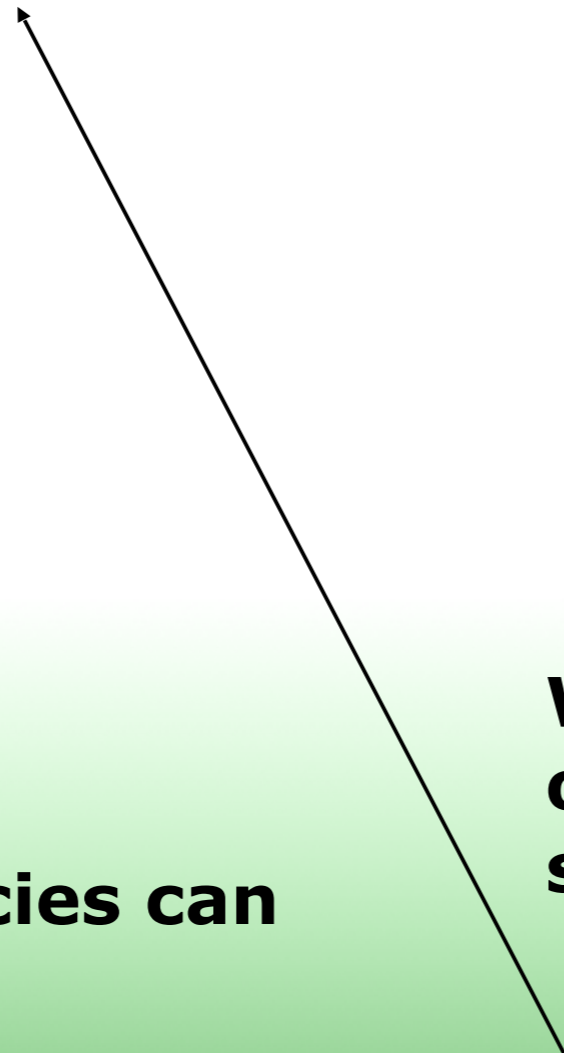
# The process

- Stage one - generating ideas
- **DIVERGENT and OPEN**
- Job clip
- Careers software
- Opinions of others
- Research into career pathways
- Creative thinking
- **Dreams and talents**



**What vacancies can I see?**

**What is my dream job?**

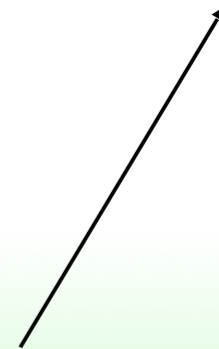


**Which jobs does "the computer" match to my skills and personality?**

**What do others think I should do?**



**What jobs might involve things I enjoy or am good at?**





This list was drawn up by  
the Science Council - 10  
types of scientist

Explorer

Investigator

Developer/Translational

Service provider/operational

Monitor/regulator

Entrepreneur

Communicator

Teacher

Business/Marketing

Policy maker

<http://sciencecouncil.org/about-us/10-types-of-scientist/>



# The process

- Stage two - filtering out possibilities
- **CONVERGENT and RATIONAL**
- **Filters**
  - Dislike
  - Retraining required/skills gap
  - Opportunity seems hidden

# POSSIBILITIES

Filter 1 - discard obvious "NO's"

Filter 2 - consider anything which seems "distant" from your experience or qualifications - are you willing to re-train or start from a low level?

Filter 3 - identify jobs which are outside your knowledge and network - how will you find out what these are really like?



# Your turn

- As an individual, spend a few minutes looking at the jobs on the sheets
- Write down anything of interest and rank it on the handout
- Think about what YOUR filters are - what must your career choice take account of?





# Another approach

- In groups or pairs:
  - How do you want your next career to feel?
  - What opportunities would a change offer which are unlikely to be found in academia?
  - Identify the working conditions, location, working environment, performance measures etc
  - FIVE minutes