

THE PH.D. GRIND
A Ph.D. Student Memoir

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Third Anniversary Reprint
with margin notes from the perspective of a first-year assistant professor

To read the original version without margin notes, visit:
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Current release: May 28, 2015

Original release: July 16, 2012

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A Ph.D. Student Memoir

"This book (download PDF) chronicles my six years of working towards a Ph.D. in Computer Science at Stanford University from 2006 to 2012. " <http://www.pgbovine.net/PhD-memoir.htm>

The Ph.D. Grind: A Ph.D. Student Memoir Details

Date : Published May 28th 2015 by Philip J. Guo (first published July 16th 2012)

ISBN :

Author : Philip J. Guo

Format : ebook 115 pages

Genre : Nonfiction, Biography, Science, Self Help, Reference, Research, Academic, Academia,
Productivity, Autobiography, Memoir, Education

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From Reader Review The Ph.D. Grind: A Ph.D. Student Memoir for online ebook

Viet Nguyen says

Đây là t? truy?n c?a m?t PhD student sau khi t?t nghi?p khoa CS ? Stanford. Very insightful about the process!! Philip Guo ?ã làm r?t t?t vi?c miêu t? quá trình làm PhD ??y gian kh? nh?ng c?ng ??y th?a mãn. Nh? tác gi? nói: "It [the PhD] was fun at times, but more importantly, it was fulfilling".

Nh?ng point n?i b?t mà tác gi? ?ã nêu (20 of the most memorable lessons) :

- ?ê thành công ? PhD nh?t ??nh ph?i có k?t qu?. Philip t?t nghi?p PhD CS vì anh ta ?ã s?n sinh ra 5 prototype tool và hàng ch?c publish papers. PhD is not for "students with the most idealistic of intentions - dreamy and passionate hopes of revolutionizing their field - who produce few results and then end up disillusioned"

- PhD thành công không ph?i vì read c?c nhi?u publication on the field. Philip r?i vào trap này vào n?m th? nh?t khi anh ??c hàng tr?m bài báo không vì m?c ?ích c? th? nào c?. Ng??c l?i, ??c paper r?t có l?i trong tr??ng h?p ?ã tìm ??c project cho mình, ?i tìm nh?ng related word ?? xác ??nh competitors, c?ng nh? thêm nh?ng idea vào trong project c?a mình.

- Ph?i có cách tìm relevant information riêng. Không ph?i lúc ?i h?c trong l?p, không textbooks, không lecture notes, không instructors. Gi? ?ây, làm PhD là ki?m info trong research paper, trong m?t ?o?n code, m?t website ?âu ?ó, và ? trong c? trong ??u ai ?ó mà ta ph?i tìm ra và h?i giúp ??.

- Ph?i bi?t cách t?o ra c? h?i. Philip ?ã làm r?t nhi?u vi?c - giving talks, chatting with colleagues, asking for and offering helps, and expressing gratitudes. T? ?ó mà đ?n ??n nhi?u c? h?i, nh? tìm ??n ??c Fernando ? UCB ?? ??c inspired làm ra IncPy, r?i vi?c g?p g?, follow up, và cu?i cùng là c? h?i làm vi?c v?i Margo ? Harvard làm ra Burrito.

- Ph?i bi?t lu?t ch?i c?a "academic game", b? r?t nhi?u l?n rejection tr??c khi bi?t cách publish hi?u qu?.

- Bi?t ??ng l?c, tính cách c?a các PhD students khác, c?a các profs, và senior colleagues, t? ?ó mà bi?t t?n đ?ng, đ?n đ?t h? theo h??ng c?a mình.

- Profs are human.

- Làm nh?ng nhi?m v? b?t bu?c. V?i nh?ng PhD student m?i, vi?c "pay some dues" là r?t c?n thi?t, thay vì ch? ??o ngay t? nh?ng ngày ??u tiên. Nhi?m v? ? ?ây ngh?a là work on research projects c?a supervisor.

- Bi?t cách reject bad defaults. ? memoir c?a Philips, default ? ?ây là làm vi?c liên t?c theo project Klee c?a Dawson. Philip ?ã th? r?t lâu nh?ng không có k?t qu?. Defaults aren't usually in the best interests of those on the bottom (e.g. PhD students) so it's important to know when to reject them and to ask for something different.

- Bi?t khi nào nên quit. Nh? philip quit Klee thì m?i có c? h?i làm ra IncPy, SlopPy, CDE, ProWranglerProWrangler, Burrito

- Recover from failures. Câu này Philip vi?t r?t hay: "Grad school was a safe environment to practice recovering from failures, since the stakes were low compared to failing in real jobs"

- Tìm và hợp tác với những insiders, là những người đã thông thạo các những tricks ? trong một subfield, do đó hợp tác với họ để publish họ.
- Give many talks: là nên sinh ra những cái gì hợp tác.
- Sell, sell, sell: thousands of hours of hard grinding would go to waste if I failed to properly pitch the big-picture significance of my research to my target audience. Dịch nôm na là làm ngon là ch?a ??, phải biết cách marketing !
- Hào phóng giúp ??.
- Tìm sự giúp ?? xứng nên.
- Biết cách thì nên sự biết ?n.
- Ideas are always built upon other ideas.
- Grind hard and smart: ? đây Philip đã viết rằng mình đã grind ?? 10000 giờ trong quá trình làm Ph.D (là con số mà làm cho một người trở thành expert một thời gian ?ó, xem trong Những kẻ xuất chúng - Malcolm Gladwell). Những grind hard những cái gì grind smart. "It's sad to see students blindly working themselves to death on tasks that won't get favorable results: approaching a research problem from an unwise angle, using the wrong kinds of tools, or doing useless errands."

Một cuốn truyện dài ??c, những cái gì thú vị thông tin hữu ích về một quá trình - The Ph.D. Thanks Philip!

Kartik Singhal says

Gives some solid description of what doing a PhD is like (from at least one student's experience and perspective).

Points that resonated with me:

- Combining one's research project to practical needs but not end up maintaining it forever (which can hinder generation of new research)
 - How many students drop out and that almost all the PhDs I meet are probably the exceptions (of course, because they went through the grind and chose to not give up).
 - It can be full of rejections and one needs to develop an ability to (swiftly) recover from failure.
 - How much of a role funding can play in one's freedom and research decisions.
 - One may not be as dependent on their advisor as is usually said. Though, this can depend a lot on financial freedom (see previous point).
 - Most of it is solitary, focused, hard work but if done successfully should result in immense fulfillment.
-

Gerald says

Like the author said, this does not apply across all fields of PhD study but there are lessons one can glean from the experience of the author that applies across board.

Very nice memoir.

Ashish Lavania says

It gives an insider's perspective to prestigious US PhD programs in CS but could have been shorter (Too much self-love?)

Ke says

I really like this book. I'm surprised that I can find it here, in Goodreads. I read The Ph.D. Memoir somewhere between June and July, 2012, during my critical time of writing a master thesis. It helped me a lot.

I got an interview recently for a Ph.D position, and I was asked many unexpected questions about how I think about working as a Ph.D, supervisors, teamworks, time management, and so on. It's hard to answer questions about experience that I haven't suffered. Well, thank to the book.

If you are seriously considering doing a Ph.D, this is the book for you.

Huyen says

T? truy?n c?a m?t nghi?n c?u sinh Khoa h?c máy tính t?i Stanford. C? cu?n sách là ch?ng ???ng chinh chi?n n?ng n? ch?ng gai, nhi?u lúc mình ph?i b? sách xu?ng ?? th?.

Nano says

These are the questions answered through this book.

1. The Need to pursue Ph.D
- 2.The working style of a Ph.D life.
- 3.The Uncertainty with Ph.D
- 4.The right motivation and passion to complete Ph.D
- 5.What it takes get a Ph.D degree at MIT ?

I like the presentation of the 6 years Ph.D life. I would strongly suggest students who are interested in Research and Development. Thumbs up for the first book on Ph.D as for me.

is my field the same.

Subhayan says

An enlightening read, chronicling the author's experiences as a PhD student in computer science. Highly recommended for any STEM graduate student.

???? ?????? says

It was a very useful book for me, that gave me a deeper perspective on the PhD students' life and struggle, explaining the different steps and challenges he has encountered through his 6 years PhD experience.

Krishanth says

If you are in grad school, you should read this book. Though the grad life experience might differ from person to person, some of the stuffs you can relate to yourself for sure.!!!

Alex Poovathingal says

It's neither inspiring, nor discouraging. It's just a summary of the author's life as a PhD scholar. It was interesting to know what actually happens behind the scenes of this penultimate stage of an academic career. Apparently it's not about free food and free travels to different different places to attend conferences. There is a large chunk of boring stuff involved.(Sorry for the spoiler :P)

Samy says

I found the book very interesting. Although the Ph.D story is different from one student to another and from one field to another, I think Philip captured the main theme for what it takes to get the Ph.D. I think it is a good book and experience to read which gives a closer look and insight on the world of academia and research.

I truly felt a lot of the points he talked about. Also, I got many good advice to consider in the future.
