

Role: Postdoc

My PhD research went really well, but I was also very lucky. Now as a postdoc, however, I feel I am not very well prepared for an academic career at all. So many new expectations and so few tenured positions... And honestly, I will probably want to have kids at some point as well.

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I would love to go to that conference, but I'm pretty sure that would upset my postdoctoral advisor. Rumors have it that he hasn't talked to the organizer of that conference in more than a decade even though they work on closely related questions. I really just want to steer clear of any trouble.

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My postdoctoral advisor sometimes jokes about how cool it is to teach math-ed students because of all the hot girls. I know he means no harm and is probably just a bit old-fashioned, but it does make me feel uncomfortable.

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My postdoctoral advisor seems to assume that she'll be a coauthor of the paper I just finished. But honestly, I did all the work. Just because I'm in her work group doesn't mean that she gets to coauthor everything!

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I've done my bachelor's, master's, and PhD at the same institution, and my first postdoc position is still in the same country. I know that I have to go abroad if I want to have a chance in academia, but my aging parents expect me to take care of them in the near future. I already help out around the house with some tasks that they can't do themselves any more.

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My postdoctoral advisor makes me teach the exercise classes for her lectures, every single semester. I don't mind, but I need some independent teaching to show for if I want to apply for tenure track positions!

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I got rejected from 20 positions in the past 6 months. I'm at a point where it just seems pointless to keep trying.

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My current funding is going to run out in 3 months and so far I haven't been able to secure a new job. I really want to stay in academia, but I'm also the main provider for my small family of 3.

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I've been living in 4 different cities on 2 continents in the past 3 years, and if I stay in academia it won't get much better in the near future. Every single time I have to start my social life from scratch. Honestly this is taking a toll on me, I just don't have the energy for yet another fresh start.

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I'm in charge of the web page of my work group. Whenever there's an open day at my uni I'm the one organizing a talk. I'm in charge of communicating with the IT admins whenever there's a computer problem. Whatever little task comes up, it somehow magically ends up in my hands. I get a lot of recognition for all that and it feels nice, but I barely find time for my research any more.

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My postdoctoral advisor has a total of 5 PhD students and 10 master students writing their theses with her. Great, right? Except that I'm effectively in charge of advising the bulk of them. When do I find time for my own research?

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I will have a baby in six months and would like to take maternity leave for a year. Would that jeopardize my career?

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Should I apply for a grant? Do I need to organize a conference? Am I doing enough?

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I feel like I need to work more than my male colleagues to get the same recognition. Can I do anything about that?