Life after the PhD

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Background

Timeline

- BA - Williams
- MPhil - Cambridge
- PhD - Penn
- Postdoc - Princeton
- Started as an assistant professor at Cornell last year

Research interests

- Using PL techniques to solve problems in systems
- Design
- Semantics
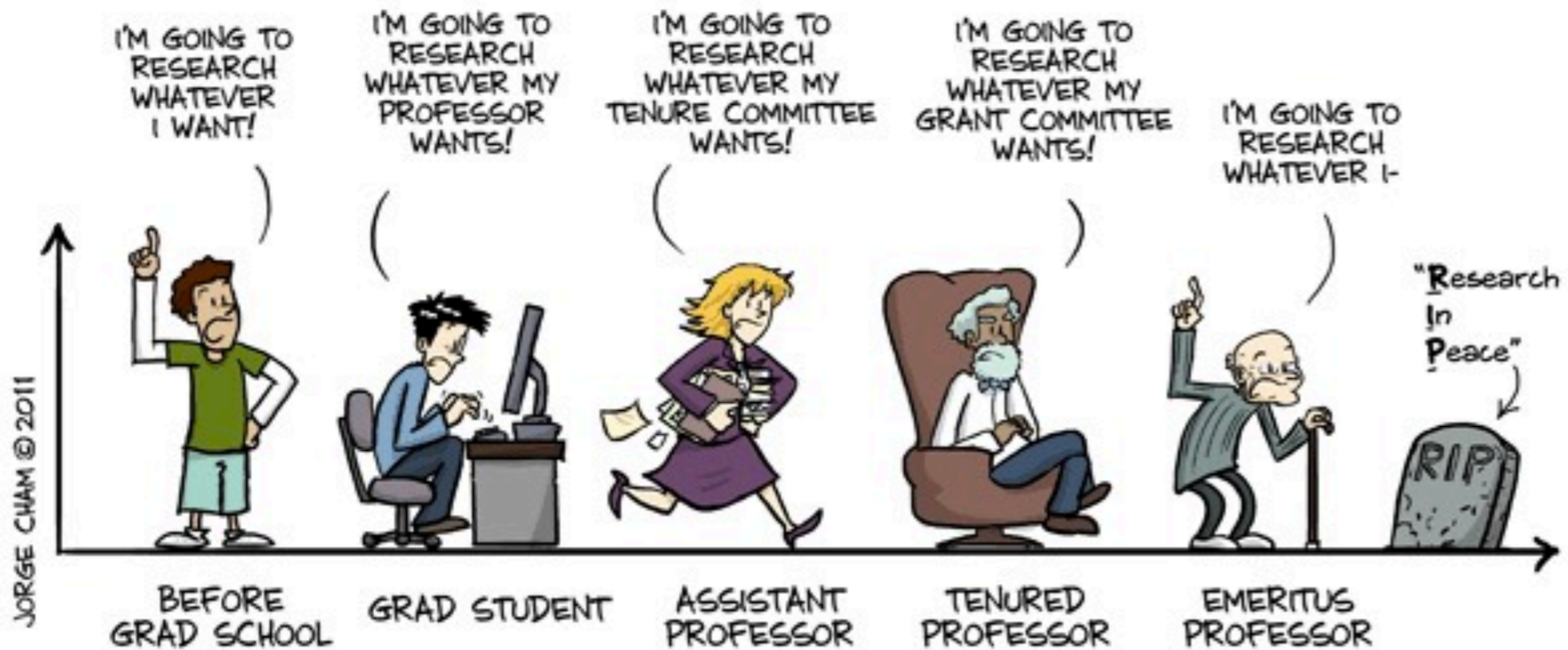- Type systems
- Implementation

Other obsessions

- Cycling + eating
- "When you see your adviser in spandex every day, it's hard to take him as seriously"   —Jay McCarthy

Why do this?

Postdoc Life

A wonderful time...

- Dissertation behind you
- Treated like an adult :-)
- A *lot* of independence
- Fun to work with new collaborators
- Practice teaching and mentoring students
- A chance to "move up"

...but not a very long one

- Typically only 1-2 years
- Not very much time to get new results
- Search for the next job will take a few months

Finding a postdoc

- Your network
- Your adviser
- Established programs (CI Fellows, MSR, IBM, etc.)
- Public forums (CRA, TYPES, EAPLS, etc.)

Faculty Job Search

During the PhD

- Demonstrate that you are a productive researcher
- Do high-quality work
- Develop a vision, and be able to articulate it

Search Committee Criteria

- Letters
- Phone calls
- Research and teaching statements, etc.
- CV
- Papers

Interview

- Job talk
- One-on-one meetings
- "Downtime"

Faculty Life

Like running a startup…

- Seed money (startup funds)
- Attract talent (recruit students)
- Demo initial prototype (publish)
- Phase two funding (get grants)
- Deliver product (publish, release)

…but must do all this while

- Teaching
- Service (PCs, grant panels, reviews, committees)
- Making enough time for you and your family!

Time management is critical

- Danger of over-extending
- Learn to say "no"
- Save enough time for research