

# Workshop with NCCR PlanetS Alumni- The Transition to Industry

Dr. Nadine Afram

There's no shame in leaving

Barbara A. Wanchisen

## **Why it is not a 'failure' to leave academia**

Here's how PhD students can prepare for different careers, and how lab heads can help.

**Philipp Kruger**

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# Surprises from Two Years of Recovering from Academia



Beth M. Duckles [Follow](#)

Jun 7, 2017 · 6 min read

## What Nobody Tells You About Leaving Academia

CAREER COLUMN · 08 OCTOBER 2019

## How I overcame impostor syndrome after leaving academia

Desiree Dickerson discusses learning to control the voice in her head that insisted she wasn't good enough.

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# Should Staying in Academia Be Considered a Failure?

People assume that the opposite is true, but fulfilling careers and intellectual freedom are just as abundant outside of the academy—and maybe even more so

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By Ahmed Alkhateeb on September 19, 2018

## **Extracts from articles (positive):**

- The skills you are acquiring during a PhD are highly sought by employers beyond academia
- You can do almost everything
- Imposter syndrome gone
- Outside academia, people don't care about academia
- You can be happier
- There is no evidence to suggest that scientists in academia are more successful, more self-fulfilled or even intellectually freer than scientists in other sectors

# Extracts from articles (negative):

- Starting over after being established in your field
- Missing the identity
- Stigma and shame attached to leaving academia
- Getting a job isn't the hardest part, it is finding out what makes you happy (and removing the programming in your head that says 'I will only be happy if I have a tenure-track job')
- You might look back and you could go back
- You might be angry for a while because you got used to that life
- At the heart of the transformation out of academia is not a job, a skill set, or a salary—it's transforming your mind to believe that you could be happy in another reality.

# Today

## NCCR PlanetS Alumni:

- Dr. Sebastian Daemgen (Carl Zeiss SMT, Programming/precision optics)
- Dr. Thibault Kuntzer (IDENTITAS AG, Data scientist for agriculture)

## NCCR PlanetS Technology Platform:

- Piero Pontelandolfo about the externship programme to encourage the transition from academia to industry