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Newark and New Brunswick

MDSA Cohort #2 **Planning Your Work and Working Your Plans**

From Problems to Productivity and Progress

**Presented by
Jeffrey Robinson, Ph.D.**

Agenda

- Introduction (JR)
- Managing Your Scholarly Life
- Coming Attractions (Cohort 2 Workshops)

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Managing Your Scholarly Life

Planning Your Work and Working Your Plan

Managing Your Scholarly Life

- Understanding the Challenges
- Defining Productivity
- Planning Your Work; Working Your Plan

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Managing the Challenges

What are the challenges that 2nd and 3rd
year doctoral student face in their
programs?

Challenges 2005

- Managing relationships
- Defining research agenda
- Exhaustion/burn-out
- Class size/access to resources
- Balancing coursework with research
- Understanding expectations
- Committed faculty
- Coursework/TA balance
- Comps
- Understanding process
- Departmental guidance
- Focused research interests
- Publishing
- Connecting to key people
- Family/Finance issues
- Access to/collecting data
- Motivation
- Peer relationships
- Writing

Challenges 2006

- Publishing
- Identity and Placing your research
- Advisors (choosing, dealing with them, etc.)
- Teaching
- Managing politics
- Managing multiple projects
- Networking on research
- Balancing the work with everything else

Challenges from Cohort #2, 2008

- Comps
- Publishing in journals
- Dissertation Proposal
- Manage expectations of professors
- Juggling the workload
- Managing your home life/family life
- Balancing work/family/etc
- Funding \$\$\$
- Finding your research questions and collaborators
- How to reach outside your discipline, school, field
- How to get research experience
- Politics – how to stay out of it!
- Motivation –focus and determination
- Reading lots of papers/chapters/books
- Preparing for comps
- Developing your own research identity
- Teaching for the first time
- Not putting the cart before the horse!
- Financing your modest lifestyle
- Dealing with other students in your cohort or doctoral program
- Finding a mentor

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What is productivity?

Managing Your Scholarly Output

- “Predicting Early Career Research Productivity: The Case of Management Faculty”
 - Ian Williamson & Dan Cable – JOB 2003

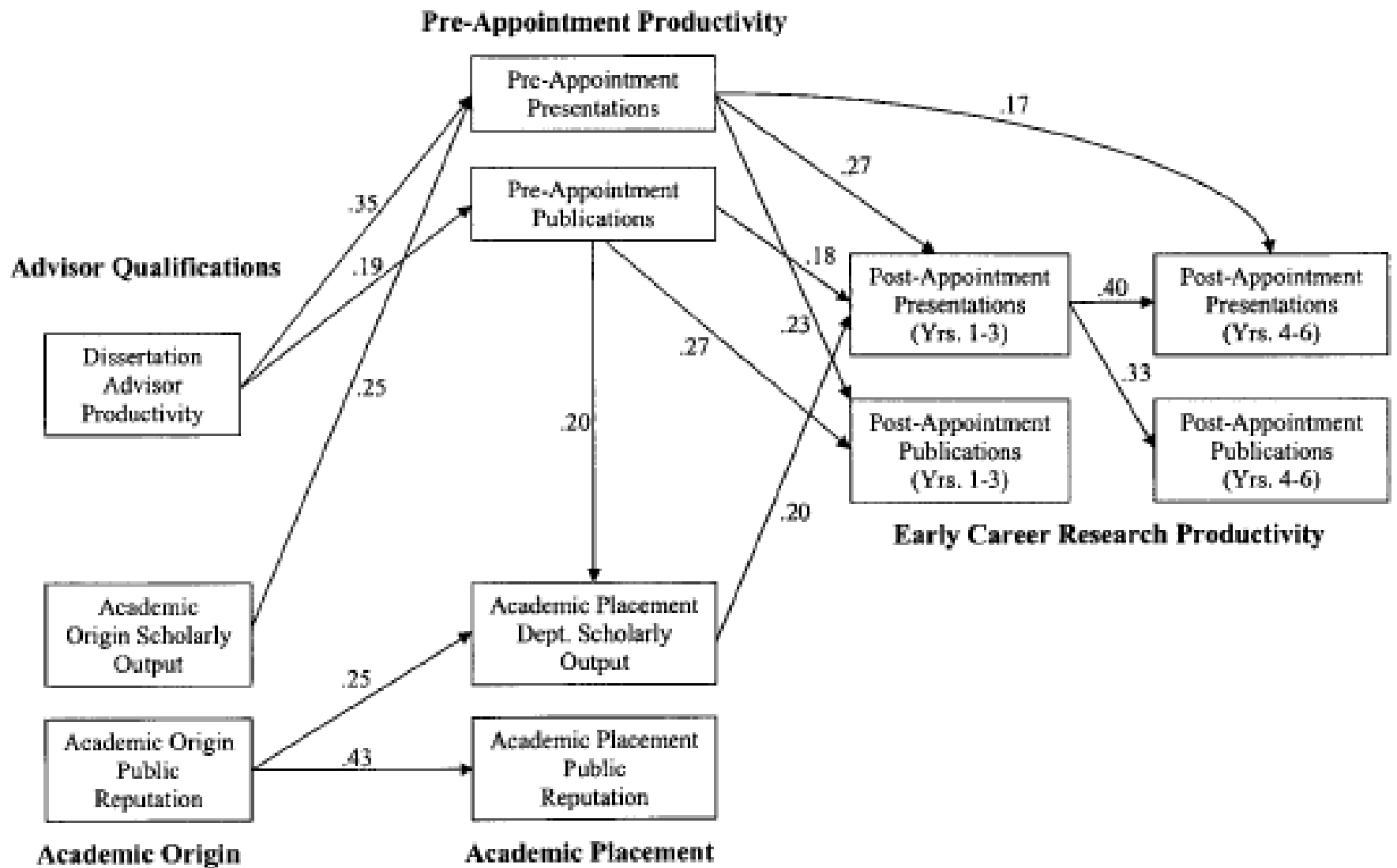


Figure 2. Significant path coefficients of hypothesized model

Key Points from Williamson and Cable

- Dissertation Advisor
- Pre-Appointment Publications
- Pre-Appointment Presentations

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Planning Your Work, Working Your Plan

Managing Your Scholarly Plan

Make It A Job

- Maintain a regular schedule
- Make school your job
- Things to include in your schedule:
 - Reading articles and books
 - Writing summaries/preparing for comps
 - Completing assignments
 - Conducting your own research
- A flexible schedule is good, but ...

Get the Writing Done

- Process
 - When do you write best?
 - What gets you in the zone?
- Content
 - What do you write?
 - Who is reading/critiquing your work?

Get the Writing Done

- Three books
 - Doing Exemplary Research (Frost & Stablein)
 - Writing for Social Scientists (Becker)
 - Writing for Scholarly Publication (Huff)

Follow Your Interest

- Ask yourself three questions in your 2nd/3rd year:
 - What subject areas *really* interest me?
 - What areas make me want to work hard to find out more about them?
 - What type of research methods do I like to use?
- Read more in areas that interest you
- Find your voice/perspective and write with it

Use Technology

- Take advantage of the technology
 - Literature reviews; citation indexes
 - Statistical analysis
 - Research collaborations
 - Web publishing
- Learn *and integrate* one new skill per year

Get involved

- Good citizenship
 - What is being a good citizen?

- The opposite of being a good citizen
 - Out of sight, out of mind

Find the Right People

- Peers
- Co-Authors

- Mentors
- Advisors
- Sponsors

- Dissertation Committee Members

Find the Right People

- Mentors provide feedback and information
 - Research ideas
 - Guidance
 - Support
 - Information
- Sponsors support your career
 - Funding
 - Reviewing
 - Co-authorships, chapters, etc.

Find the Right Support Structure

- People you can turn to when things are up and when they are down
- Your life will change ... make sure you have people who can support you during the more stressful times

Planning Your Work

- Make it a job
- Follow your interests
- Get the writing done
- Use technology to your advantage

- Get involved
- Find the right people
- Find the right supporting structures

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Managing Your Scholarly Life

Discussion

Preview of Coming Attractions ...

FRIDAY

- “Finding Your Home as a Scholar” (Duhaime and Huff)
- The Tao of Teaching
- Panel on Conference and Paper Presentations and Comps

- Presentation and paper available at
 - www.jeffreyrobinsonphd.com

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