Fellowships tips

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Career

- 2005–2009: PhD in the Netherlands
- 2009–2011: NWO Rubicon grant at Oxford and Caltech
- 2011–2013: Research Fellow and Lecturer at Oxford
- 2013–2018: EPSRC Fellowship
“Classical Viewpoints in Quantum Theory”

- Identified “novel” idea in the air
- Develop general theory
- Apply to quantum computation, foundations, maths
- Interplay practice and theory
Getting started

- Talk to people
- Gather examples
- Gather ideas:
  - Go to lots of seminars
  - Read outside your comfort zone
- Think big
Getting going

- Ripen
- Consolidate
- Plan (be opportunistic)
- Polish, polish, polish
- Simplify nontechnical parts
- Make sure panel/referees can tick boxes
Getting further

- Don’t be modest with budget
- Plan for visitors
- Think ahead
- Likely to move
Use all you can

- Feedback: use judiciously
- Reference letters: spread the message
- Will you/have you done teaching? Use it.
- Will you/have you organised workshops? Use it.
- Will you/have you hosted seminars? Use it.
- Will you/have you refereed-edited? Use it.
- Are you a woman? Use it.
Response to reviews

- Summarize reviews in best light possible
- Play out bad reviews against good ones
- Use juicy quotes
- But be honest
Interview

- Homework: relate to panel
- Practice talk: no details, keep it big picture
- Prepare questions ahead of time, practice them
- Run through mental list of talking points
- Be enthusiastic

Very different from Royal Society
It is a numbers game. Don’t get disheartened. I failed before.

Recycle: Royal Society, Royal Society of Edinburgh, Leverhulme, FQxI, ...

Good luck!