



UPPSALA
UNIVERSITET

Grants Days 2021

Advice from a grant reviewer

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Animal Ecology

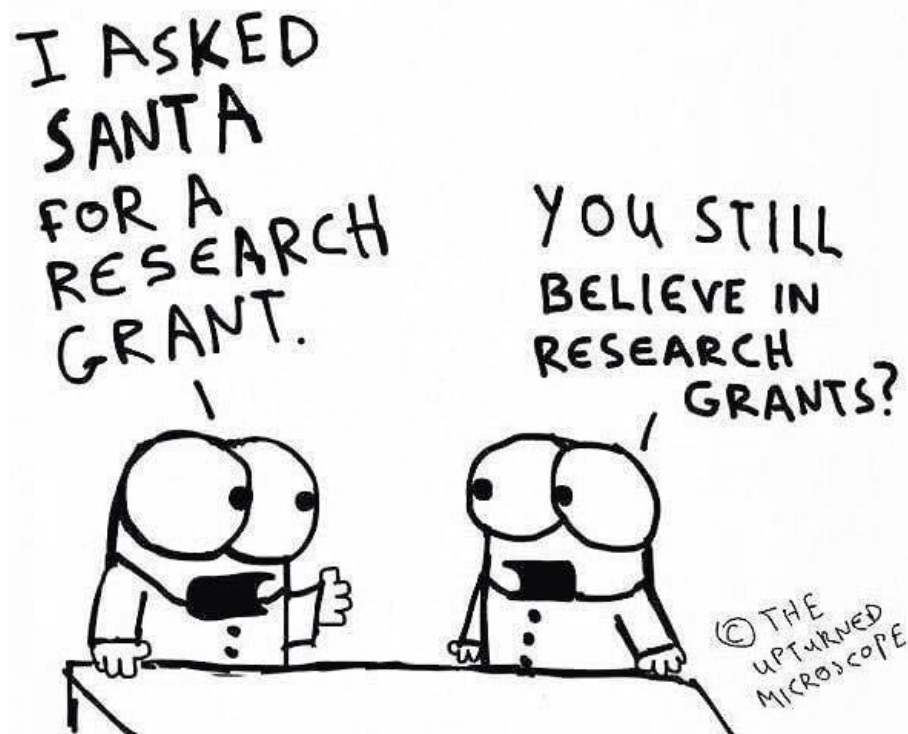
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1. Relevant experiences

2. Best advices

3. Questions



Reviewing grants (external):

- Swedish Research Council: Member of the Ecology Committee 2007, 2008, 2010 and 2011
- Swedish Research Council: Member of the PostDoc Committee 2010
- Reviewed grant applications for national research councils in England (NERC), and USA (Natural Geographic), EU (ERC first step)

Member of the Scientific Council for Natural and Engineering Science (Swedish Research Council) 2012-2015 Help organize committies and check their work (conflict of interest, bias), plan type of grants to match career steps...

Reviewing grants (UU internal):

- Advisory Committee for Research 2018-present
- Dean of research for Science and Technology 2018-present*
- Grant writing groups organized by junior faculty*
- Commenting and interview practising for ERC locally at EBC*

Writing grants

- ***VR project grants*** since 2002- present
- ***Formas project grants*** 2006-2008 and 2019-2021
- PI on a large European Grant, EYIA, the precursor or ERC grants 2006-2010*
- KVA research fellow grant 2006*
- Co-applicant on a Linneus Centre of Excellent grant (VR) 2008-2017
- Co-applicant on a KAW grant 2015-2019

***Failed the first interviews!**

Made it the second time (twice)

Best Advise NR 1: Place yourself in the shoes of the reviewer with many applications to read

Summary page super important!

Easy and clear to read: ***Problem, Goals***
How to reach the goals and ***Impact***



**Why
and
How**

Best Advice NR 2: Place yourself in the shoes of the reviewer with many applications to read

Follow the instructions in great detail and read the instructions to the reviewers if they are available



**“help”
the
reviewer**

Best Advice NR 3: Place yourself in the shoes of the reviewer with many applications to read

Keep a sharp focus throughout your application.

- 1. Pinpoint the gap of knowledge (avoid exhaustive review of literature, use key references)*
- 2. Explain why it is important to fill the gap develop aims and sub-hypothesis/questions*
- 3. Outline the methods and link them as well as analyses to specific hypothesis/questions you will test*

Best Advise NR 4: Place yourself in the shoes of the reviewer with many applications to read

How can the reviewer know that you can achieve what you claim?

1. Can you do the proposed work?
2. Are the methods likely to work?
3. Are relevant equipment and facilities available for you?

Best Advice NR 5: Be nice to yourself

1. Start in time to avoid stress
2. Write together with colleagues
3. Ask for friendly review



**Good luck
and try again
if your grant is rejected!**

