

#Academic resume of failures

"Generally it is our failures that civilise us. Triumph confirms us in our habits".

Clive James. 1980. *Unreliable Memoirs*. Picador. p65

"He is a one-man reminder that non-excellence is OK, that we can resist the tyranny of #bebest, that being not-so-good at something doesn't mean you can't do it anyway". [Jacqueline Maley](#), *The Age*, 17 May 2021,on Keanu Reeves' acting skills and niceness

"This darn CV of Failures has received way more attention than my entire body of academic work". Dr. [Johannes Haushofer](#)

on these resumes, see:

<http://www.nature.com/naturejobs/science/articles/10.1038/nj7322-467a>

"....keep trying in the face of disappointment" <http://www.theguardian.com/education/2016/apr/30/cv-of-failures-princeton-professor-publishes-resume-of-his-career-lows>

<https://chroniclevitae.com/news/1391-we-re-all-failures?cid=VTEVPMSED1>

Simon Batterbury

Professor of Environmental Studies, University of Melbourne (2004-2016, 2019->)

Professor of Political Ecology, Lancaster University, UK (2017-2019)

Yes, you can "do it anyway". Failure is normal.

Actual cv, with successes, is at www.simonbatterbury.net

Education

1981 Achieved grade "E", lowest pass, for high school A-level in Geography in the UK, and thus denied entry to all chosen university courses in Geography. (Attended a crammer college in London and retook the exam with considerably more success E>A!)

Demotion

I was the inaugural full Professor of Political Ecology at Lancaster University, UK from 2017-19. Resigned because family moved back to Australia, and my country of birth was self-destructing under Brexit. Went back to Associate Professor at my old university.

Failed job apps and interviews (do some of the messages go into spam?)

2023 Professor of Human Geography, Örebro University, Sweden. Zoom, unsuccessful, no feedback.

2023 Coordinator of the Masters degree I used to run. Unsuccessful, no feedback.

2022 Professor of Geography, Monash University. Interviewed. Tried hard. Feedback given.

2022 Professor of Environment, Northeastern University, USA. Never heard a single word back.

2022 Visiting 0.1 Professor, VUB, Brussels. No interview or feedback.

2022 Visiting 0.2 Professor, Queen Mary, University of London. No interview, no feedback.

2021 *During Covid-linked mass redundancies in Australia...* A p/t role to coordinate a university research institute (interview)

2021 *During Covid-linked mass redundancies in Australia...* A p/t role to coordinate university PhD training (no interview, but I later got such a job in 2023)

2021 *During Covid-linked mass redundancies in Australia...* Head of a new School. (none of us chosen. Some feedback received)

2021 *During Covid-linked mass redundancies in Australia...* Professor, Social Sciences, Suffolk University, UK. 0.2 fractional job to build up PhD student supervision capacity and cohorts at a 'new university'. (never heard back)

2020 *During Covid-linked mass redundancies in Australia...* Senior Lecturer (no interview, even though I was once head of the unit, and previously helped design the required teaching!).

2013 Chair, Technology and International Development, Wageningen University, Netherlands (interviewed)

1999 Assistant Professor of Geography, Syracuse University (interviewed)

1999 Assistant Professor of Geography, McGill University, Canada (interviewed)

1998 Assistant Professor of Geography, University of Minnesota (interviewed)

1998 Assistant Professor of Geography, University of Kentucky (interviewed)

1996 Friends Provident/Joanna Lumley Research Fellowship, Green College, University of Oxford (interviewed by Joanna Lumley!)

1996 Plymouth University – lecturer in human geography (interviewed)

1995-ish Greenwich University - lecturer in environmental studies or geography, I forget (interviewed)

1991 Bristol City Council, planning researcher (arrived for interview on the wrong day!)

1990 Coventry University - temporary lecturer in geography (interviewed, one other candidate was also rejected and is now a Professor as well)

1990 Research assistant, AIR group, Geography, Birmingham University (interviewed)

1990 Tutor, University of Aberdeen, Scotland (interviewed)

1981 Store assistant, Marks and Spencer's, Eltham, London (no luck, retail career over before it began. Ended up on the shop floor of a factory instead)

And probably a few without interviews, which I have conveniently forgotten

Boards

A university research institute in my field – Feb. 2014. Restructuring of the institute went on without the board - and the Director then removed some of us from the Board. Those let go were pretty surprised.

Grant applications - failed

2024 *Enhancing Impactful Interdisciplinary Research on Climate Change* xxxx,xxxx,xxxx, Simon Batterbury. Internal, University of Melbourne AU\$1m. Deemed ineligible.

2024 XXXXX & SPJ IKI seed funding

2022 WeCycle evaluation. Inner North Foundation AU\$4,000

2022 WeCycle Evaluation. MEI, Univ of Melbourne AU\$3,000

2022 ENVIRONORD, Matthias Kowasch, Simon Batterbury. Fonds Pacifique. *Power Transition: renewable energy on customary land*. €120k, Some comments.

2021. xxxx, Simon Batterbury et al. *Untangling global-national-local interactions in the context of commercial land appropriation in Ethiopia: implication for women's food production and rural livelihoods*. Swedish Research Council (VR) c€658,000 Unsuccessful no real comments. Apparently, the hit rate is 10% for these.

2021. xxxx, xxxx Simon Batterbury. *HEUREKA – Capacity Building, Indigenous Knowledge and Education in Community–Industry Relations in the context of Natural Resource Extraction in New Caledonia*. FWF Austrian Science Fund, Austria. €950,000. Unsuccessful (got to the first round, received small grant, 2nd round referee comments widely divergent)

2021. Networking grant, U of Melbourne. \$2,700. Minimal comments.

2021. Sponsored a postdoc application, Melbourne. Unsuccessful

2020. Simon Batterbury, xxxx, xxxx & xxxx. Indigenous knowledge as an element of ecocentric and worldview education: mangroves and tropical dry forests in Kanaky-New Caledonia. IKI Seed Funding, U of Melbourne. A\$20,000. Unsuccessful

2019. Kindly asked on a research trip to Ghana paid for by a small UK grant. Then there was a call for UK GCRF/AHRC funding applications on agrarian transformations for which we were eligible. One university led the proposal but did not inform others that they had restricted participation to their university staff only, and to partners in Africa. They won over c£300,000.

2019. Pulled out of a European Horizon 2020 application with many partners, to work in New Caledonia and Vanuatu, because I was leaving the UK and the overheads payable were not acceptable to Lancaster. It was successful and awarded €1.3m!

2018. Sponsored a postdoc application, ESRC. Unsuccessful

2018. *Social monitoring of the Koniambo project in New Caledonia*. With Matthias Kowasch and IAC. Contract never awarded after a year and a half delay. €xxx,000

2017 xxxx, xxxx Simon Batterbury *Peri-urban land under pressure in Mali: constructing a learning platform for influencing policy and practice* c£300,000. ESRC/DfID Unsuccessful after 2 rounds of shortlisting, some comments received

2016 xxxx & 8 CIs incl. Simon Batterbury *Testing the commercial and economic viability and technical feasibility of bioenergy solutions in Sub-Saharan Africa*. £500,000. DfID Bioenergy. Unsuccessful

2016 Simon Batterbury *Community bicycle workshops in the UK and France; nodes of low carbon urban transportation and contributors to community economies* DEMAND centre visiting fellowship 2017, Lancaster University. £2,500. Unsuccessful (ended up working at Lancaster anyway!)

2014 Simon Batterbury, xxxx. *Building urban sustainability through bicycle cooperatives*. MSSSI Special Seed funding, University of Melbourne. A\$5,000. Unsuccessful, no comments received

2012 xxxx, Simon Batterbury, xxxx, xxxx, xxxx, xxxx. Sept 2012. *Adaptive water governance for local communities in Southern Africa*. ADRAS scheme, AusAid, A\$945,000. Unsuccessful, no comments received

2012 Oxfam America, lead PI Sept 2012. *Implications of mining, watershed and agricultural land overlays for poverty reduction in national economic development planning*. ADRAS scheme, AusAid, A\$840,600. Unsuccessful, no comments received

2012 xxxx, xxxx, xxxx, xxxx, Simon Batterbury. Sept 2012. *Identifying pathways to climate change adaptation in natural resource management: working together across Australia's monsoonal North*. Natural Resource Management (NRM) Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Research Grants Program, Australian Government, A\$1,000,000. Unsuccessful, no comments received

2011 Simon Batterbury with xxxx UQ, xxxx, Oxford, xxxx Reading University, xxxx, CDU. *Systematic engagement for assessing and improving climate change adaptation*. NCCARF Social and Institutional Dimensions. Climate Change Adaptation Research Grants Program A\$961,550. Unsuccessful concept note, no comments received

2011 Simon Batterbury. Social Transformation in mining regions – a comparison study between New Caledonia and the Pilbara region in Western Australia. MSSSI, Univ. of Melbourne. A\$37,058. Unsuccessful, no comments received

2011 Simon Batterbury. Successful pro-bicycle urban policy initiatives– an international comparison. MSLE ACG development grant scheme 2011-2012. A\$13,000. Unsuccessful, no comments received

2010 Simon Batterbury. Adaptive urban planning for Melbourne; the transferability of bicycle and densification policies from Europe. NCCARF Climate Change Adaptation Grants research program. A\$50,000 Unsuccessful, no comments received

2007 Jim Falk, PI and many others. “Framework for Australian Climate Change Adaptability and Vulnerability”. Commonwealth Environment Research Facilities (CERF) Significant Projects. A\$1,475,647 Unsuccessful

2007 Batterbury PI, Palmer, Reuter etc. “Livelihoods, land use and the potential for poverty reduction: new legal codes, local government and re-emerging customary institutions in post conflict rural Timor Leste” ARC Discovery proposal A\$300,000. Unsuccessful, some comments received

2006 Batterbury, xxxx, xxxx, xxxx “Livelihoods, land-use and the potential for poverty reduction in the post conflict nation of Timor Leste: rural development and customary institutions” ESRC-DFID proposal, UK A\$513,000 Unsuccessful

2006 Batterbury, xxxx, xxxx etc. ADRAS proposal on East Timor A\$90,000 Unsuccessful, no comments received

2006 Richard Howitt, PI (Macquarie), with Batterbury and 13 other Australian academics. “Integrating Social and Health Impact Assessment into Environmental Decision Systems”. Commonwealth Environment Research Facilities (CERF scheme), DEH, Canberra. A\$2,000,000 (\$250,000 to Melbourne). Unsuccessful

2000 Batterbury. The legacy of success: village land use management and governance in Bam, Burkina Faso. HSBC Holdings Small Research Grant Scheme, Royal Geographical Society £2,430 Unsuccessful

1998 Batterbury, Warren. Major EU proposal on land degradation in Niger. European Union. €1m Unsuccessful

1990 PhD funding applications – Lindbergh Foundation, National Science Foundation, Wenner Gren Foundation. Nul points. Nada.

Publications

Rejected

2019 co-authored article for a special issue on borders for an online journal was submitted, blind reviewed, resubmitted with changes, then rejected by the special issue and journal editors at the last moment. No chance to revise again. Published in xxx instead - accepted by an editor with small changes, based on the earlier reviews.

2016 article for *Economic Geography* – rejected by editor, without reviews. Reworked and rejected by *Environment and Planning A*, 3 reviews. Rejected by *Regional Studies*, no reviews. Rejected by *Global Sustainability*, 3 reviews. Unpublished as of 2022- I think it is one of our best.

2015 *Journal of Latin American Politics* – rejected by editor, without reviews (published elsewhere)

2015 *Conservation and Society* – rejected, resubmitted, rejected again, with two rounds of reviews. Published in a different form 3 yrs later in one of geography's top 3 journals.

2007 *Higher Education Research and Development* – rejected after reviews (published elsewhere)

One edited book proposal sent to Duke University Press – never heard back. Also sent to University of Arizona Press – no reply

Never finished

The list is long.

One book of short entries on key topics – contract received, but never completed by us.

One edited book, massively late.

About 20 papers on the computer with over a few paragraphs written, some dating back over a decade, that seemed important at the time.

.....Such is life.....