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## CV of Failures

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This “CV of failures” is inspired by a 2016 [CNBC article](#) on the same topic. Everyone fails, regardless of their career path, but academics seem to face rejection a lot. Journal and conference rejections, grant proposal rejections, poor teaching evaluations, and more are a regular occurrence. These rejections can be frustrating, disheartening, and lead to promising academic leaving the field.

While academia is definitely not for everyone, I have put together this document to highlight my many failures in hopes of presenting a more realistic portrayal of academic “success.” I hope documents such as this provide clarity to current grad students preparing to enter the field.

**Note:** This is likely not a complete list. Outside of my memory (which is pretty long), I identified a lot of these rejections based on searching my email for rejections of various types. So the “complete” list of failures is probably even longer.

### **PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES THAT HAVE BEEN REJECTED (19):**

- Communications of the ACM: 2016
- Computers in Human Behavior: 2011, 2015, 2017
- New Media & Society: 2013, 2014
- First Monday: 2014
- JOBEM: 2012
- Information, Communication and Society: 2011
- Communication Research: 2011
- Cyberpsychology, Behavior, and Social Networking: 2011
- Media Psychology: 2010
- Journal of Personality & Social Psychology: 2010
- Group Dynamics: 2010
- Human Communication Research: 2010
- Journal of Communication: 2009
- JCMC: 2009, 2010, 2017

### **PEER-REVIEWED CONFERENCE PAPERS THAT HAVE BEEN REJECTED (25):**

- CSCW: 2015, 2016, 2017 (x2), 2018a (x1)
- CHI: 2011, 2016, 2017 (x3), 2018 (x3)
- AoIR: 2016 (x2)

- HICSS: 2016
- ICWSM: 2015 (x2), 2017 (x1)
- ICA: 2013 (x2), 2015, 2017
- ASIST: 2012
- NCA: 2010

## **GRANT PROPOSALS THAT WERE REJECTED**

### ***National/International (12 total worth ~\$6.5 million)***

- Mozilla Research Grant, 2017 (budget: \$100k)
- NSF CAREER, CISE, 2017 (budget: \$575k)
- NSF Small, SBE/SaTC, 2016 (budget: \$500k)
- NSF Small, SBE/SaTC, 2016 (budget: \$500k)
- NSF Medium, SBE, 2015 (budget: \$1.2M)
- NSF Small, SBE, 2015 (budget: \$500k)
- NSF Small, CHS, 2015 (budget: \$500k)
- Consumer Privacy Rights Fund/Rose Foundation, 2015 (budget: \$50k)
- Digital Trust Foundation. 2015 (budget: \$300k)
- NSF EAGER, 2014 (budget: \$275k)
- NSF Small, SBE/CHS, 2014 (budget: \$500k)
- NSF Small, CHS, 2010 (as grad student personnel) (budget: \$500k)

### ***Maryland-Specific Funding Opportunities (3 total worth \$38k):***

- UMD Summer RASA—Research & Scholarship Awards, 2016 (budget \$9000)
- UMD Summer RASA—Research & Scholarship Awards, 2015 (budget \$9000)
- UMD ADVANCE Seed Grant, 2015 (budget: \$20k)

### ***Michigan State-Specific Funding Opportunities (2 total worth \$6k):***

- MSU Summer Research Fellowship. 2010 (budget: \$3500)
- MSU Summer Research Fellowship. 2010 (budget: \$2500)

## **JOBS I DID NOT GET:**

- 2012 Academic Job Search (2 phone & 1 campus interview of five applications, all local)
- Many, many job applications between graduating from undergrad and being hired in first full-time position (May-September, 2002). I even got rejected from my first job (at PR Newswire) the first time they reviewed my application.
- Internships during college at WHFS (DC radio station) and NPR

## **GRAD SCHOOLS THAT REJECTED ME:**

- University of Michigan, School of Information-PhD (2008)
- Northwestern University, Media, Technology & Society-PhD (2008)
- University of Maryland Graduate Program in Communication-MA (2006)

- University of Maryland Graduate Program in Sociology-MA (2005)
- Columbia University Graduate Program in Journalism-MA (2002)

#### **AWARDS & OTHER STUFF I FAILED AT:**

- 2016 Social Informatics Best Paper Award
- iConference Dissertation Award (2014)
- NCA HCTD Dissertation Award (2013)
- Google Policy Fellowship with Center for Democracy & Technology (summer 2007)
- I tried out for *Jeopardy* in 2004 (the year Ken Jennings won 74 straight episodes). In retrospect, not making the cut wasn't such a bad thing.
- Even though I graduated from college at the top of my class, it took me four months to get a job. There were **many** applications submitted during that time.
- I tried out with some friends for *Wanna Be a VJ 3* on MTV in 2000. I didn't stand a chance.
- Elon University Leadership Fellows (1998): I was strangely devastated by this one.
- AP Exams: I failed the AP Spanish (1) and AP Calculus (2) exams my senior year of high school.
- When I made varsity lacrosse in high school junior year, I just sat on the bench so I asked to go back down to the JV team.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade School Play: My school was putting on *Snow White* and I wanted to be the evil queen but I was sick the day of my audition and totally blew it.