Career Development Panel
YRRSDS 2009

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Issues for academic researchers

- Advancing theory – “pushing back the frontiers of knowledge”
- Getting a PhD
- Getting promotion in an academic career
- Publishing in academic journals
- Getting research grants

Main focus of academic research (spoken dialogue systems)

- Advancing the technologies
  - Speech recognition
  - Spoken language understanding
  - Dialogue management
  - Response generation
  - Speech synthesis
- Dialogue Management: More advanced interaction
  - AI-based techniques
  - Statistical / machine learning based approaches

Applied research

- Focus on systems that will work and generate revenue
- Business needs
- Performance factors

Main focus of applied research (spoken dialogue systems)

- Usability
  - Prompt design, call flow, grammar design
- Usage factors
  - User acceptance, quality of service, benefits to users (costs, time, convenience, …)
- Return on investment
  - More cautious approach to new technologies?

Progressing your career

- Plans do not always work out
- Need to be flexible and opportunistic, but also determined
- Strategies
  - Developing good CV: publications, grants, research groups, travel

Publications

- Publishing in high quality journals and conferences
- Be prepared to revise and re-submit – also to other journals
- Be aware of reviewing criteria

Grants

- FP7
  - Not for the unwary, a lot of work and experience required
  - Best to begin as part of a team
- Marie Curie
- National awards

QUESTIONS?