

(A to some degree biased selection of)

Relevant Topics during Life as a Doctoral Student

Our (?) life in comics

Grad Student Etiquette

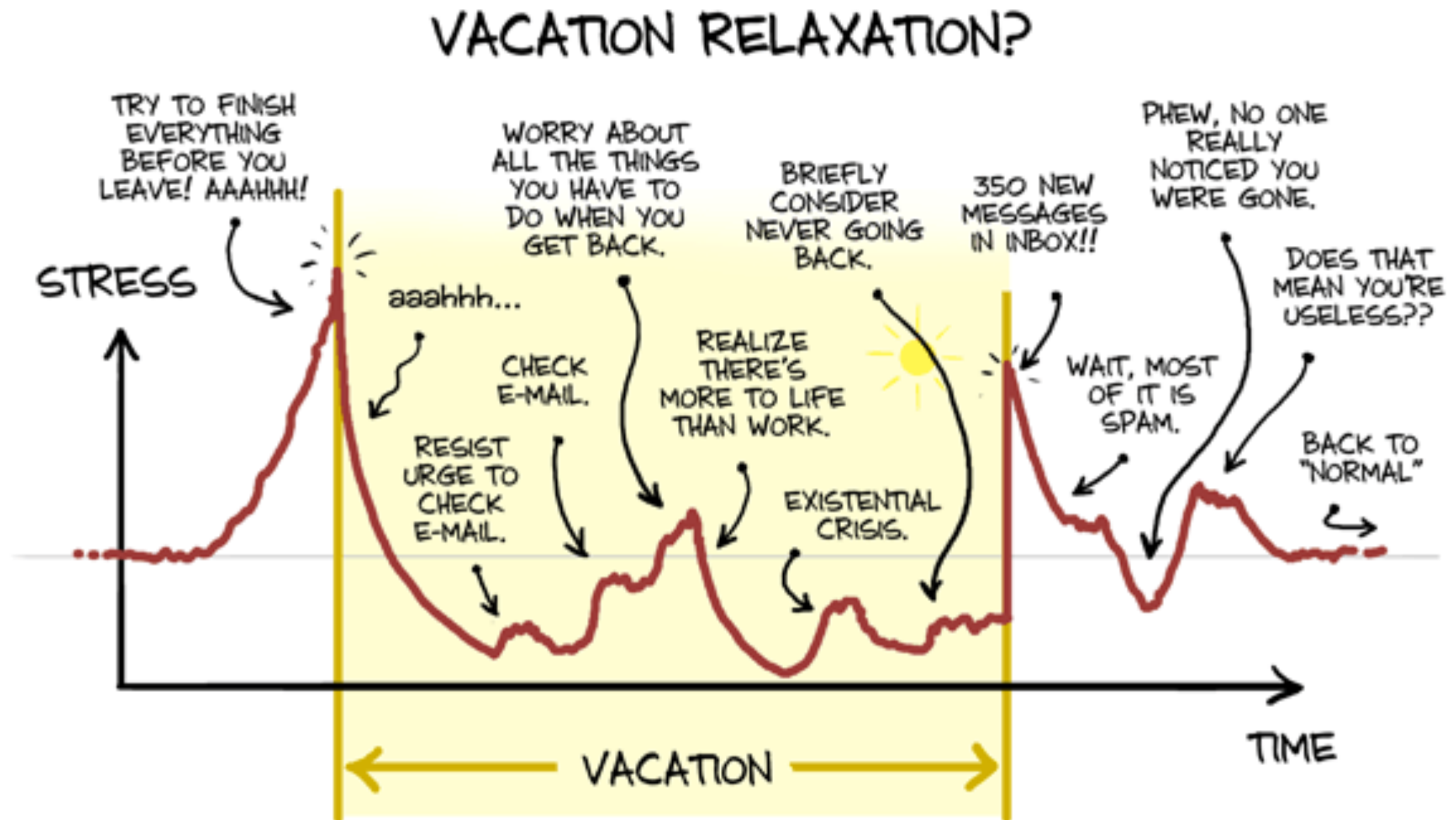
<http://phdcomics.com/comics/archive.php?comiciid=47>



JORGE CHAM © THE STANFORD DAILY

Vacation Relaxation

<http://phdcomics.com/comics/archive.php?comiconid=1231>



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The Author List

<http://phdcomics.com/comics/archive.php?comid=562>

THE AUTHOR LIST: GIVING CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE

The first author
Senior grad student on the project. Made the figures.

The third author
First year student who actually did the experiments, performed the analysis and wrote the whole paper. Thinks being third author is "fair".

The second-to-last author
Ambitious assistant professor or post-doc who instigated the paper.

Michaels, C., Lee, E. F., Sap, P. S., Nichols, S. T., Oliveira, L., Smith, B. S.

The second author
Grad student in the lab that has nothing to do with this project, but was included because he/she hung around the group meetings (usually for the food).

The middle authors
Author names nobody really reads. Reserved for undergrads and technical staff.

The last author
The head honcho. Hasn't even read the paper but, hey, he/she got the funding, and their famous name will get the paper accepted.

Survivorship Bias

<https://xkcd.com/1827/>

- The perils of survivorship bias in science and academia

NEVER STOP BUYING LOTTERY TICKETS,
NO MATTER WHAT ANYONE TELLS YOU.

I FAILED AGAIN AND AGAIN, BUT I NEVER
GAVE UP. I TOOK EXTRA JOBS AND
POURED THE MONEY INTO TICKETS.

AND HERE I AM, PROOF THAT IF YOU
PUT IN THE TIME, IT PAYS OFF!



EVERY INSPIRATIONAL SPEECH BY SOMEONE
SUCCESSFUL SHOULD HAVE TO START WITH
A DISCLAIMER ABOUT SURVIVORSHIP BIAS.

Addressing Reviewer Comments

<http://phdcomics.com/comics/archive.php?comid=581>

ADDRESSING REVIEWER COMMENTS

BAD REVIEWS ON YOUR PAPER? FOLLOW THESE GUIDELINES AND YOU MAY YET GET IT PAST THE EDITOR:

Reviewer comment:

"The method/device/paradigm the authors propose is clearly wrong."

How NOT to respond:

✗ "Yes, we know. We thought we could still get a paper out of it. Sorry."

Correct response:

✓ "The reviewer raises an interesting concern. However, as the focus of this work is exploratory and not performance-based, validation was not found to be of critical importance to the contribution of the paper."

Reviewer comment:

"The authors fail to reference the work of Smith et al., who solved the same problem 20 years ago."

How NOT to respond:

✗ "Huh. We didn't think anybody had read that. Actually, their solution is better than ours."

Correct response:

✓ "The reviewer raises an interesting concern. However, our work is based on completely different first principles (we use different variable names), and has a much more attractive graphical user interface."

Reviewer comment:

"This paper is poorly written and scientifically unsound. I do not recommend it for publication."

How NOT to respond:

✗ "You #&@*% reviewer! I know who you are! I'm gonna get you when it's my turn to review!"

Correct response:

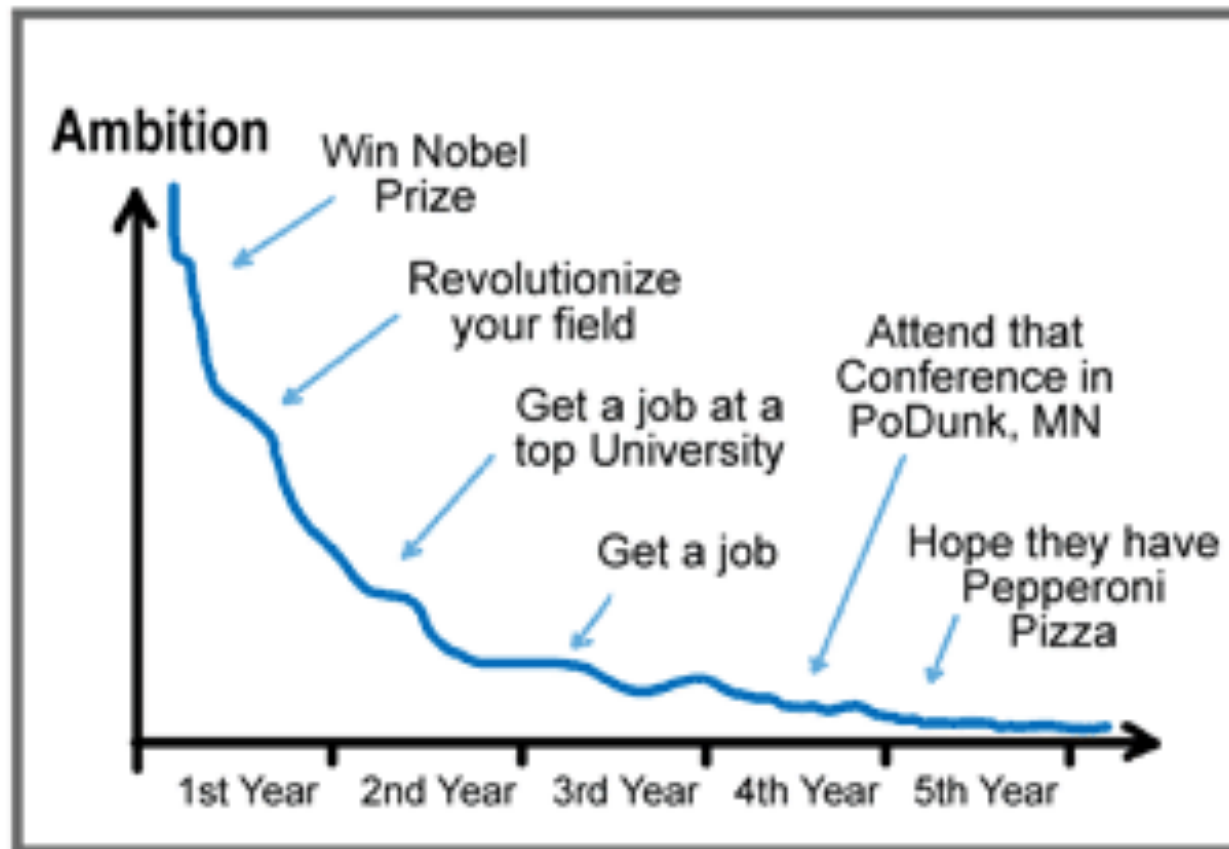
✓ "The reviewer raises an interesting concern. However, we feel the reviewer did not fully comprehend the scope of the work, and misjudged the results based on incorrect assumptions."

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Life Ambition

<http://phdcomics.com/comics/archive.php?comid=1012>

YOUR LIFE AMBITION - What Happened??



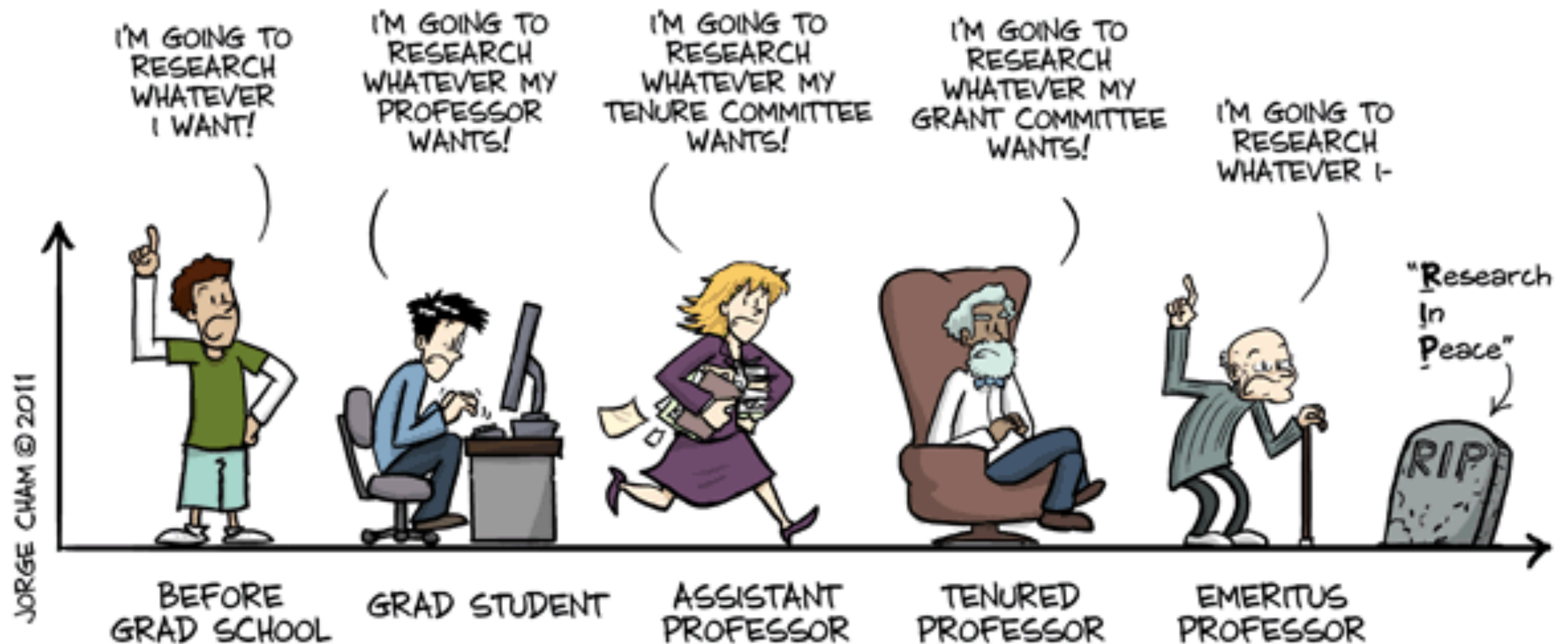
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Intellectual Freedom

<http://phdcomics.com/comics/archive.php?comiciid=1436>

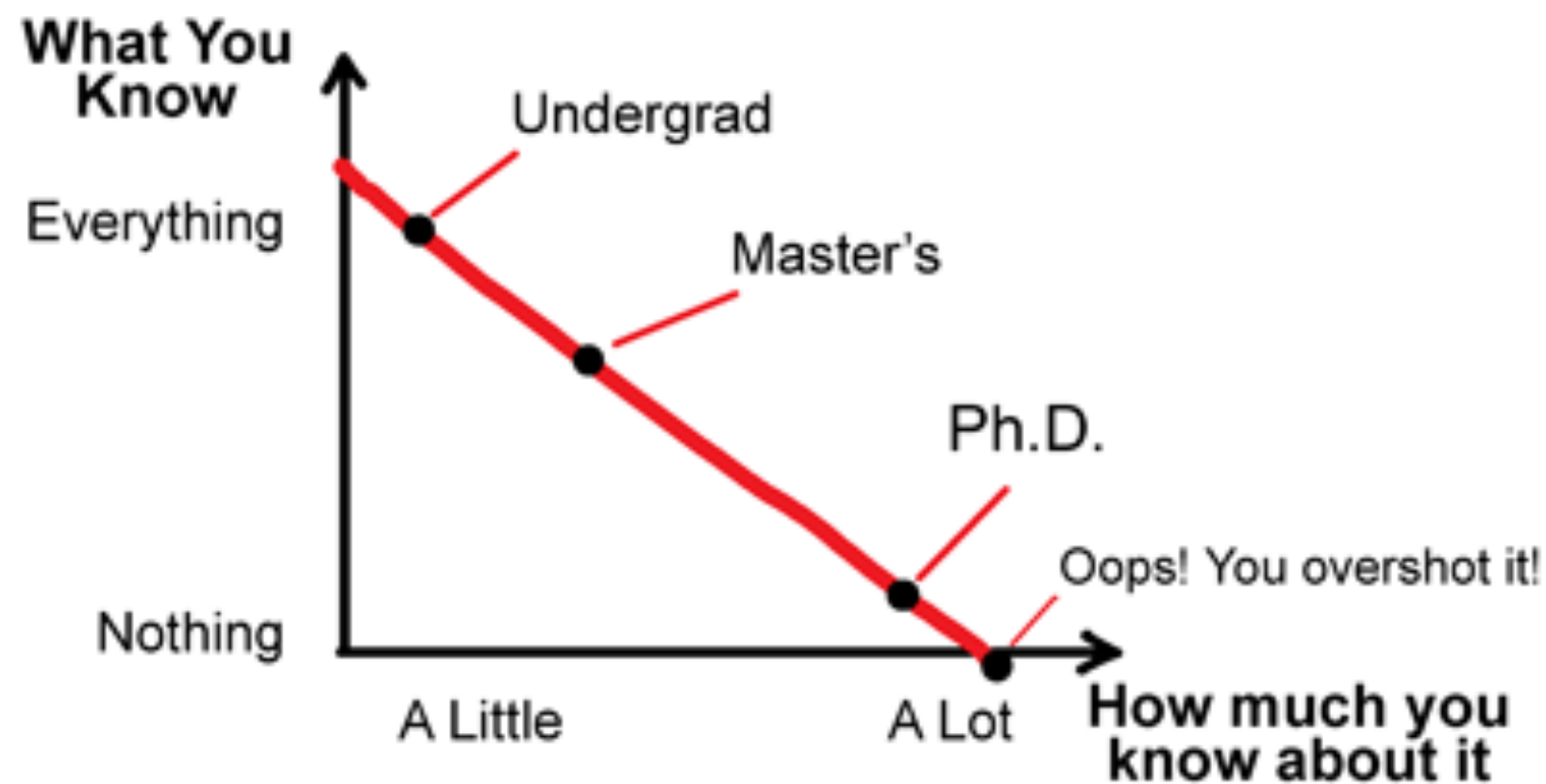
THE EVOLUTION OF INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM



What and how much you know

<http://phdcomics.com/comics/archive.php?comiciid=1056>

What You Know vs How much you know about it



Relevance of PhD Comics

<http://phdcomics.com/comics.php?f=1814>

