

# Once upon a time...



Fairy tales...

... and successful individual grant proposals



Jan van Gemert

# YOU MEET A SEASONED TRAVELER..

ONCE UPON A TIME, IN AN OLD UNIVERSITY CAFETERIA, AROUND THE COFFEE MACHINE, YOU MEET A SEASONED EXPLORER, SCARRED AND GRAY, BUT A TWINKLE IN HIS EYE...

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Assoc. prof; Head Computer Vision lab @ PRB

Two main research themes:

- ① Fundamental, empirical, understanding-based deep learning research (to)
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**Accepted grants:** Top, Vidi, Vici.

**Rejected grants:** Top, Veni, Vidi, Vici, Nwo-M, ERC start, ERC cons, etc...

Mine is not “The Way”; it’s “A Way”.

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Chance favors the prepared mind (Louis Pasteur)



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## 2 Evidence Based Curriculum Vitæ

### 2.1 Academic profile

#### Section 2a1 - General Academic Profile

**Fit to the target group** I always dreamed to be a professor: thinking. Too much dreaming landed me in the MAVO, a low level at Fontys, and a MSc in AI and a PhD in Computer Vision at the beaten path, resilient, and committed. Currently I am an associate professor in Computer Vision lab at TU Delft. My lab has 3 assistant professors, and 10 PhD students and more than 100 MSc students.

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It's your story.

Less about quantity (h-index, nr pub., venues, grants);  
Focus on quality: your narrative of importance, and why.

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THEY FREELY SPEAK THEIR MIND.. ALL TELL YOU WHAT THEY THINK.  
SOME SAY TAKE ROUTE A; OTHERS SAY DON'T TAKE ROUTE A...

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## Killing Your



## Darlings

Get feedback often, and early: don't write: pitch! Before the idea is "finalized".

Don't blindly follow; think about the question behind the question: not only *what* they say, but *why* they say.

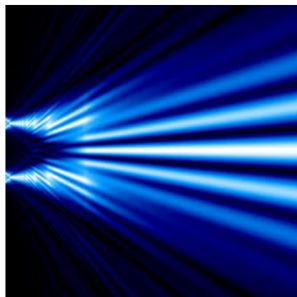
Kill your darlings; and take full responsibility for your choices.

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Institute of Physics

Do both. Write for 2 audiences simultaneously:

- Committee (why should society care?);
- Experts (novelty, soundness, current literature).

# SOCIETY FOR PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO TROLLS

THESE TROLLS ARE NASTY; WILL YOU KILL ALL OF THE TROLLS?



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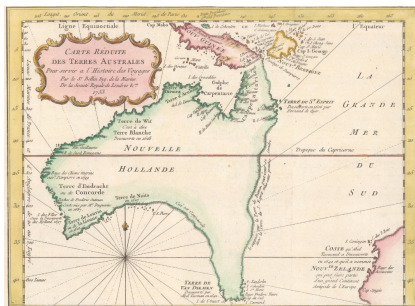
Reviewers are people! Their mood matters.

Quality of writing: avoid that they have to do work/inference.

An image says more than 1,000 gold pieces (also in the narrative CV).

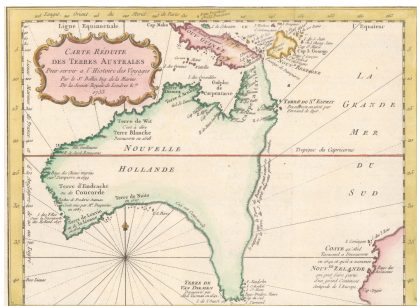
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DO YOU KNOW THE WAY? IS THERE A MAP? CAN YOU TRUST THE MAP?



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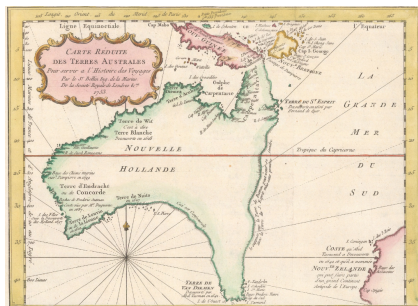
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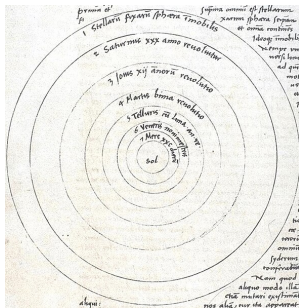
Goal:  $\exists!$ . Show that it is possible.  
Show that there is a convincing (detailed), realistic, plan.

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“WHY BOTHER?! IT WILL NEVER WORK”...

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Dream high: You can make that big step! Yes, you!

Don't dispose the deputy; topple the tyrant!

# AND... LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER!

It's the journey not the destination.



Even if unsuccessful, aligning helps prioritize: what to do; and when to say No.



# Online guidelines

## Tips for Writing Personal Grants Proposals in ICT

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(for further suggestions and corrections send an e-mail to the authors)

<https://homepage.tudelft.nl/c7c8y/Downloads/TipsforWritingPersonalGrantProposalsinICT.pdf>



## The Professor Is In

Guidance for all things PhD:  
Grad school, job market, careers in the academy & out

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**Dr. Karen's Foolproof Grant Template**

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