



Fellowship Ahoy! is a research project based at the University of Sheffield and funded by the [Leadership Foundation for Higher Education](#), exploring academic leadership in the development of research career independence.

[Dr Kay Guccione](#) is the Principal Investigator and is joined by Bryony Portsmouth, Researcher Professional Development Team Leader, and Matt Risby, Filmmaker, who form the project team.

Securing a research fellowship award is a highly competitive process where applicants must demonstrate potential to become an independent future research leader through a significant career transition. A portion of success in gaining a fellowship is often attributed to luck, both by the award holders themselves and by aspiring fellows.

We are collecting stories through social media: the [FSA Blog](#), and [Twitter @fellowshipohy!](#), and through interviews, of how people came to secure their research fellowship award, and who helped them.

This project seeks to provoke reflection in current research fellows in order to define the active components of funding success, more than luck.

Garnering social capital via the ability to form productive, collaborative and interdisciplinary networks is an element of self-leadership worthy of particular focus and this project aims to evidence a challenge to the definition of becoming 'independent' and to posit that success in research leadership is dependent on becoming more, not less, connected.

Our partner organisations in this study are Glasgow, Nottingham, Warwick, Oxford, Leeds, Imperial, Newcastle, and Cambridge. Ethical approval was granted by the University of Sheffield on 3rd October, 2014.