

# “ACADEMIC CAREER PROGRESSION: BEING STRATEGIC”

SAMANTHA HARDY, UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

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Simply doing your job well is no longer enough to ensure your progression up through the ranks of academic in Australia. Being an excellent researcher, an outstanding teacher or an efficient administrator is not, of itself, the key to success, although at least one of those is a precondition. In the current higher education climate, an academic needs to be strategic in planning his or her career progression. This involves carefully weighing up the value of different activities and prioritising them accordingly, looking for opportunities to “kill two birds with one stone”, actively collecting evidence of your performance, and making the most of a wide range of forums in which to promote your abilities and network.

**Samantha Hardy**

**Senior Lecturer in Conflict Resolution and Law**

**University of Queensland (Melbourne Campus)**

**PO Box 7213, St Kilda Road**

**Melbourne VIC 8004**

**Email: [Samantha.Hardy@uq.edu.au](mailto:Samantha.Hardy@uq.edu.au)**

**Phone: +61 (3) 9285 5191**

**Fax: +61 (3) 9285 5231**

Sam is the coordinator of the Postgraduate Conflict Resolution Program at La Trobe University and an Honorary Senior Research Fellow at the Australian Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Queensland. She has taught law and conflict resolution for the past ten years in Queensland, Tasmania, Victoria and Malaysia. She has provided training to university students, lawyers and other professionals in mediation, arbitration, conflict management and communication skills. Sam has also conducted research and published in the area of conflict resolution. Her PhD examined the impact of different methods of dispute resolution on the health outcomes of personal injury litigants. She received a University Teaching Excellence Award in 2003, and a National Carrick Citation for an Outstanding Contribution to Student Learning in 2006. In 2006 she was also appointed a Fellow of the Higher Education Research and Development Society of Australia. Sam is also a member of the Editorial Board of the Legal Education Review, and is the Convenor of the Legal Education Interest Group of the Australasian Law Teachers' Association.