

Anton Gollwitzer: CV of Failures

Failures are often invisible, especially in academia, where we attempt to put our 'best foot forward.' Thus, it may seem that academics, especially those with impressive CVs, rarely fail at their endeavors. This disparity between success and reality (a sort of illusionary success rate) may discourage individuals from embarking on an academic path and, at least for me, has led to a number of stressful and sleepless nights as a graduate student. Unfortunately, illusionary success rates are not only a problem when it comes to CVs. Perhaps your social media outlets are making you feel slightly helpless, given that most people tend to post their successes and exciting experiences, rather than their failures and 'tough times.' Thus in an effort to shed light on that much of what we do, and I do, fails, my CV of Failures can be found below.

This idea is not mine, but is based on an article in Nature by **Melanie I. Stefan**, who is a Lecturer in the School of Biomedical Sciences at the University of Edinburgh. You can find her original article [here](#), her website [here](#), her publications [here](#), and follow her on Twitter under [@MelanieIStefan](#). Further, I would not have become aware of her article had it not been for Johannes Haushofer, who is currently a professor at Princeton University. Prof. Haushofer has his CV of Failures posted on his website which can be found [here](#).

I am also not the first academic to post their CV of failures. Earlier examples are [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).

Please note that this CV of Failures is likely missing lots of failures (because I have forgotten them...or suppressed them). Not to worry however, given that I have a number of years of graduate school left, and hopefully more time in academia afterwards, I'm sure my CV of Failures will flourish.

*Please note: The CV of Failures of Prof. Johannes Haushofer was used as a template with his permission. It can be found [here](#).

Degree programs I did not get into

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|------|---|
| 2015 | PhD Program in Psychology, Stanford University
PhD Program in Psychology, University of Chicago
PhD Program in Psychology, Harvard University
PhD Program in Psychology, New York University |
| 2011 | Bachelors Programs at Harvard University,
Columbia University, Princeton University,
Yale University.... And many more. |

Awards and scholarships I did not get

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|------|--|
| 2016 | Society for Personality and Social Psychology Convention Poster Award |
| 2016 | Association for Psychological Science Convention – the Society for a Science of Clinical |

2016 Psychology Poster Award
2016 Society for the Study of Motivation Poster Award
2016 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship
2015 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship
2014 All possible awards for my Bachelor's Thesis

Paper rejections from academic journals

2015 Cognition and Emotion, Journal of Judgement and Decision Making, Science, Psychological Science, Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin, Clinical Psychological Science.... And many more.