

# **The Long Journey to Becoming an Academic: Is This Really What You Want?**

Okyay Kaynak  
Bogazici University and Turkish Academy of Sciences

For young people who do not see the full picture, the life of a lecturer/professor at a university may appear to be very attractive, with flexible working hours, sabbaticals, conferences in attractive locations and what not. In fact, it can be an extremely demanding and stressful job, even after tenure. The decision to embark on the long journey should be an informed one as will be explained in this presentation in two parts:

## **PhD: Why and How?**

Embarking on doing a Ph. D. is an important decision. It should not be taken lightly. In this presentation, the difficulties one is likely to meet on the way to a doctoral degree are discussed and if you cannot come up with strong arguments in favor of it, it is suggested that you should perhaps go for a master's degree. The second part of the presentation focuses on the journey itself. The skills that you should have or need to acquire for a successful completion of your journey as sanely as possible are discussed. The final remark is that dissertations are never completed but abandoned.

## **The Art of Technical Paper Writing**

Now that you have embarked on your Ph. D. journey, you will be expected to publish. It may even be a prerequisite to your degree. In this presentation, the art of technical paper writing is elaborated upon. Firstly, a three-dimensional view of dissemination of research results is introduced and where a good scientific paper should position itself is discussed. Secondly, the basic rules that a good scientific paper needs to follow are presented in relation with the typical arguments behind a quick rejection. Thirdly, how to organize a technical paper is discussed with specific references to its main parts, i.e., the title, the abstract, the body, the mathematics used, the conclusions and the references.

### *Short Biography of Okay Kaynak*

*Okay Kaynak received the B.Sc. degree with first class honors and Ph.D. degrees in electronic and electrical engineering from the University of Birmingham, UK, in 1969 and 1972 respectively.*

*From 1972 to 1979, he held various positions within the industry. In 1979, he joined the Bogazici University, Istanbul, Turkey, where he is currently a Professor Emeritus, holding the UNESCO Chair on Mechatronics. He has hold long-term (near to or more than a year) Visiting Professor/Scholar positions at various institutions in Japan, Germany, U.S., Singapore, and China. His current research interests are in the broad field of intelligent systems. He has authored three books, edited five and authored or co-authored more than 450 papers that have appeared in various journals and conference proceedings.*

*Dr. Kaynak has served as the Editor in Chief of IEEE Trans. on Industrial Informatics and IEEE/ASME Trans. on Mechatronics, as well as the Co-Editor in Chief of IEEE Trans. on Industrial Electronics. He presently serves as the Editor in Chief of IEEE Transactions on Industrial Cyber-Physical Systems and the Springer Journal; Discover Artificial Intelligence.*

*Dr. Kaynak has received several awards, including the Chinese Government's Friendship Award, and the prestigious Humboldt Research Prize, both in 2016. More recently he was awarded the Doctor Honoris Causa, Obuda University, Hungary (2020) and the Academy Prize of the Turkish Academy of Sciences (2020). He is a member of this Academy.*