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Networks of Functional Metal Oxides Towards Neuromorphic Materials

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Propositions

Accompanying the dissertation

Networks of Functional Metal Oxides Towards Neuromorphic Materials

1. Creativity and originality in introductions are desirable to keep the audience engaged. However, applying this to a written scientific introduction while keeping it professional can be challenging. *(Chapter 1)*
2. XPS data analysis is as much science as it is art – the art is to only fit peaks that make scientific sense. *(Chapters 2 & 4)*
3. Preliminary results can feel like they don't belong in a thesis but can be just as important in furthering science as other more complete studies. *(Chapter 5 & Outlook)*
4. Sometimes it takes writing a paper (or thesis) to fully understand your data. Writing exposes the flaws in your reasoning and provides new directions and ideas for furthering your understanding.
5. The current extreme focus on publishing gives the idea that a PhD is only valid and successful if you have a lot of published chapters, while the goal of a PhD is to learn and develop into an independent researcher.
6. Representation of failure and poor results should be normalized. It is part of the process and usually the (only) thing that eventually leads to success.

7. As a woman in science, it seems pertinent to include a 'women in science statement', which seems to detract from the importance and value of the cause that we fight for.
8. Inclusivity in science should not only be focused on women but include all minority groups.
9. Methods sections should be written as transparently as possible. Incomplete and (purposefully) vague methods hinder reproducibility, and therefore, the progress of science.
10. There is beauty in defects – even if things are not working, beautiful samples ease the pain. (*Cover*)
11. A PhD is a learning trajectory; you should take every opportunity to educate and develop yourself. Thinking you are too busy to participate in courses is a shortsighted way of thinking.
12. 'Strength does not come from winning. Your struggles develop your strengths. When you go through hardships and decide not to surrender, that is strength.' – Arnold Schwarzenegger

Alexandra I. Berg