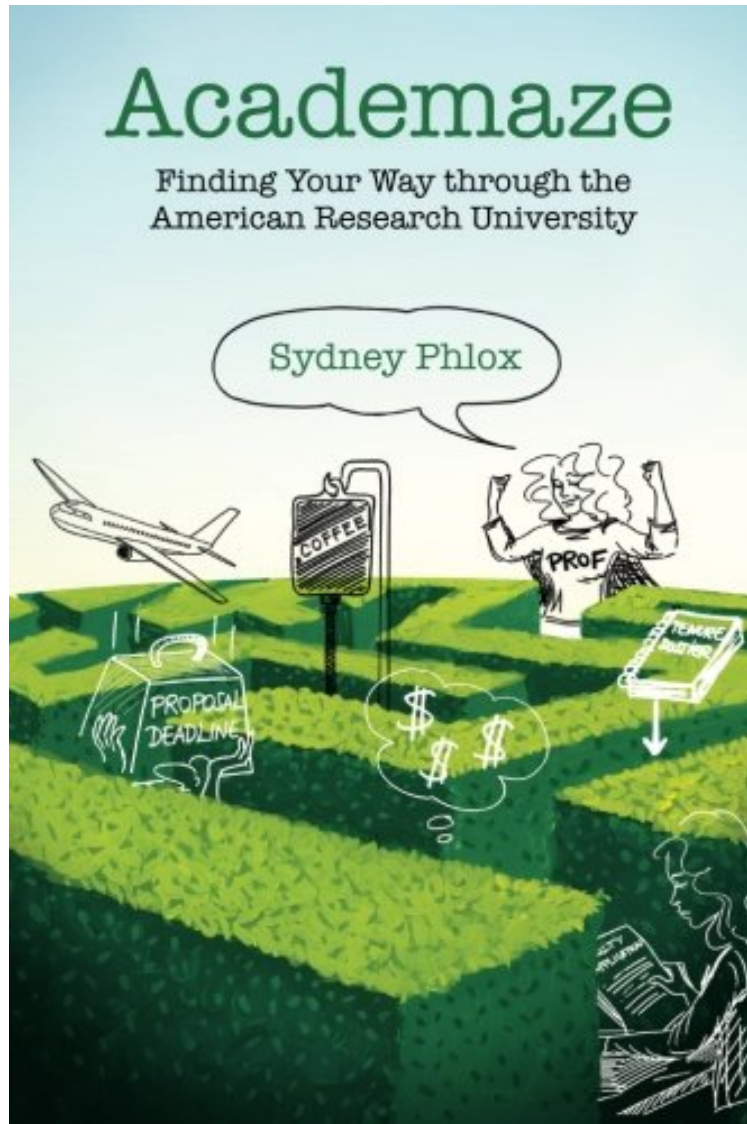


Academaze: Finding Your Way through the American Research University

Sydney Phlox

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Sydney Phlox : Academaze: Finding Your Way through the American Research University before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Academaze: Finding Your Way through the American Research University:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Big fan of the authorBy EricaI am a big fan of the author. Her blog

has been very helpful to me. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Funny and Insightful
By Clarissa's Blog
There's been a steady stream of publications that describe academia as a horror show of massive proportions. My non-academic friends and relatives often bring me these whiny and moany treatises as a gift (or send links to them) and joyfully exclaim, "Here! This is a book / article / blog post about academia!" I am, however, one of those academics who'd rather read the phone book than a book about academia because I can't take any more diatribes about everything being absolutely horrible and hopeless to the point where we all need to don a shroud and crawl straight to the cemetery. *Academaze* is a welcome exception to this annoying trend. The author is a successful tenured STEM academic who discusses the good and the bad of academia with insight and humor. The ideas behind some of the sub-chapters are accompanied by really cool cartoons that even I - a passionate hater of the cartoon genre - enjoyed. This book can be an invaluable resource not only to young STEM scholars who are contemplating a career in academia but, with some modifications, to beginner scholars in all fields. The author clearly loves her work, loves her life, and writes in a way that will make a budding academic less - instead of even more - nervous about her career choice. Among the defects of the book, I can name the excessive use of the word "Gaussian" (it is used once in the book, which I, as a professor of literature, find hugely excessive), the dearth of cartoons (they are so good that I would love to see more), and a slight disconnect between the introductory chapter and the rest of the book. From the intro, one can arrive at the conclusion that the book is aimed at the general public and hopes to convince readers that academic schedules don't mean that academics do nothing all day and especially all summer long. However, the rest of the book makes it clear that it will be most useful to academics and probably their family members who need to understand that saying things like, "Why can't you come over / talk / pick up the dry cleaning / join the yoga class with me, etc. if it's summer and you don't have to work?" is obnoxious and unfair. The book is fun, there are tons of real-life stories that illustrate each point - I highly recommend it. Especially if you are a woman in a STEM field who lacks a female mentor, this book can answer your most pressing questions while you chart your course in your field. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Required reading before entering academia
By Natalie
This book should be required reading for anyone considering becoming a professor. Many of the details are specific to a big university vs. teaching at a smaller, teaching-oriented college, and physics vs. a different STEM field, but it still gives a great overview of what to expect. I recognized many of the situations from getting my Masters, and I wish I would have read this before I chose my major professor. It may have saved me from trying to get a Ph.D. with someone who didn't support me. As a woman in science, I also appreciated her candid discussion of sexism in science. She talked about her coping mechanisms and when to let it roll off your back and when to call out the speaker. The chapters are short within each section, so you can easily dip in and out of the book. And, when things get too heavy, there are cartoons to lighten the mood. It's not perfect. There's a couple of times the author repeats herself, and you can't apply her experience to all STEM fields. But, it's an easy read and I highly recommend it to anyone who wants to know what goes into being a professor.

Academic life can be wonderful, but also daunting. This collection of essays and cartoons on life in academia provides an insiders guide to the tenure track and beyond in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields at a major US research institution. Sydney Phlox, a pseudonymous tenured professor, takes the reader through the maze of academic life: from the job search, through the research, teaching, and service that form the core of academic work to the quest for work-life balance and the unique challenges faced by women in STEM. Along the way, Phlox shares the joys and tribulations of working with students and collaborators and navigating academic politics while trying to get papers published and grants funded.

About the Author
Sydney Phlox is a professor at a large public research university in the US, working in one of the science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields. She loves quantum mechanics, science fiction, and bad puns. She and her husband raise a prime number of unruly children and drive in the snow like champs. Phlox blogs and doodles at Xykademiqz.com.