



Researcher Identity Development

Strengthening Science in Society Strategies

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Incidents in the supervision of the doctoral thesis

CASE 2: Manuscript rejection

The supervisor's perspective



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A couple of months ago a student of mine, Maria, submitted an article of her thesis to a good journal. We received an answer last week and the review was very negative. The manuscript was rejected, and the tone and content of the report are harsh and complex to address. Yesterday we had a meeting to comment on the report. I tried to encourage her, explain the publishing process and that it is relatively normal to be rejected an article, but it is true that reviewers are not usually so hard and forceful. I tried to make her understand that if we revise some aspects of the work and send it to another journal, we have good chances to get it published, but she doesn't want to talk about it. She devoted a lot of time and effort and the review has greatly discouraged her. She says she'd rather focus on something else and leave this study for later. We agreed that she will look at the article and the report again in relation to the possible changes we discussed and that in a week we would talk about it again.

I'm worried she won't change her mind. It is true that the report was harsh and that it would be necessary to spend some time revising it before we can submit it again, but I think that it can be a good paper and abandoning it will make it even more difficult to resume later. I don't know how I'm going to make her see that it's best not to postpone the revision.



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