Political centralization, economic integration and language evolution in Central Africa: An interdisciplinary approach to the early history of the Kongo kingdom

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Part 1 of your ERC Starting Grant proposal

Sell yourself and your idea
Part 1 of your ERC Starting Grant proposal

• You are a competent researcher and a (potential) research leader: publication output, funding success, research supervision and management, international recognition

• Your project builds on what you are good at: continuity with previous successful research

• Your project opens new dimensions: innovative frontier research within your field and high-gain/high-risk value

• You are the right person at the right place and at the right time

• ERC funding is necessary to make the difference
Part 2 of your ERC Starting Grant proposal

Your idea is feasible and you are able to carry it out
Part 2 of your ERC Starting Grant proposal

• Develop and substantiate your proposal

• You have thought about a realistic implementation: research group composition, network, databases, fieldwork, etc.

• You have thought about risk management: foresee enough escape routes so that your research can never entirely fail

• Propose concrete scientific output: articles, books, patents (?)

• Propose a realistic budget: foresee enough escape routes so that your research can never entirely fail
The interview

Sell yourself and your project
Interview for your ERC Starting Grant proposal

• Know that you are good and your project makes sense, otherwise you would not have been invited for the interview

• Try to convince as well those panel members who have not read your proposal

• Show that you are on top of things in your research domain: no excuses, no hesitations, no false modesty

• Respect time limits

• Stress why ERC funding will make a difference

• Show that you have a well-developed research plan

• Keep ideas about risk management for the Q&A-session
The funding

Make it come true

end enjoy it