

What next?

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A year today I must either have a new job, be self-employed again, or for the first time in my life be unemployed. That is because my contract at City, University of London, expires on 31 October 2019 when the EU funded Horizon 2020 project that funds my current employment ends. There is very limited prospect of securing a similar source of funding in the UK at present because of Brexit. The consequence is I am already beginning to think about what I might do.

I admit I have enjoyed being an academic. I like teaching. It seems my students have liked it too. It would, then, be fun to continue some university-related activity. It also so happens that two years into this research the outputs, which have been relatively slow to deliver to date because that, it seems, is the way the academic process works, should soon begin to appear. But, that said, I have also found that slow production process a frustration: it would be fun to work on more immediate projects again. In that case I am not at all sure I would be looking for a full-time engagement at a university again. Something part-time is what I might want, at most.

And what else to do? Should I appeal for funding, as some blogs now do, and dedicate myself to a freelance research and teaching programme? There could be fun in that, and some risk, of course.

Is there some alternative, appropriate employment? I am, after all, of the age where portfolio careers (a term covering a multitude of sins) become more commonplace. The one thing I do know is I will not be retiring.

Or is it back to picking an issue and seeing funding to campaign for it? If there was it might be around tax spillovers, where work I have been doing might, I hope, appear relatively soon (again, subject to that slow academic process). Tax spillover measures the risk created by one part of a tax system on another part of a tax system, whether in the same country or another one. It is, I believe, a key issue in creating tax justice in the future, but is hardly known now.

Alternatively, I could go back to my first love of accounting and work on how accounting

reform is required to really make the modern company accountable. No one is really doing that from a progressive perspective right now.

Of course, I could also work on the impact of modern monetary theory.

And there may be books to write again, which count for almost nothing in an academic environment where the journal paper is everything, whether it is read or not. But if books are to be written, what on?

I stress, I am musing out loud here, but quite deliberately. I have the chance to ask an informed group of people such questions and see all the reason to do so. Those trolling, as no doubt some will, can expect to be deleted without notice or explanation.

I would appreciate comment, and offer thanks in advance.