

# What's next? Academic path after your PhD

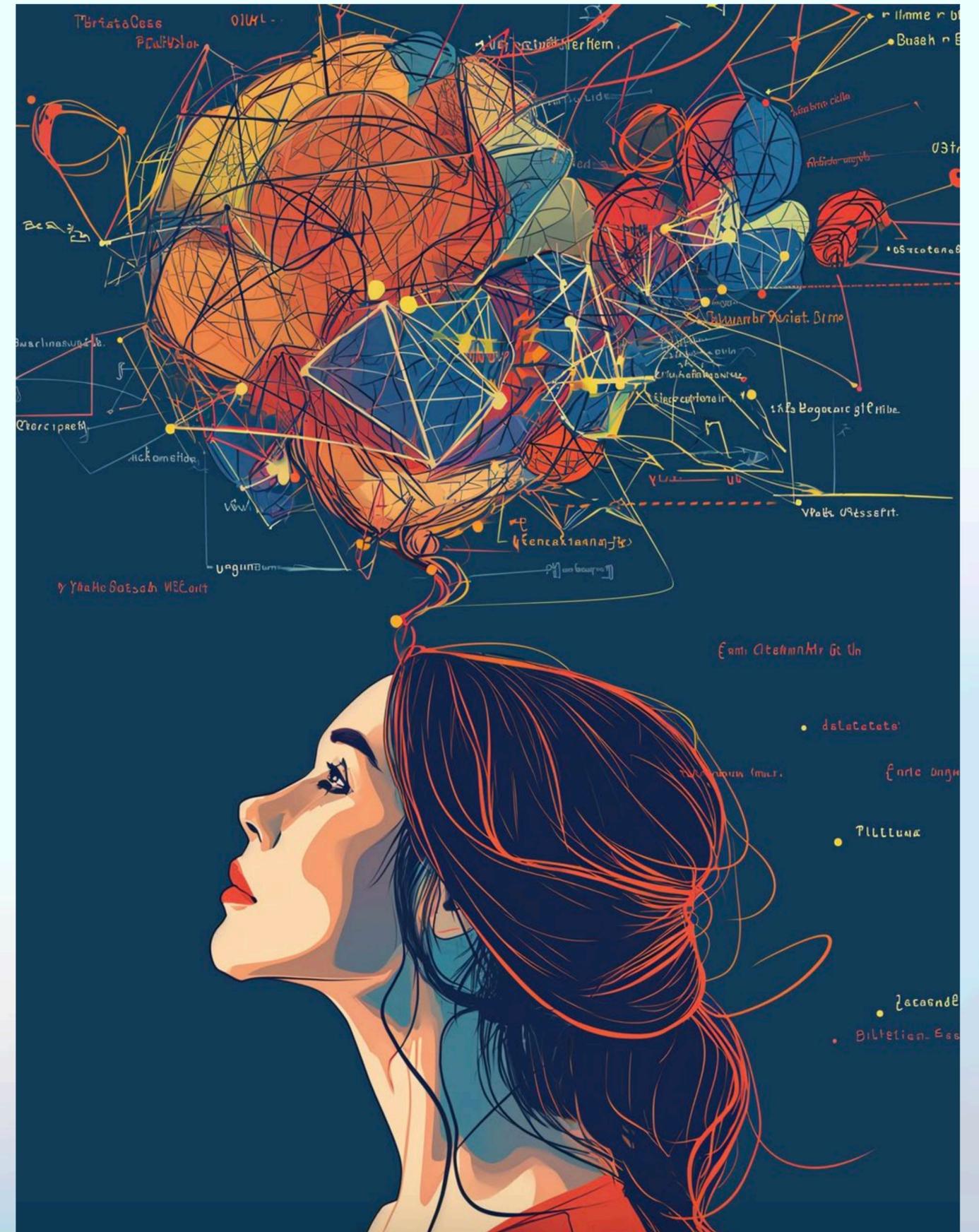
PhD days  
09/04/2025



Original slides by Eva Miranda (2024).  
Adaptation and presentation by Toni Guillamon (2025).

You spent 3-4 years  
thinking of a specific  
problem...

And now what?



What you would  
like to do...

...take some time off....



# What you need to...

Keep climbing...

...Embark on a postdoctoral stay



# Pros and cons

## of a postdoctoral career

- **Pros: Broaden horizons**

Additional expertise.

New research partners and groups.

Start envisaging your own research lines.

Excitement of a new adventure.

New culture and language.

- **Cons:**

Having to move abroad.

Lack of stability.

Difficulties starting a family.



# Family pressure

## To get a stable job

- There is the continuous pressure to get a permanent job.
- True that postdoc is a period during which you do not hold a permanent job.
- Temptation to leave to a stable situation.
- Think of the postdoctoral phase as an opportunity to enhance your chances to get a better job soon.



If you decide to stay in science or research after completing your PhD, there is **a wide range of career options** open to you.

Postdocs offer excellent opportunities to **gain research experience and qualify for the next step in your career.**

# A postdoc abroad?



**Soft postdocs:** A research stay or visit will not only enable you to establish new contacts abroad and gain understanding both of the research and the higher education system; it can also **make it easier to decide in favour of a research career abroad.**

**Staying closer...** Juan de la Cierva, Beatriu de Pinós,..., specific opportunities at CRM (hopefully).

Lecturer positions (*professorat lector*)

**... ideally after the postdoc.**

# Impact on your current personal life

**Personal level:** Sometimes deciding to go abroad coincides with the moment to start a family.

**Is it possible to do both?**

# The n-body problem

Is not solvable but...

**The two-body problem:**  
Couples who are both  
planning a career can  
receive targeted support  
from dual career networks  
at universities.



Bringing your significant others  
abroad is not easy

**The n-body problem:** Travelling  
abroad with a whole family is tricky  
but it is not impossible even if the n-  
body problem is not integrable.

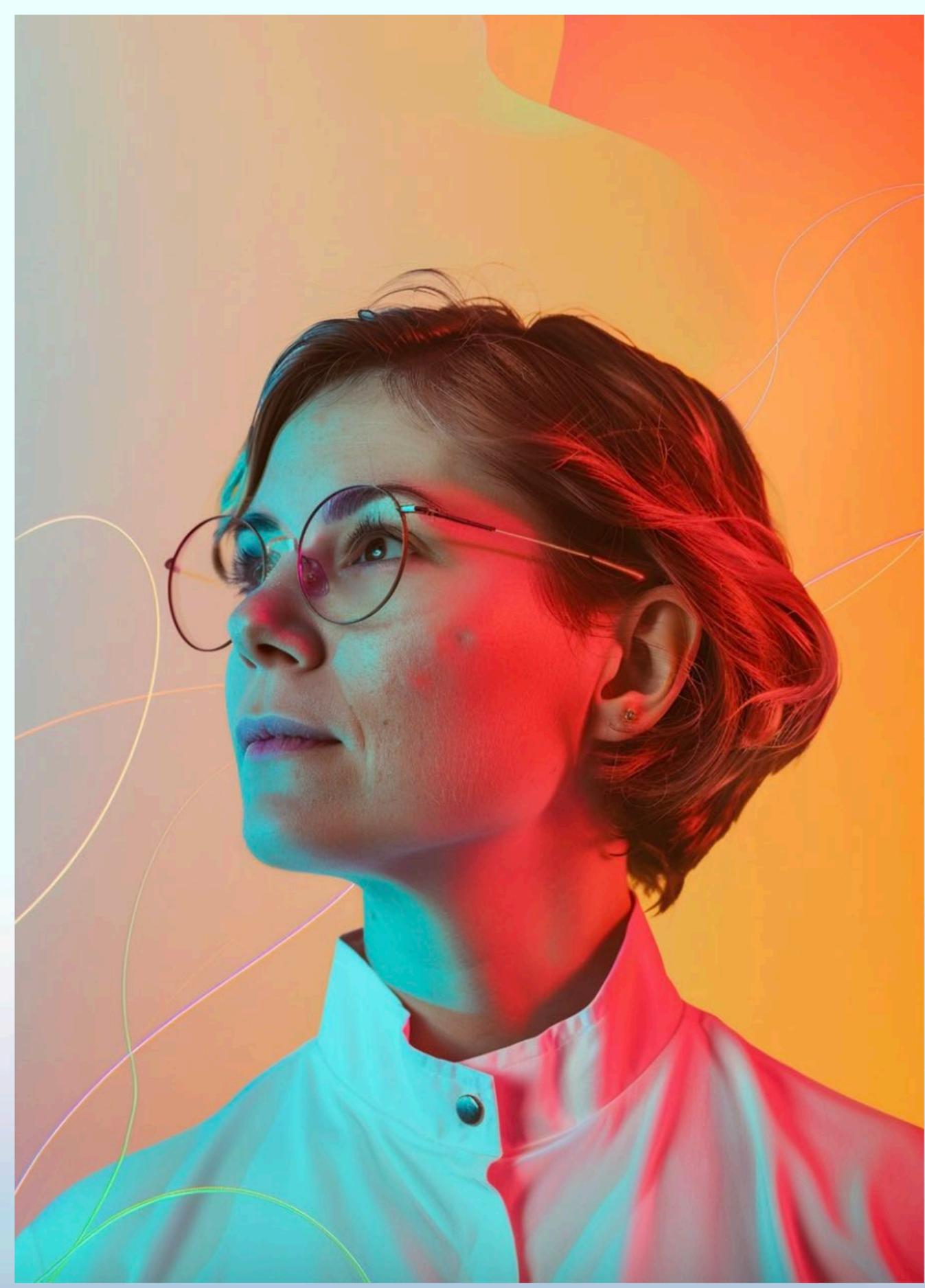
**Several grants:** Marie Curie,  
Alexander von Humboldt  
Foundation, Beatriu de Pinós offer  
additional funds for bringing the  
family.



# Women in science

If you are a woman and you plan to start a family, you may find this moment of your life hard. Some specific grants:

- L'Oréal-UNESCO Foundation.
- OWSD Early Career Fellowships.
- Simons Emmy Noether.
- Christiane Nüsslein-Volhard-Stiftung – Stipendium.
- WiRe Postdoc Fellowships for International Female Researchers.
- Ruth-Lee Kennedy (Fulbright), travels.
- ...



# Where to go?

## First tip

- Ask advice to members of your research group or department, especially your thesis supervisor.
- They may have **contacts** with other related research groups that may have grants available, or know useful **thematic distribution lists**.
- If you want to change the research topic (which is fine, by the way!), there are still many options depending on the destination...

# Catalan, Spanish & European programs



<https://agaur.gencat.cat/>

<https://www.icrea.cat/>

<https://www.aei.gob.es/ca/convocatories>

<https://www.isciii.es/>  
(health sciences)

<https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/>

 Research in academia

 Research in/with non-academic sector

# Europe

- Marie Curie Actions (individual or in a network).
- COST postdocs
- La Caixa targeted postdocs
- Alexander Von Humboldt postdocs
- DFG Excellence Clusters in Germany
- DAAD stays in Germany
- FSMP postdocs in Paris
- Fundación Areces Postdocs
- Rafael del Pino grants
- France: ANR postdoctoral opportunities
- Postdocs under VIDI grants in the Netherlands
- UK: EPSRC opportunities
- SNSF Swiss Postdoctoral Fellowships (SPF)
- ...

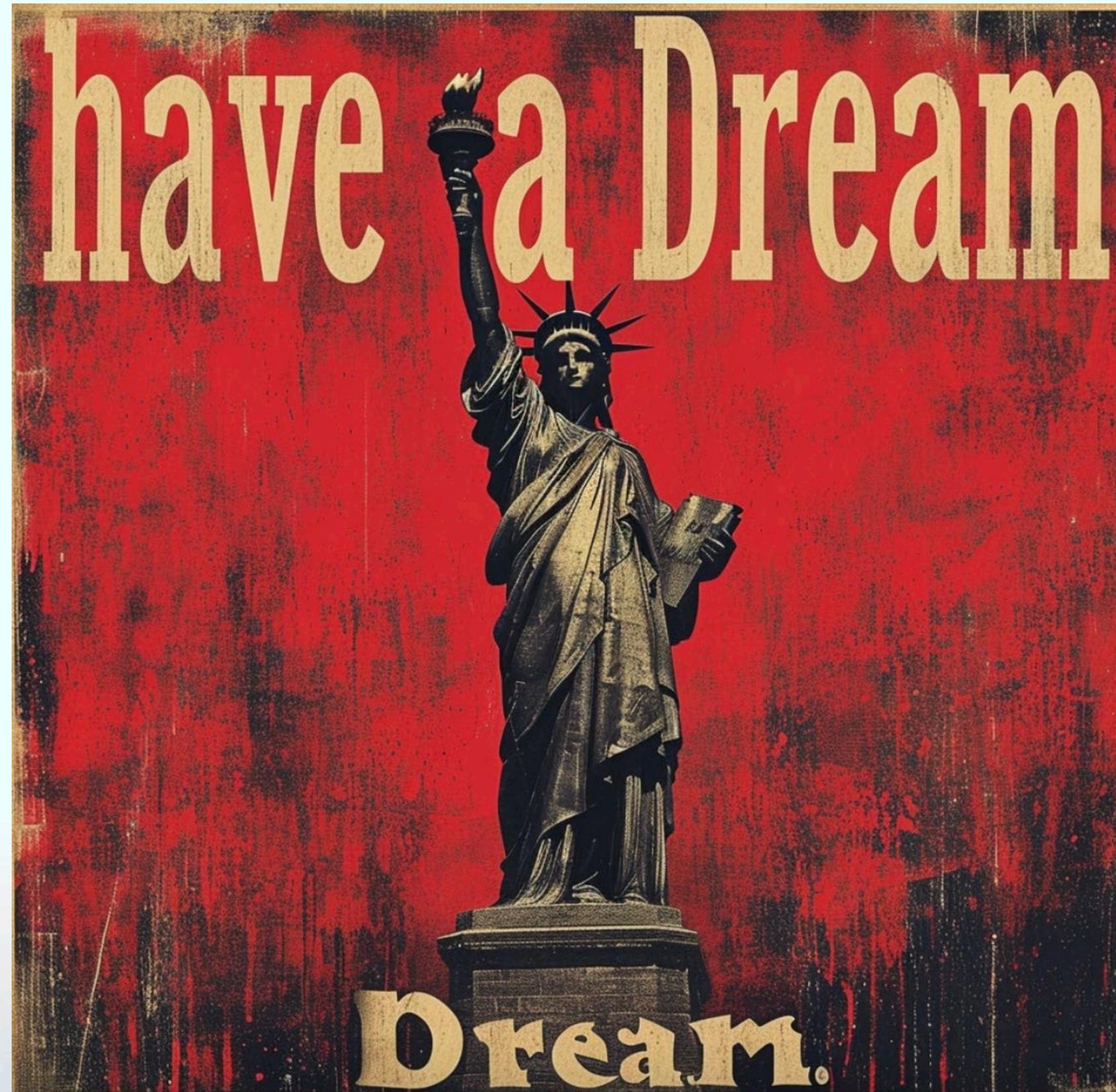


# North-america

The American dream...

...can you trump it?

- NSF grants.
- Specific postdoc at SLmath (former MSRI) associated to specific research programs.
- Postdoc at top universities: Berkeley, MIT, NYU, etc...usually advertised on their websites.
- Use: <https://www.mathjobs.org/> , <https://academicjobsonline.org/ajo> .
- Other: Canadian mathematical society CRM-ISM Postdoctoral Fellowships, Catalunya-California program (Fundació Balsells; engineering),...



# Asia and other opportunities

## New opportunities

- The big China.
- Japan.
- Korea. Korea Institute For Advanced Study (KIAS).
- Hong-Kong university.
- Australia and New Zealand.
- Latin America. In particular, Chile offers many postdoctoral positions.



# Final advice

Organize postdoc applications with time.

At least, one year in advance.

In mathematics, there is no one path to success.  
You have to find your own way and embrace the  
challenges along the journey.

Maryam Mirzakhani