The word survive has two meanings: one, more heroic and romantic, refers to the idea of being able to succeed in life better than the others; on the other hand, another concept that can be associated to the word survive is more related to the ability to make a living out of scarce resources. Both meanings can be applied to academic life nowadays. This communication will explore the obstacles and pitfalls that can be encountered during the early stages of an academic career. Some examples will be discussed of different situations found in different countries, and gender issues will be analyzed. The importance of networking will be highlighted.

Keywords: academic career; gender issues; networking