



KONGOKING

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

www.kongoking.org



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**