

“Preparing for a job market” Workshop

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University of California, Irvine

Matt Huffman, Philip Cohen, David Meyer and Lisa Torres

Departmental website for the graduate students “on the market”

- Write a paragraph re: your job market statement and send it to Meyer

Job market season

- Posting begin in July → Deadlines usually 9/20, 10/15, etc...
- Think a year before you actually go onto market (Meyer thinks earlier the better)

ASA Job Market

- Usually small schools or think tanks + not the most efficient way to get an interview (= not an essential place to find a job).
- Go to the conference prepared, with C.V. and a dissertation chapter
- Practices never hurts

ASA Employment Bulletin board (online) as the primary source

- Earlier you submit the application the better (they sometimes begin making decisions before the deadline!)
- Check to make sure they got everything before the deadline (→ This may give you some extra inside connections/information on hiring and/or may remember your name)
- Don't wait for your publication to turn around – you can always send updated C.V.

What goes in the package?

- Cover letter, C.V. and Letter of Recommendation (put in *ONLY* what they asked you to)
- Wait to hear from them re: writing samples (unless they are asked for in the ad)
- Some school may ask for your teaching portfolio
 - (Sample or used) Syllabi
 - Samples of Assignment
 - Statement of teaching Philosophy
 - Teaching evaluations

C.V.

- Update it constantly
- Names and contact # (or email address) of advisors (3-5 of them is the norm) – you will drop this from your C.V. once you've started working
- Think strategically how to organize the C.V. (e.g. if you don't have too many publication, then put your awards before publication)
- Some people would add abstract of the dissertation on the C.V.
- C.V. structure (work with committee on this). New grads may want to include name of advisor, title of dissertation, publications 1st if you have some and awards next.

Networking

- Send reprints (of your publication) to the big names in the fields – doesn't hurt!
→ They may cite you, and you'd make connections

Cover Letter

- Change per school (but C.V. mostly stays the same for all schools)

- Include project planned for the future – but REALLY think about them, because they may ask you questions about the classes you are “proposing to teach.” Often faculty talk to other faculty using the words about you that you used about yourself in your cover letter.
- 1-3 pages, but it is VERY IMPORTANT.

When/How many schools to apply

- Entirely up to you, but some people try different strategies each year (e.g. Philip applied to only 20 that he really wanted to go to, and he would have applied to more if he didn't the get UCI job) (Matt applied to 55 schools)
- The summer before you plan to finish – but if you don't get the job the first time around, then don't finish the dissertation and stick around for another year (and publish more)
- As long as you finish under 8 years, they normally do not care how long it took you to finish.
→ It is almost ALL about publication!!!
- Apply broadly – you can always say “no”

Publication

- Journal ranking matters, but ANY publication is better than no publication (you want to publish in peer-reviewed journals)
- ASR, AJS are best, SSQ not bad, sole author better than co-author, but all is better than nothing.
- Journals have greatly different rankings--check with your advisor about what pubs count most, and where you should send your work.
- Co-authoring:
 - With another graduate student is better than with your advisor (depending on the topic – if it looks more like yours then it's good, but if it's got nothing to do with your own research, then you won't get much credit for it)

Researching the school

- Once you get an interview, look up faculty and department.
- Know at least the subject of their latest publication.
- You may not use this information, but it is just good to know (just in case)
- Some feel it's best to save researching school until you get an interview so you don't waste time on schools that don't want you.

What questions to ask during the interview/conversation

- E.g. how the decisions are being made in the department (re: hiring, funding, amount of service, etc.)
- Having them talk about themselves is one of the less risky strategies
- When asked “What other school are you applying for?,” it is probably a good idea to just be honest – but politely and strategically. (Including “so, do you think you'll really come if we offered you a job here?”)
- Can get some phone interviews or email interviews but these are usually “pre” interviews so they can see if it's worth flying you out for a “real” interview

Post-doc

- Apply at the same time that you apply for jobs

Selecting schools

- Even if you don't get your ideal school, that is fine, you can always leave and continue to search.
- Apply broadly, you can always say no later.
- But be careful not to choose the school that will give you too much teaching and not enough time to do research – then you'll get stuck!

Remember...before, during and after the job search “sanity is victory” (D. Meyer).