
Networking & preparing for academic job interviews

By Chloe Ho (UWA)

Networking - getting started and what's involved

Submitting paper
to conference

Presenting your
paper or
discussing
someone else's
paper

Networking

Lunch/ drinks/ dinner

Presentation

1. Presenting at conferences is a must for aspiring academics
2. Be confident but polite, open and appreciative when receiving comments
3. Prepare for it like a **job market interview** presentation – you never knew who is watching!
4. Always apply to be a discussant



Tip

Get over your nerves!

Practice, practice, practice

Changing mindset/attitude towards networking

- Networking doesn't require you to be speaking all the time
- Listening & deep thinking are good skills too!
- Be your authentic self
- Have a plan



Tip

Just like having a chat with a new friend who lives and breathes research like you!

Show interests to find out what's in their awesome minds.

Networking

Seems daunting but it's actually quite easy:

- Be at the venue during social hours
- Approach an individual
 - “Hi, how are you? My name is ... and ...”
- Approach a group
 - “Hi, may I join you all?”



Fun fact:

People I met at conferences are now my:

- Good friends (supported my emotional needs during job market)
- Co-authors
- Colleagues

“Small” talk

- Which research areas are you interested in?
- What is your paper about? I am interested to find out more, when is your session?
- What do you think about the presentation earlier? I really like ...

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- Expand the circle: Introduce your new conference friends to your friends
 - Kindly ask for a business card, if unavailable, note their name and university
 - Follow up with an email e.g. “it was lovely to meet you at ... Good luck with the publication of your paper ..do keep in touch!”

Networking when you are in the job market?

Do some research about Faculty members who will be attending the conference, especially those who are likely to be in job selection committee

- Say hello to them and introduce yourself, ask about their research (if you can't find common interests, it is still ok)

It is OK to ask if there are or will be any position opening

Show interests and ask questions about their department



BODY LANGUAGE

MIND YOUR BODY! FOLLOW THESE TIPS FROM EMMA BANNISTER

DO

- Nod and smile: show you're actively listening.
- Stand confidently: spine straight, core muscles engaged.
- Talk with your hands: bring some movement into your mannerisms.

DON'T

- Put your hands in your pockets – this screams, “I’m nervous!”
- Shuffle around too much.
- Cross your arms – this can come across as angry or cold.

[Click here to view more networking tips](#)



It all starts from a simple
hello .

INTERVIEW EXPERIENCE

- (Many) failure comes before success
- Do not let the location of the job be the limitation for the first job
- Usually a sense of negativity and self-doubt right before the interview
- Seek external support from PhD Supervisors, PhD coursemates who are going through the same stage, or professional help on speaking/interview

Useful resources and skype consultations catered to academics:

<http://theprofessoris-in.com/welcome-to-the-professor-is-in/>



Interviewers are friendly people



Tip

Throw your self-doubt out the window before you step into the interview room!

Be confident because you are shortlisted for a reason.

“Failure is so important. We speak about success all the time but it is the ability to resist or use failure that often leads to greater success”

J. K. Rowling

Thank you!