

How to Get the Most Out of Your Conferences

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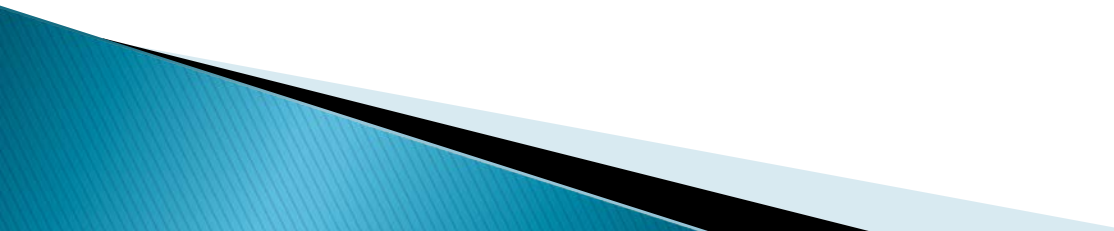
Welcome to the workshop!

- ▶ On a nice Friday morning!

Why do you go to conferences?

- ▶ Seriously, why?

Some purposes for conferences

- ▶ Career Development
 - ▶ Present your latest research
 - ▶ Learn about others latest research
 - ▶ Socialize with old contacts
 - ▶ Network with new contacts
 - ▶ Get Your Name in front of Movers/ Shakers
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Career Development

- ▶ Many conferences have workshops, colloquia, and symposiums before the actual conference starts
 - PhD Dissertation workshops
 - led by mentoring type senior people in your field
 - Methodological workshops
 - Led by senior people in your field
 - Other PDW
 - Led by senior people in your field

Career Development

- ▶ Take as many as you can as often as you can
- ▶ Take them seriously and be a good participant
- ▶ You can also do this as a junior faculty member

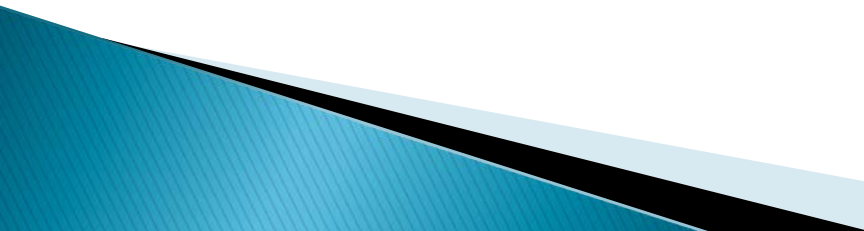
Career Development

- ▶ GO TO THE KEYNOTE TALKS
 - Particularly if you are in an interest group in a large conference
 - This is where you learn about the future of your discipline

Present Your Latest Research

- ▶ Posters, panels, presentations
- ▶ Be prepared and only talk in your time allotment
 - This is a normative issue and VERY IMPORTANT
- ▶ Practice your presentation in front of supportive others beforehand

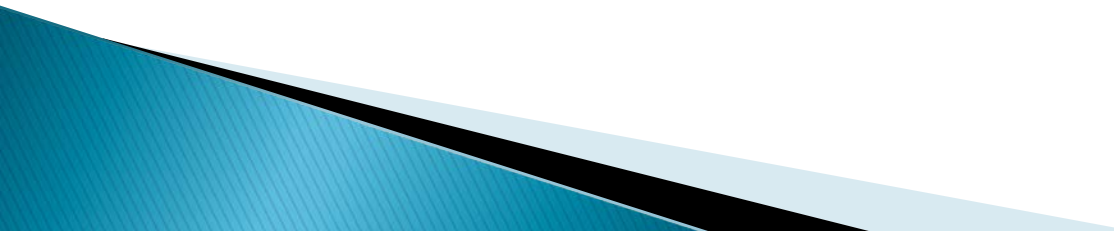
Learn the Latest Research

- ▶ Maybe
 - ▶ This is what people think is the most important part of conferences
 - May not be
 - ▶ In my field, not all of the research is officially peer-reviewed
 - Some of the presentations absolutely suck
 - ▶ Can ask for business cards and contact people with similar interests later
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Socialize with Old Friends

- ▶ This is Right and Good at conferences
 - See friends who have graduated
 - See faculty who have moved away
- ▶ Set up lunches and/or coffee to make sure you actually get to see the folks.

Network with New People

- ▶ ARGH!
 - The scary part!!
 - ▶ Rest assured that faculty are geeks so don't worry if you feel goofy, they do, too.
 - ▶ Where?
 - ▶ How?
- 

Network with New People

- ▶ First Time attendance receptions
- ▶ PDWs and pre-workshop colloquia
 - Nearly always have receptions
- ▶ Vendors!
 - Who knew?!
 - Trinkets and jobs!
 - Folks interested in applied jobs should definitely go to the vendors and talk to them! Talk to other graduate students

Network with New People

- ▶ Conference and division receptions and dinners
- ▶ University (and Vendor) Receptions
 - So what do you study?
- ▶ A lot of people stand alone at these receptions, too
 - Say hi and ask where they are from and what they study
- ▶ Tell someone you really enjoyed their presentation
 - This rarely happens and is very flattering


Network with New People

- ▶ It's OK to connect with them via linkedIn later if you'd like
 - Facebook depends
- ▶ Do not get drunk at the reception!
- ▶ Be careful with hooking up
 - Do not want to engage in the walk of shame in front of a potential employer

Get your name out there

- ▶ Volunteer!!
 - Volunteer/sign up to review submissions
 - Do a good job and don't be a jerk
 - Volunteer to work for the conference
 - Contact the program organizer and tell them you are willing to do whatever for them
 - Do whatever for them in a good way

Get in the Conference

- ▶ This may be discipline specific but it does help to present something at the conference
 - ▶ Posters are fine
 - ▶ Panels are good ways to get in competitive conferences
 - In my worlds
 - ▶ Colloquia may be only way in tough conferences
 - ▶ Volunteer to chair a session
 - ▶ Submit a paper already under journal review
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What have you done that works?

