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
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
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
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.
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
What have you done that works?