

Psychology 607: Career Issues Fall 2009

Discussion Leader: Marjorie Taylor (with a little help from my friends)
Straub 395, 346-4933
Office hours: Tues 11-12; Wed 11-12 or by appointment

Overview: This seminar is designed to meet the needs of advanced graduate students who are beginning the process of finding a job and launching their careers. We will discuss practical issues related to becoming a professional researcher/teacher/academic, including immediate concerns (the job interview process, how to give a great job talk, etc.) and more long-range issues (developing teaching skills, reviewing and editing manuscripts, finding a balance between work and family life, etc.).

Requirements: This seminar is designed to be more informal than most graduate seminars. For some meetings there will be readings posted on Blackboard or circulated in class. Students will be asked to submit a vita for feedback and to prepare and present the first five minutes of a job talk. Students are also expected to attend class and participate in the discussion.

Schedule:

October 5: Building a vita

At our organizational meeting we will discuss the structure of a vita and how to write a good one. We will also discuss strategies for making sure you have something to put on your vita.

Assignment: Write a draft of your vita to be submitted for feedback on October 12.

October 12: Applying for a job

We will discuss questions about vitae, teaching statements, research statements, letters of recommendation, etc. We will also discuss tips for preparing a great job talk.

Assignment: Write the first five minutes of what would be a 45-minute job talk. Starting October 26, 2-3 students will present their five-minute job talk intros each week.

Guest: Dare Baldwin

October 19: Job talks and interviews

We will discuss what to expect on a job interview, what sorts of things might go wrong and how to recover, and other issues related to the interview process.

Guests: Jennifer Pfeifer and Jane Mendle

October 26: Post docs, assistant professor jobs, setting up a lab

We will discuss strategies for developing your research program, where ideas come from and how to identify the ones that are worth pursuing, and other issues related to the launching a successful research career (e.g., the special challenges of interdisciplinary work).

Guest: Scott Frey

November 2: Teaching

Teaching is an important part of every academic career, but some jobs are more oriented toward teaching than others. How do you apply for a liberal arts job and what are the interviews like? Also we will discuss strategies for the development of teaching skills.

Guest: Courtney Stevens, Willamette University

November 9: Research Institutes

For many researchers, their dream is to land a job at an institute like the Oregon Social Learning Center, Oregon Research Institute or Decision Research. We will discuss the differences between an assistant professor job and a job at a research institute and things to keep in mind when applying for this type of job.

Guest: Phil Fisher

November 16: Obtaining external support for your research

One of the challenges of launching your career is to obtain external funding. We will discuss different sources of grant money and strategies for writing good grant proposals.

Guests: Ed Awh and Robert Gordon

November 23: Balancing family and career issues

We will discuss some of the issues that confront academics who are raising families. How does one find a good balance between work and other pursuits?

Guest: Jennifer Freyd

November 30: Administration and service

Part of academic life involves administration and service. We will discuss reviewing manuscripts, serving on editorial boards, committee work, and the role that service plays in your career development.

Guest: Lou Moses

Resources

Darley, J.M., Zanna, M. P., & Roediger III, H. L. (Eds.) (2004). *The compleat academic: A career guide* 2nd ed. Washington DC: American Psychological Association.

Gray, P. & Drew, D. E. (2008). *What they didn't teach you in graduate school: 199 helpful hints for success in your academic career*. Sterling, VA: Stylus.

Silvia, P. J. (2007). *How to write a lot: A practical guide to productive academic writing*. Washington DC: American Psychological Association.

Sternberg, R. J. (2003). *Psychology 101-1/2: The unspoken rules for success in academia*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.