

Navigating the Job Market

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NC State via UC Berkeley

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Outline

- ▶ The JMP and research circuit
- ▶ Applying
- ▶ Interviewing
- ▶ Flyouts

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The JMP and research circuit

- ▶ **JMP: most important paper of your life?**
- ▶ Choose topic wisely. What is trending?
 - ▶ Check journals
 - ▶ Confer with advisors
 - ▶ Find out where grant \$\$\$ is going
- ▶ Paper should do one of the following:
 - ▶ Be big picture; not just a case study; strong external validity
 - ▶ Be clever: use data in new way, new twist on old concept, etc.
 - ▶ Be innovative (in terms of methods or concepts)

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The JMP and research circuit

- ▶ **Hit the circuit as early as you can!**
 - ▶ AAEA, AEA, AERE, WAEA, Interdisciplinary conferences, workshops
 - ▶ Get practice presenting
 - ▶ Get noticed; network
 - ▶ Get help
 - ▶ catch errors
 - ▶ predict questions
- ▶ Present in your department and get as many faculty there as possible

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Applying

- ▶ Look broadly: private sector, gov't, teaching, research
 - ▶ "Safetys and reaches"
 - ▶ "Best Athlete"
- ▶ Tailor materials if time permits; be wary of diminishing returns
- ▶ How to cut through the noise?
 - ▶ If you know faculty, let them know
 - ▶ If your faculty knows faculty (esp. search faculty), get them on the phone
 - ▶ Do not be shy.
- ▶ This is the first hurdle. Pull out all the stops.

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Interviewing (at ASSAs)

- ▶ **Scheduling**

- ▶ Bring a friend

- ▶ What to know:

- ▶ Your JMP and related literature

- ▶ Your search committees (their research if related, connections, famous faculty)

- ▶ Myth: the "5 minute elevator speech"

- ▶ Why that job? (Do you fit the job? The department? Do you care? Can they get you? Signaling?)

- ▶ What's next on the research front? Will you publish? Where?

- ▶ What would you teach? Be broad, express multiple options, and know their courses

- ▶ Surprise question: Answer a different question if you must, but give an answer; don't freeze up; know your subject area

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Flyouts

- ▶ "In the neighborhood"
- ▶ stay healthy
- ▶ The Job Talk
 - ▶ Smooth but not too smooth; room for comedic references, jokes, etc.
 - ▶ Questions: a chance to shine off script
 - ▶ Anticipate them (hidden slides)
 - ▶ Push back when appropriate, be confident
 - ▶ Don't be afraid to push forward. Watch the clock.
 - ▶ Look at computer, not the screen

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- ▶ The Dinners, Receptions, etc.
- ▶ The faculty meetings: know each faculty member with whom you are scheduled to meet

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The offers

- ▶ **Factors to consider**
 - ▶ Base pay
 - ▶ Your colleagues
 - ▶ Research/teaching fit
 - ▶ Locational preferences, etc.
 - ▶ Start-up package
 - ▶ Travel and research support
- ▶ Some ability to leverage multiple offers; there are no secrets
- ▶ Ability to negotiate goes out the window once you sign

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