Navigating the Job Market

POMEPS APSA Professional Development Workshop 2020

September 9, 2020

Elizabeth Nugent
elizabeth.nugent@yale.edu
2+ Years Out

- Finish coursework and all teaching requirements
- Develop dissertation project, conduct research
- Apply for external grants
- Join and/or develop additional projects
1-2 Years Out

- Wrap up fieldwork so you can focus on writing
- Finalize advisor and dissertation committee – then meet with them regularly
- Seek out colleagues, peers, friends for writing groups + less formal feedback
- Apply for conferences + workshops for the year before the market
- Submit articles for publication
1 Year Out

• Write dissertation
• Meet with advisor + dissertation committee regularly
• Present your dissertation regularly at conferences + workshops
• Submit articles for publication
On the Market

• Summer: finish applications
• Early fall: most job applications and some post-doc applications due
  • Most posted on APSA E-Jobs
• Fall: plan to attend and/or present at major conferences (APSA, MESA, ISA)
• Fall-winter: interviews and job talks, most post-doc applications due
On the Market

Application Materials
• Cover Letter
• Teaching Statement + Evaluations
• Diversity Statement
• Research Statement
• Writing Sample
• 3 letters of recommendation
On the Market

Job Talk (35 minutes total)
  • Introduction + Motivation (5 minutes)
  • Theory (10 minutes)
  • Empirics (15 minutes)
  • Conclusion (5 minutes)
On the Market

Campus Visit
- 1-3 days
- Lots of one-on-one meetings and at least one dinner
- Job talk
- Teaching demonstration
On the Market

Some parting advice
- Don’t partially go on the market
- Assume you will get very little work done
- Stay off rumor boards
- Think of all the possibilities, and what you want to do with your PhD