Job Talks

A Talk

Arthur Spirling

Overview

- **Orientation:**

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- **What it is:**

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- **What it is:** your contribution

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- fortunately, getting the basics right will help a great deal

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- talk must be as broad-based: appeal to as many people as possible (you are hired by coalition)

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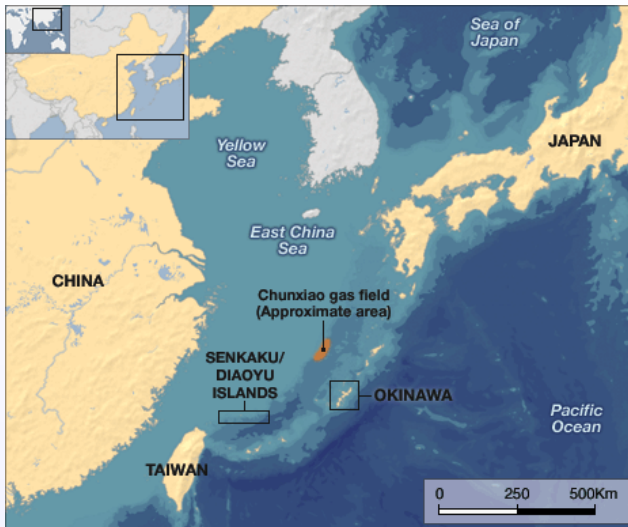
A Puzzling Dispute...

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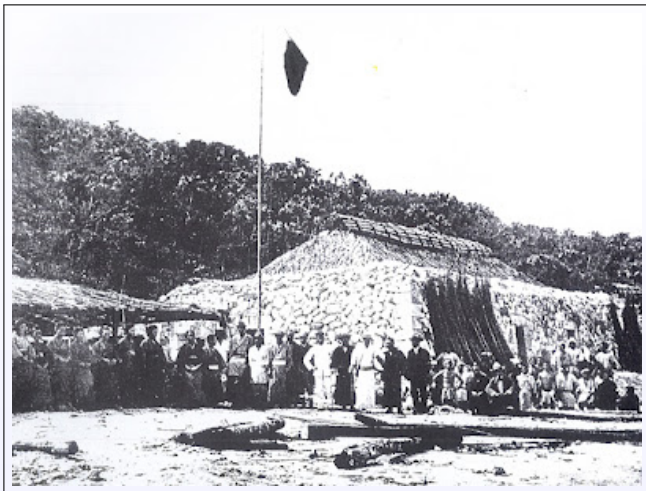
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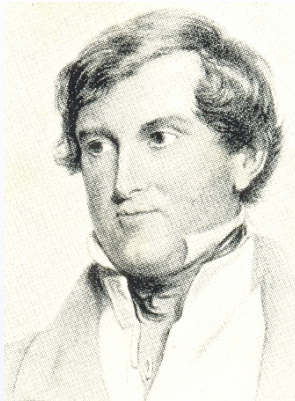- e.g. suppose you are interested in development of backbench rights in Britain

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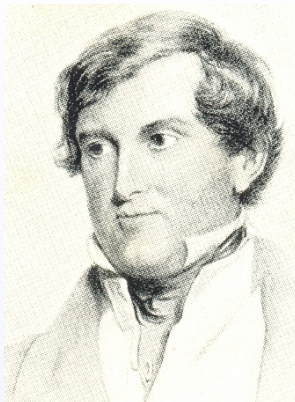
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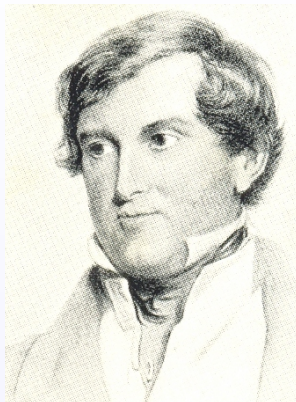
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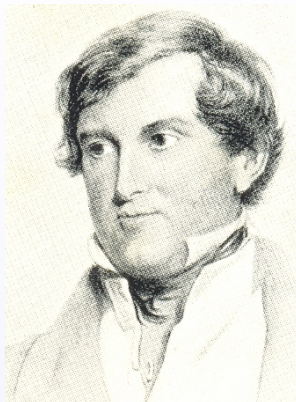
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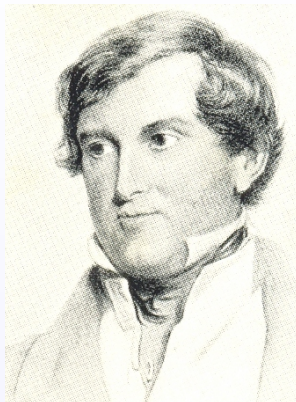- raise issues as Commons moved between roles

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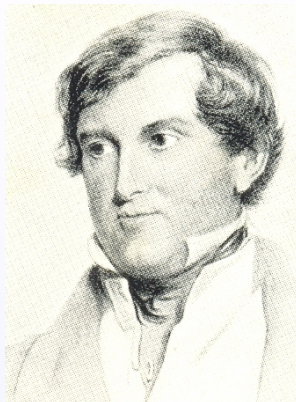
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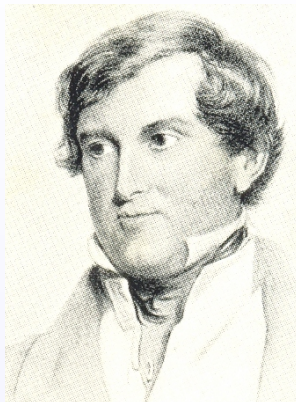
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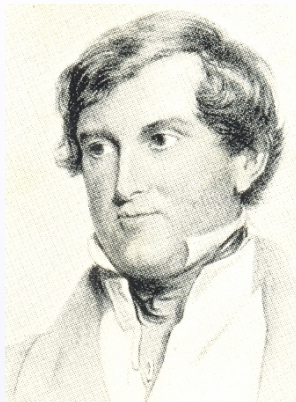
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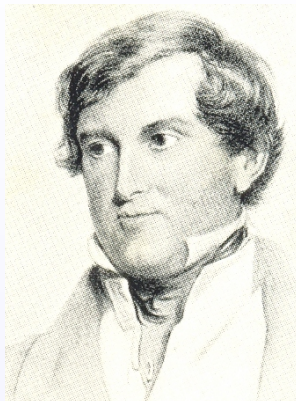
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Be clear about what is and is not 'standard' knowledge in the field

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Outside of methods/formal talks...

- we almost never need to see notation

- it typically does more harm than good

- candidates think it makes them appear "serious"

- But it grates.

- Big time.

Be clear about what is and is not 'standard' knowledge in the field (explaining CLARIFY, logit or multiple imputation can be very annoying).

Presentation III: Notation cont'd

Inside of methods/formal talks...

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Inside of methods/formal talks. . .

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	Model 1	Model 2
constant	+	+
income	**+**	+
state		**−**
R^2	0.85	0.93

Not

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	War	non-war	
Polity	0.08165**	0.127268***	0.16296***
	(0.03948)	(0.02310)	(0.03591)
Polity^2	0.01128***	-0.00731	0.00340
	(0.00433)	(0.00277)	(0.00728)
Major Power	0.91055*	0.42478	0.88532
	(0.53743)	(0.35711)	(0.96532)
Diplomacy Score	-1.94437	-1.17580**	-3.33958*
	(1.21137)	(0.82657)	(1.82339)
Dyadic Capability Ratio	-0.32817	0.76171**	1.13730*
	(0.54620)	(0.34911)	(0.73663)
Region 2	-1.35213	-0.76753	0.04184
	(0.99942)	(0.60847)	(0.95706)
Region 3	-1.35213	0.475511	1.15381
	(1.77010)	(0.964904)	(1.31665)
Region 4	-0.09875	-1.47072**	-2.05290*
	(0.81509)	(0.61897)	(1.24664)
Region 5	2.13434**	-0.20899	-0.57676
	(0.956503)	(0.50120)	(1.01989)
Initiation	-0.163646	0.82881***	0.76292**
	(0.219643)	(0.13201)	(0.25643)
Initiation×Polity	-0.001448	-0.05660	0.01932
	(0.044483)	(0.02522)	(0.04222)
log(GDP)		—	-0.19213
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hint: if you intro a slide with "I'm not sure if you can see that", chances are it's a bad slide.

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- project a calm, assertive energy: confident, but not arrogant; charming, but not crawling.

Strategy

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You can signal weakness and unsuitability for employment by...

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- stating explicitly that you won't be taking questions during the talk

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- stating explicitly that you won't be taking questions during the talk (why not? because you can't cope?)

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- using the words "my advisor" at some point in the talk

So. . .

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- be respectful, direct, calm in response to questions (make eye contact)

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- if you don't know the answer

So. . .

- be respectful, direct, calm in response to questions (make eye contact)

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$\rightarrow$ often more impressive (to the right people!) when delivered calmly and without too much fanfare

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- whatever happens, try to act like a fundamentally normal human being

NO FEAR.

NO FEAR. NO LIMITS. NO EQUAL.