

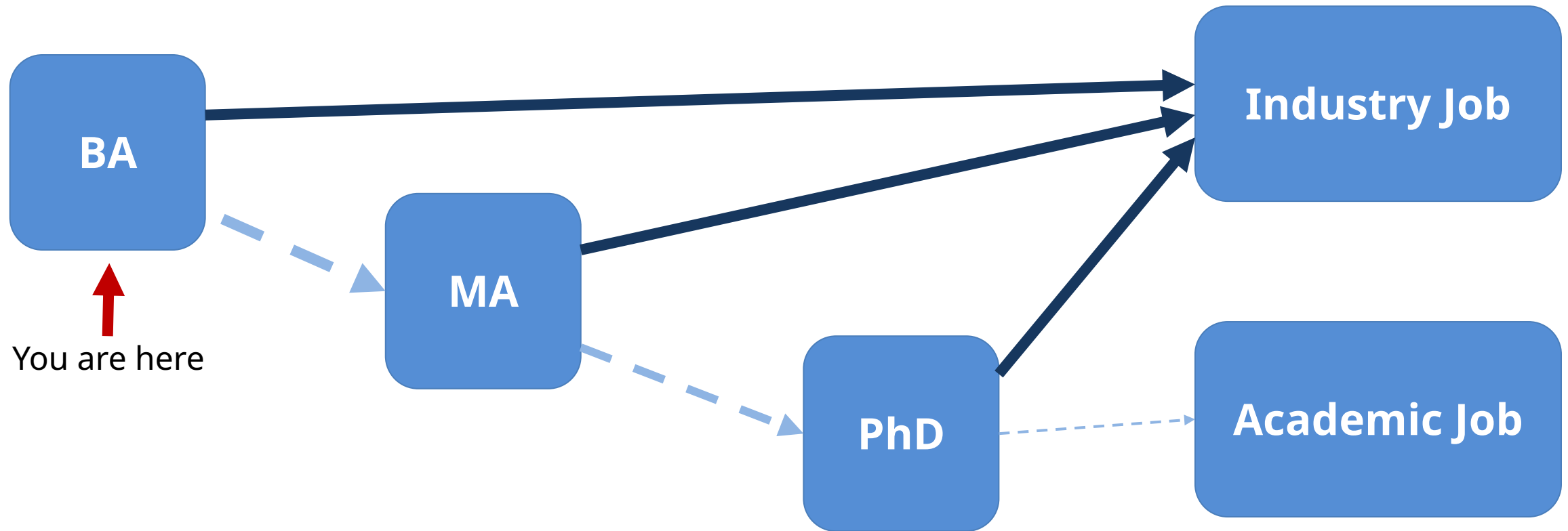
Prepping for the future

with a degree in linguistics

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UGA Linguistics Club

Your Options

(and today's outline)



Track 1: Academic Job

Degree requirements

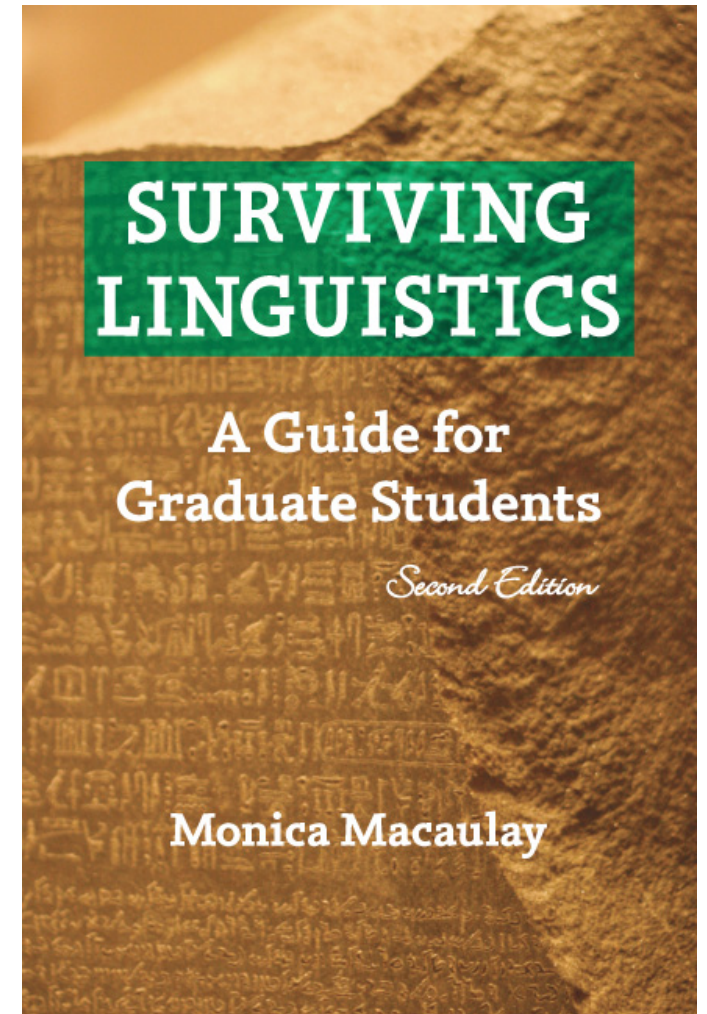
- Bachelor's
 - linguistics or related field (ultimately it doesn't matter)
 - minor is helpful, but not required
- Master's
 - Typical and helpful, though not required (I don't have one)
 - Gives you more more time for research, networking, and acquiring skills
 - Where? BA school? PhD school? Neither?
- PhD
 - Ideally at a reputable school under a reputable advisor
- Postdoc?
 - Not required, but sometimes a required step if you don't get a job right away.

Looking for a grad school

- Don't apply to the school: apply to the advisor
 - Your advisor will have a far greater influence on you than the school
 - Good advisors typically come with good schools, libraries, equipment, funding, etc.
 - Find someone you'd like to study under
 - Make sure they're actively advising students
 - Make sure they're not about to retire!
- If you have to pay for it, you're going to the wrong school
 - Unlike undergrads, few grad students pay tuition
 - Read the fine print in graduate handbooks and department webpages to checking for funding opportunities and guarantees
- In all cases, reach out to current students!

Tips while in grad school

- Read this book (P57.U5 M33 2011) ►
- Hit the ground running!
 - Treat every term paper as a potential publishable paper.
 - Start original research as soon as you can.
 - Get through qualifying papers as soon as feasible.
 - Join a research group if you can!
 - Get teaching experience!
 - Make consistent progress towards your dissertation, but not at the expense of other projects.
 - Acquire quantitative skills
 - Build an online presence



Conferences

- Don't be scared
 - You'll likely get rejected the first few times and that's okay!
 - Use LSA's guidelines for writing abstracts: <https://www.linguisticsociety.org/resource/model-abstracts>
- Get funding if you can; probably out of pocket otherwise
 - COVID has moved conferences to online, so free or minimal for now
 - Get the most bang for your buck: submit multiple abstracts
- Go for the talks; stay for the meals, coffee breaks, and networking
 - Make a list of people you'd like to meet (especially early-career researchers)
 - Find other grad students and expand your network
 - Write to authors afterwards and introduce yourself

Develop an online presence

- Build a personal webpage (<https://joestanley.com/downloads/190920-brand-yourself.pdf>)
 - If you can't be googled, you don't exist
- Get active on Twitter (<https://www.linguisticsociety.org/resource/webinar-being-linguist-social-media>)
 - Why?
 - Stay up to date on what people are doing
 - Networking
 - Potential collaborations
 - Tips
 - Follow actual human beings and linguistics organizations
 - Try posting at least one linguistics-related tweet a day for a month

Acquire quantitative/statistics skills

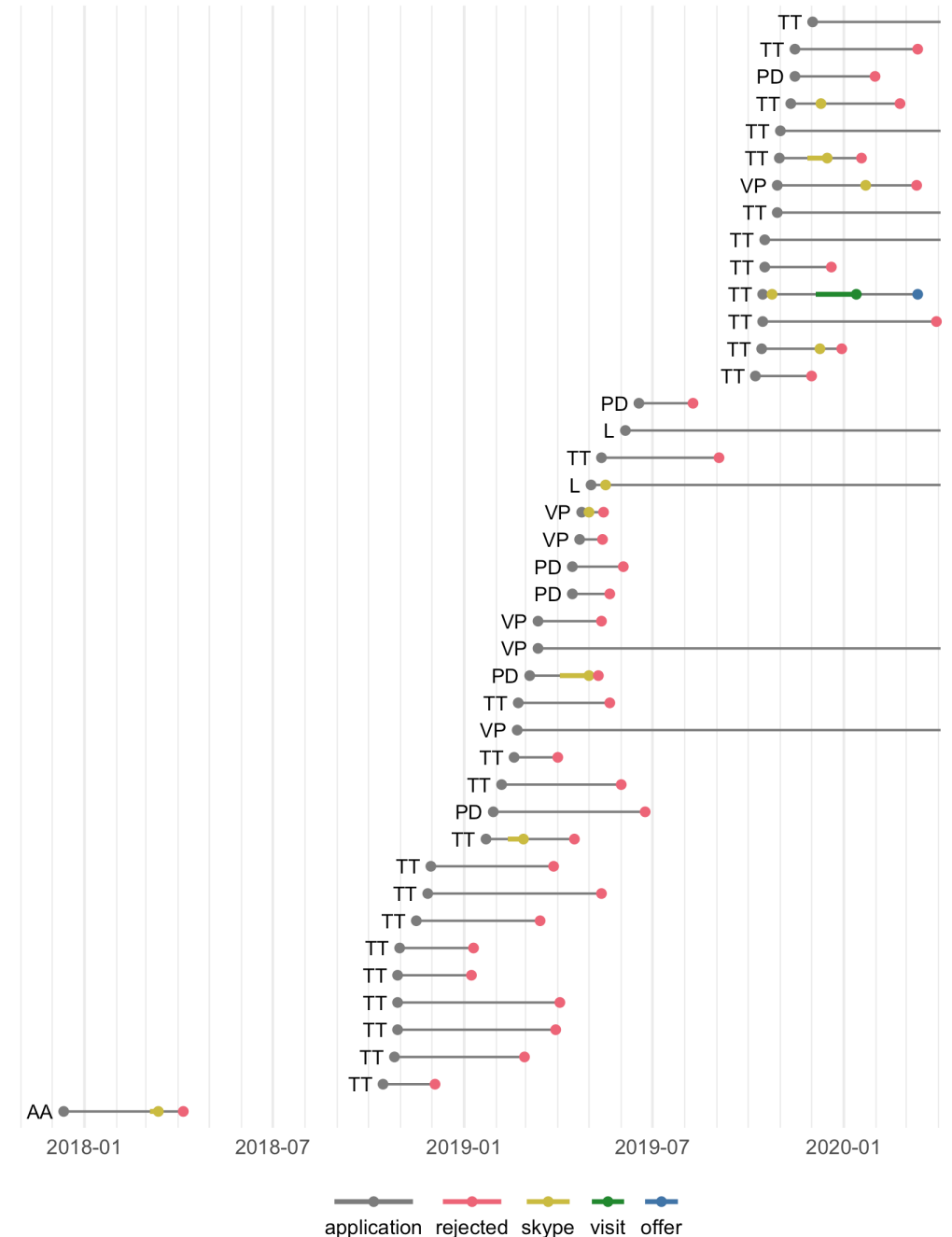
- It's an expected skill of early researchers nowadays
 - Take as many coding/stats/methods courses as you can
 - Going over to the stats and computer science departments won't hurt either
- Primarily R and/or Python
 - The R community is extremely active and helpful on Twitter
 - There are countless online resources for free
- If you're not academia-bound, it's the most employable skill your degree offers

A good dissertation is a done dissertation

- No offense, you're most likely not going to write a ground-breaking dissertation.
 - Most academics feel their dissertations are not their strongest work
 - Usually has typos, broken links, inconsistencies, formatting errors
 - (Mine does!)
 - However, IT'S DONE!
 - If your dissertation isn't done it does you no good.
- Make progress towards your dissertation every day, even if it's a little bit.

Let's get real though

- Grad school is financially, emotionally, mentally difficult
 - Can you live on \$15K a year for 5+ years?
 - Expect to put in long days and long weeks
 - Holidays? Ha! Hobbies? Ha!
 - You will always feel like you can do more
 - Impostor Syndrome is real
- The academic job market is extraordinarily competitive
 - Very few jobs each year—you're qualified for only a handful of them
 - All your prep only takes you 80% of the way there: ultimately you get hired based on "fit"
 - Most people bounce around in temp jobs before landing tenure-track (if they ever do)
- Think long and hard about whether you want to go to grad school.



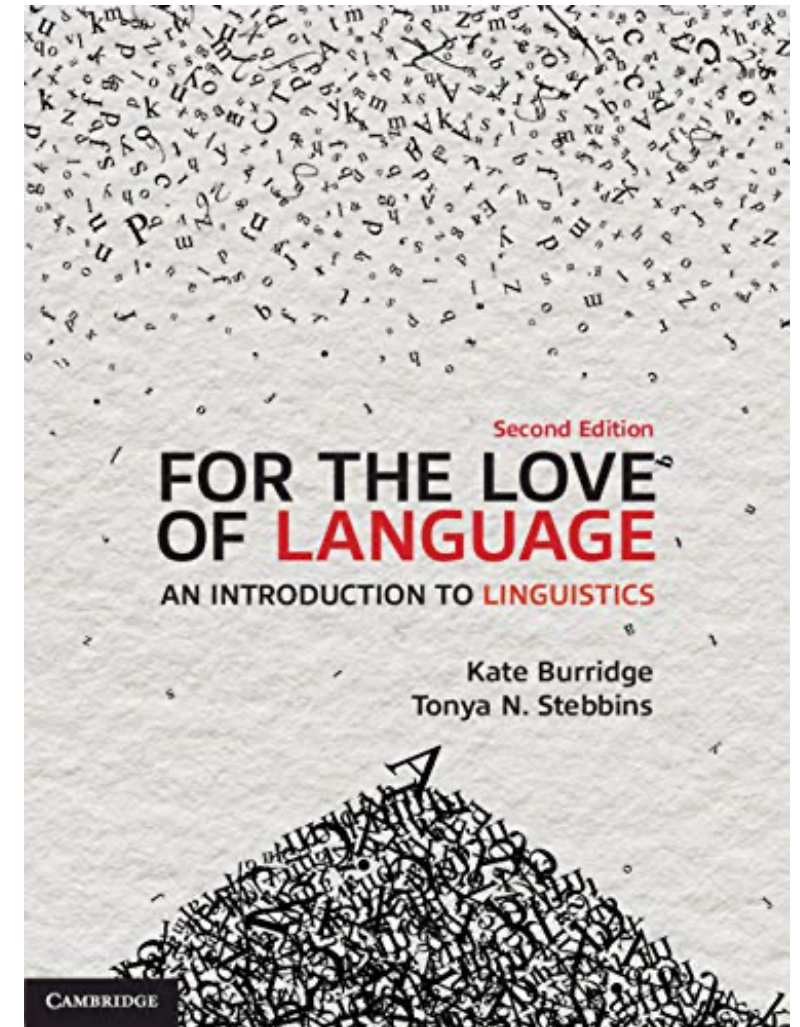
Finding the middle ground: Alt-Ac

- Alt(ernative)-Ac(ademic) jobs are academic jobs that aren't professors
 - Typically require at least a masters and often a PhD
 - Typically have little (if any) teaching or research components
 - Librarians, lab managers, administrators, publishing companies
 - Usually in universities, but not always
- Look through jobs online:
 - InsideHigherEd.com
 - Higher Education Recruitment Consortium (hercjobs.org)
 - AcademicKeys.com
 - LinkedIn Jobs
 - CareerBuilder.com
- Look through Alt-Ac sites
 - PhDsatwork.com
 - VersitilePhD.com

Track 2: Industry Job

Searching for an Industry Job

- Read chapter 2 of this book ►
 - Linguists get jobs in legal system, education, communication, advertising, marketing, health sciences, business, film industry, computing, technology...
 - Try ILL since UGA doesn't have it
- Some companies specifically hire linguists
 - Google, Babel, Duolingo
- Some don't (because they don't know we exist!)
 - Don't *not* apply to a job because they ask for degrees in psychology, CS, or whatever.
 - Let *them* tell you no!
 - You won't get a job you don't apply for.
- <https://allthingslinguistic.com/jobs>



Use on-campus resources

- The Career Center (career.uga.edu)
 - resume help
 - interview tips and mock interviews
- Handshake
 - register there
 - It's not too early to start looking for alumni who have jobs you're interested in and reach out and connect with them.
 - Ask them what they could do to prepare for a career (classes, jobs, internships), what the work load is like, what pay could be expected, where they see the field going—anything to start creating a network.

Use online resources

- Create a LinkedIn profile
 - watch for groups/businesses/careers you're interested in.
 - You get out what you put into it
- Subscribe to certain organizations to get posts
 - Linguist List
 - Modern Language Association

Experiences

- Getting good grades isn't enough anymore
 - Go on a study abroad
 - Do an internship (or 3 or 4) https://career.uga.edu/job_search/internships/internship_links
 - Get a part-time job (even if you're on scholarship)
 - You get skills that you can talk about in a job interview
 - Be a research or teaching assistant for a professor
 - How? Just ask.
 - Volunteer at an organization (especially one connected to your field of study).
 - Experiential learning activities <https://el.uga.edu/experiences/find-experience/>
- For many companies, these experiences are more important than a GPA or even your major.