Job Market Panel 2025

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University of Chicago

The Academic Job Market

(Thomas Bourany)

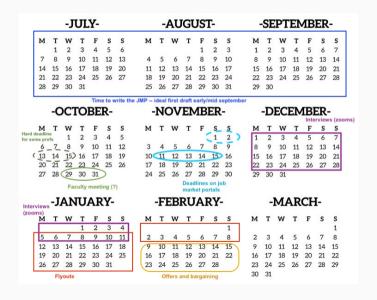
Academic Job Market

- Timeline: time is continuous, effort not smooth over time
- Notes for premarket preparation
- Preparation for interviews
- Notes for European schools

Timeline:

-JULY-							-AUGUST-							-SEPTEMBER-						
М	T	w	T	F	S	S	M	T	w	T	F	S	S	М	T	w	Т	F	s	S
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-OCTOBER-								-DECEMBER-												
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27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31				
-JANUARY-							-FEBRUARY-							-MARCH-						
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26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
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 - Most deadlines: between November 10th and 15th
 - Don't expect them to download updated version in Dec, intro + overall paper should look clean

- Other random thoughts about this schedule:
 - Complementarity of tasks:
 - job talk helps the framing, which helps the research statement, which helps the JMP writing,
 which helps the spiel, which helps the job talk
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 - Use all the job market / JMP / JM talks, resources online from famous people
 - Example: Simon has compiled a long list: Simon resources, other things online for other fields
 - Use other examples for statements from other profs
 - keep a folder you start filling over time with things you find online

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 - Levi gave his advice: JM Advice Crews, use his packet/code for generating letters

 JM packet Crews
 - I agree with both of them on most things
 - if you read/talk to people enough, you'll never be surprised/unsettled: help with confidence

Advice for premarket

- Premarket networking is underrated (Echoing some thought from Agus)
- ⇒ Meeting external faculty before the market is important
 - Already forces you to prepare your mini-spiel/elevator pitch, and angle/framing.
 - Prepare the first layer of your spiel
 - Gets you used to the "social game" of talking to people in academic circles
 - Economists are "social animals": they'll remember you if your pitch/idea is interesting

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 - Be proactive with faculty/people in conferences
 - If you're comfortable interacting with them early, flyouts will be very smooth
 - Have some material ready before July!
 - Website, CV, list of papers, abstracts, ready before July
 - Easy to do / no time to figure out website things in Oct.
 - That's your passport!

Framing / angle

- Most important concept: What is your angle?
 - Prepare it early (think about it throughout the 5th year)
 - RAP = Research question + Answer + Positioning statement
 - Some add Method
 - In practice: order P+R+M+A
 - Important element P!
 - What is not known...
 - That is worth knowing
 - Econ scribe will tell you all about it

Interviews

30 minutes total, composition varies

- (∼ 20 minutes) job market paper
- \bullet (\sim 5/10 minutes) other research, teaching, questions
 - Prepare mini-spiel for each

Most important asset: spiel

- onion structure: high-level, substance, details
- should be practiced as often as possible
 - with peers/classmates, other cohorts/schools
- evolves as you go: be flexible/fluid

Your interviews will vary in quality

- law of large numbers: some will not go well
 - Distribution is bimodal: some are experts in your field (need to convince them)
 some are experts in other fields (should reply well to the questions they have)
- poor predictability of results
 - Depends on many factors out of your control (same as flyouts)

Note on European market

- European (and Asian) schools are hesitant to give flyouts to students from US universities
 - Easier if you are European
 - Signal that you are interested in going to those places
 - Smaller schools: cover letter matters more
 - Signal strongly in interviews
- Schools will ask you about your progress
 - Experience: if they think you won't come, they won't invite you for flyout
 - Express/signal/communicate via email after interviews

Constantly keep your advisors updated, ask for advice

Note on demand (Aleks)

Two types of schools:

- one meeting, set of offers final
- sequential meetings, constant updating

Another way to slice schools:

- look for top candidates in all/some fields
- need to fill multiple positions, field less important
- need to fill specific field
- not looking at all