- Data acquisition basics:

  -- Timing

  -- Data quality

  -- Risk of relationship

  -- Chicken / egg aspect to investment in data / research

- What do you want to get out of data:

  -- Can you say something new with it because of either depth or identification?

  -- Identification is super important to assess up front. There are a lot of datasets out there with many variables but low potential for identifying key things of interest to economists

  -- Fine to invest in data without fully knowing what your research question is if the data are deep and identification potential seems strong

- Partnerships with firms:

    -- Startups

    -- Big established firms

    -- How is firm benefiting from partnership?

    -- How clear is contract about publishing rights?

    -- How clear is contract about commitment to data access?

- Datasets that advisors / faculty have access to that you can gain access to:
    - -- All-payer claims datasets
    - -- Labor datasets

- Data set up on campus already

- Generating your own data
    - -- Experiments
    - -- Surveys
    - -- Other?

- Buying data
    - -- Funding
    - -- Make sure you're going to use it effectively!

Research Topics

Thriving areas in IO:

- Urban
- Behavioral
- Health
- Energy
- Finance
- Platforms / Tech
- Media

Research

- When should you have a research topic / plan for your job market paper ready?

- What are the main ways students get stuck looking for the right project in grad school?
  -- Shallower interests across field / topics, leads to a lot of hemming and hawing (I did this!)
  -- Looking for the perfect project when you already have a pretty good project
  -- Great idea, mediocre data
  -- Great data, mediocre idea
  -- Procrastination (I think this is often less of an intrinsic problem, and more related to the things above)

Research: Most Important JMP Ingredients

- Interesting question with some economic depths. To get a good job, necessary but not sufficient.
- Data for answering questions need to be at / near frontier of datasets in an area, unless methods are really novel
- Implementation should have some kind of structural modeling / sophistication. Not the case for every paper, but very helpful for JMP. Even if you're just borrowing from other work, do it.
- If the outcome will be interesting no matter how the numbers come out (assuming statistical significance) then that is really a great JMP topic ex ante
- Pick something you really enjoy.

IO Going Forward

- IO Lunch
- IO Seminar
- Meeting with IO Faculty
- Conferences
- Resources for Data
- Crossover with programs in other fields (public, labor, devo, marketing, EAP, BPP, ARE, etc.)