

File 20100820.0751: Notes from meeting with Dr Martin this morning.

Dr Martin approved the ATAS paragraph; now I need to send it to Julie. He'd obviously read the ATAS guidelines, as he alluded to not having to dumb it down. Dr Martin noted that my mention of the intelligence community ought to get their attention. I explained that I did it on purpose, wanting to be honest about the implications and likely uses of my research. We talked for a while about ATAS and why, probably, they are gathering this information.

I am feeling really stressed, wanting to make a good impression at this conference. I am not happy with my talk yet—I have a copy of the preliminary programme but they still haven't told me how much time I will have to speak, whether I will even have a chance to show slides, or whether it's a panel discussion. I am in a one-hour time slot with three other papers, so I have to assume that I might only get 15 minutes to speak. Well, there is lots of time to think it through on the plane. Dr Martin asked about the mix of papers in the conference. I reported that they have 224 papers, and they received 800 submissions. A 25 percent acceptance rate indicates that this is a good conference, says Dr Martin. I told him that the mix of papers being presented is interesting; people are there to talk about all sorts of weird things—my weird thing will fit right in. It's not just a bunch of validation people discussing a narrow topic. I am really happy with this choice of conference.

We talked about how to do a good presentation. People do all kinds of weird things with their papers at conferences, but the best presentation is an advertisement for the paper. Assume no one has read it and make them want to read it. It is okay to talk about forthcoming results if it makes people want to look for and read your next paper. Most importantly, you want them to cite your paper in future.

Do not explain results that you haven't published yet, he cautioned. It is all right to talk about things you are excited about in general terms but don't give them enough information to write the paper themselves.

When I get back I want to talk about confirmation of status. Dr Martin agrees.

I have to go to the airport now. I will email when I get there to let him know I arrived safely.

## References