



What I learned from my job market experience

Yoko Okuyama
Uppsala University
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It is your turn to go on the market –

**First of all, congratulations
for making it all the way here!**

There's really no one-size-fits-all advice.

But I give some food for thought
based on my own experience.

Questions and comments are welcome!





My three principles to handle the econ job market with grace

1. Know your work and life priorities
2. Focus on what is within your control
3. Take good care of yourself





1

Know your work and life priorities



1. Know your work and life priorities

- What do you value the most?
 - Types of jobs (academia, government, industry ...)
 - Types of work environment
 - Contract period
 - Location
 - Salary, compensation and benefits
 - Possibility of spousal hiring
 - Visa sponsorship
 - Teaching load
 - Available research funding
 - Data access
 - Experimental facilitiesetc
- Discuss them with people who you care about (your advisors & family)



Knowing priorities helped me ...

- To be open-minded to apply for more positions
 - If you do not apply, you do not get interviewed.
 - The gender gap in the #. of applications (?)
- To take educated risks
 - Would I like to accept this **exploding offer**?
 - Crucial to be prepare to take a risk (if you want to)





2

Focus on what is within your control



2. Focus on what is within your control

- Polish your draft
 - E.g., Chaubey “The Little Book of Research Writing” 2018th edition
- Prepare for your presentation & interviews
 - E.g., Eliana La Ferrara “How to Present Your Job Market Paper”
- Practice how to handle questions
 - Make a list of questions that you’ve received in the past. Practice how to handle them with your classmates.
- Make a list of questions/conversation openers that you can use during flyouts
 - Be curious about others’ work, too.
- Make interview-day/flyout-day checklists



Some ideas for the online interview-day/flyout-dat checklist

Before interviews / seminars,

- Check lighting angle and warmth. Try it at different times of the day.
- Set up your webcam so that you can make eye contact.
- Mute your phone. But keep it face-up by your side just in case your recruiter wants to reach out to you by phone.
- Restart your computer (~an hour before)
- Fully charge your devices (computer, wireless earphones, ipads ... and whatever you may use)
- Turn off notification on the computer
- Use wired internet (if you know your wifi connection is unstable)
- Clear the desktop.
- Set up dual monitors if possible.



Trouble happens! Don't get panicked.

Here are some ideas for backup plans

- Have organizer/host's phone number handy to text/call if problems
- Setup the wifi hotspot through the cellphone as a backup. (This helps in case of a blackout)
- Have handy a phone dial-in number for the Zoom/Webex/etc room
- Send slides in advance in case you wind up audio only



3

Take good care of yourself



3. Take good care of yourself

- Keep some sense of normalcy.
 - Keep a regular sleep schedule.
 - Eat well.
 - Do exercise regularly.
- Curve out time for a quality break.
 - Spend quality time with family and friends.
 - No need to feel uncomfortable to take a break.
- Keep digital sanity.
 - Put your phone away when your sleep.
 - Use technologies to keep a healthy distance from the online world (Apps such as Stay Focused, AppBlock, and, for Twitter, @blockpartyapp_ ... etc.)



**“Neither interviews nor flyouts are exams.
It’s a process to find a good match”**

Try to be the best version of yourself,
and enjoy the chance to meet new people.





Thanks!

<https://www.okuyamayoko.com/>
yoko.okuyama@nek.uu.se



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Appendix:

Econ job market resources

- About the econ job market
 - European Job Market by EEA
 - Understanding the job market by AEA
- Links to some great public goods
 - Guide to the European Job Market by David Schnindler
 - Beamer Tips by Paul Goldsmith-Pinkham
 - Job Market Resources by Johannes Pfeifer
 - Advice for current and aspiring academic economists by Jennifer Doleac
 - ... and many more links out there.

