Committee on Inclusion in SDSS

Today's Discussion:

Today we have a set of phenomenal scientists that still serve or have served the Sloan Digital Sky Survey. We have prepared a set of questions to start out the discussion and hope to take questions from the audience for the latter half of the hour.

Career Panel Starter Questions:

1. What was your path to your current position?

2. Why/how did you move into the track you were on? What opportunities presented themselves? What did you find missing/lacking in a research-focused academic track?

3. What do you like and/or dislike about your job?

4. What tools or skills from an Astronomy background do you use? What new skills did you have to develop?

5. What were the challenges to taking on the current position?

6. What didn't you expect about your current position?

Questions asked by the Audience in 2020:

1. Question for non-R1 professor: how much time do you spend on different factors of your job (research, teaching, admin, etc)?

2. Question I had for Industry/Data Science: it seems that there are skills you learn from research that translate to industry, but were there aspects of the working environment in industry that were difficult to adjust to?

3. Question for Industry/Data Science: I have heard from other panels about the lifetime of a tech job where they normally last 3ish years and then you move on. Is this standard across the industry?

4. Question for Industry/Data Science: coming from an astro background, did you feel like you NEEDED the Insight Fellowship (or a similar formal data science training) to be competitive with people who had data science, computer science, etc. degrees/experience?

5. Question I had for Industry/Data Science: it seems that there are skills you learn from research that translate to industry, but were there aspects of the working environment in industry that were difficult to adjust to?

6. Question to panelists with industry experience (but not in industry now): what skills from industry do you wish were more often developed in science collaborations and vice versa?

7. How does your current position differ from where you thought you were going to end up at the PhD stage?

8. What it was like going from being a research astronomer to becoming a professor?

9. Do you do any work related to creating a better climate within your department/community?

10. Are there any specific resources that were useful for you (and maybe useful for others) to identify and find job opportunities.

11. Could you give any advice to senior grads who are looking for applying for jobs? I heard making connection is pretty important, but it seems pretty unclear to me how to do it. Is it ok to contact someone who is doing interesting works, and ask like. . . 'do you have any open position for next semester or so?'

12. What is a common mistake/poor choices that people make on job applications/CVs that end up really hurting them in your eyes?