Networking discussion

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What is it?

- Reputation
- Collegiality/collaboration
- Counterbalance to Imposter Syndrome
Why bother?

• Search committees, grants to review, sending students – the community does a lot
• Invited to collaborate
• Science moves fast – you want to be on the radar
• Good to know what others are working on
• Lay community – recruitment, reputation
• Network before you NEED it - it’s a way of behaving, not something you only when necessary
Be generous

• Aim to forge connections – b/t yourself and others but also between other people
Kinds of networks

• Casual contacts- friends and neighbors
• Knowledge groups (those in your narrow theoretical domain)
• Online networks
• Student organizations at your favorite conference
• Your web presence – keep it up to date
twitter

- https://twitter.com/byunlab
- https://twitter.com/EmersonFACElab
- https://twitter.com/deevybee
Conferences

• Set up meetings in advance: dinner, coffee...
  – Especially if nervous
• Student organizations – “meet the experts” lunches – do it!
• Even famous people are just academics
Look for post-doc opportunities early

• *before* your dissertation year is not too soon!
As junior faculty

• Reviewing: interactions with editors = networking!
  – Be professional, courteous & respectful
  – Be competent
I’m going to be in your area the week of Oct 15...

• Putting yourself forward: Difficult but worthwhile.
• Suggest a meeting for coffee – it may turn into an offer to give a talk
• Be courteous (but not fawning) – thank people for their time
• Most people will be delighted to discuss ideas, read manuscript/grant/thesis drafts, with you
• NEVER dismiss anyone as “unimportant”
  – The admin asst who can facilitate on-time submission
• Be prompt – when you get an email, write back
Everyone is busy

• Make the most of time when you meet with someone
  – Make an agenda
  – Prepare specific questions
  – Follow up afterwards
When your paper is accepted

• Send a copy to people who matter to you!
  – Former advisors
  – Your grad student colleagues
Invite unto others as you would have them invite unto you

• Is there a local talk series? Can you invite person X to come and present?
  – Could be grad alumnus
  – Former mentor
  – Person you’d like to post-doc with!!!
What if you are shy or socially awkward??

• Ask for help – ask your advisor to help you meet someone (specific)
• Start small – get to know your graduate colleagues
• Practice: challenge yourself to reach out to seatmate on airplane or to attend a grad-school “icebreaker” event
• ASK A QUESTION and listen
At a conference? Don’t…

• Be a gossip
• Always be negative – “that talk sucked” -- be constructive about the work you hear discussed!
• Be unprofessional during social hours
• Forget that there is lots of science for everyone
• Disappear and ignore the meeting
Don’t under-sell yourself

• Women may be especially prone to do this
• You have special expertise. Own it!