

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!