



The FORUM

The Newsletter of the SPSP Graduate Student Committee Fall 2004

Bigger and better than ever!: Career Preconferences

We are pleased to announce that the GSC will again be sponsoring a career pre-conference at the 2005 SPSP Convention on Thursday, January 20th. Due to last year's success, we will be extending it to be a full day event and enlarging it to accommodate more attendees. Attendees will have the opportunity to receive information on preparing for and applying to careers in a variety of settings, including both academic and non-academic. Although the specifics of the pre-conference are still in the works, we can give you a preview as to the types of events we will be hosting...

Non-academic careers symposium

The non-academic careers symposium will feature a panel of speakers representing a variety of non-academic employers. Speakers will provide information on the application process and the type of work they do! Attendees at previous year's symposiums have made invaluable contacts, and have even had job offers resulting from their attendance!

Post-doc panel

This panel will focus on how to obtain a post-doctoral position. Presenters will describe the applica-

tion and interview process, as well as the type of work they do. If you are interested in obtaining a post-doc, or just want to hear more about one, then this is not a session to miss!

If you have any suggestions for sessions you'd like to see at this year's pre-conference, we'd love to hear them! Please send your suggestions to us at spspgsc@yahoo.com. And, please stay tuned for information on how to register for this event!

Graduate Poster Award 2005

As we gear up for the 2005 conference, we encourage you to apply for the Graduate Student Poster Award (GPA). This is a fantastic opportunity to get your work noticed. There is one award during each poster session, and judges will "secretly" interview you during the poster session. Judges base their decision on the quality of your research, how clearly you present your findings to novice and expert audiences, as well as your knowledge of the work.

What do you win? Our returning sponsor, Empirisoft, has generously donated \$50 for each winner, as well as an individual

user's license for MediaLab/Direct RT for as long as you are a graduate student! In addition, your name printed in the Spring *Forum*, the *SPSP Dialogue*, and winning posters will be displayed for the remainder of the conference. And if you don't win, you still get exposure! Judges will stop by to check out your work, and there will be 2 honorable mentions during each session. Honorable mentions will be listed next to the winning posters, and in the newsletters.

The deadline is October 31st, 2004. Submission details can be found at the SPSP website. Best of luck in New Orleans!

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Some important things that you may or may not know about the academic job search

by Brandon Stewart

I recently began thinking about the academic job search, and as the planning fallacy suggests, I was surprised by the number of things that I'd forgotten to put on my list. Here is a review of some important points about preparing for the job search as discussed in Darley and Zanna's chapter in The Compleat Academic (Darley, Zanna, & Roedinger, 2004).

Identifying and applying for possible jobs

You should discuss the type of job (e.g. academic versus non-academic) to which you'll be applying with your advisor, and this discussion should occur years before you begin the application process. This head start will allow you time to focus your research.

How widely and how deeply should you apply for positions?

- Do not be overly restrictive (e.g., climate) in your job search. You may wish for a job in an idyllic location, but isn't a job in a not-so-great climate better than no job at all? If you decide to go with a restrictive search, say because of your spouse's career, you may want to write to all the institutions in that area. They may be able to find a teaching position in the fall.
- Do not apply for a job that, on

close inspection, you know you would not accept. This may be a difficult rule to follow because there often is a time crunch and little info about the job. You may try ranking the jobs into two categories:

- "Possible" and "Definitely no."
- Mark jobs that are a close fit for you based on the position so your advisor may tailor the letter for those jobs. Draft your cover letters to those institutions to make it clear that your interests fit with theirs.

Things to know about the interview and job talk

- Your primary goal for the job talk and subsequent interviews is to, "Put yourself forward as an autonomous, self-organized, and self-starting individual"
- Know the department and the faculty with whom you will be visiting, including eminent faculty in adjunct areas.
- Know your needs and desires regarding teaching and research. What research and teaching resources will you need to get your research done? Make a list of what you need minimally and want ideally, and then find out the following: research space and equipment available, startup funds, research expectations, teaching load, salary, and the reward contingencies on which departmental contributions are assessed.
- Your host may have a secondary purpose of communicating how the department works from his or her perspective. He or she will be a good resource about the department. If this person is not a junior faculty member, find someone who is. The junior faculty person "is

often licensed to give you a reasonably candid picture of the way things work," and this is helpful because he or she is closer to the situation in which you would be .

- "For better or worse, your talk may be the single most important determinant of whether you get a job offer." The best way to prepare for the talk is to practice it as often as possible, and to practice it in front of a variety of audiences to help prepare for potential questions and improve clarity.

Interviews and things people will want to know about you.

- While you should be prepared for interview questions, you should also be prepared for small talk, questions about the context of your research (e.g., in what research tradition do you work; your place within psychology), and a 5 minute mini-presentation of each line of research. Some of the faculty may not have been at your talk, or they may want to discuss a line of research not in your talk. Darley & Zanna suggest "that you be prepared to relate the theoretical context of your research, the specific hypotheses you are testing, the general procedures you are using to test them, and the outlines of the results you are getting (or hope to get) within five minutes!"
- Know what you want to teach.

What should be done early in the process?

- The application process takes a lot of time, so be prepared for it to possibly disrupt Spring and Fall semester/quarters. Try to reduce the number of commitments (e.g., committees, teaching, etc.) during

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President's Corner

Join the Committee

Like what the GSC has accomplished so far? Have additional ideas as to what you'd like to see happen? Do you have leadership ability and a desire to get involved? If so, consider becoming a member of the Graduate Student Committee! Five positions are open this year: one for President and four for Member-At-Large. The President is elected for a 2-year term (1 year as President and 1 year as Past-President); Members-At-Large serve 1 year terms.

There are many benefits to being on the committee, including networking and your professional development. Most importantly, it is an excellent way to ensure that student needs are met.

Please see the GSC website, or ask current members, for more information. And, look for the call for nominations in December and the election ballots in January!

Job Search (continued from Page 2)

this time.

- Develop working relationships with faculty other than your advisor so that you will have enough recommenders to write insightful letters. If you are applying for positions that are primarily research based, it is best to have done research with at least one other faculty member so that they are knowledgeable about your research skills. If this is not possible, find faculty with whom you have taught or from whom you have

Greetings! I hope that the Fall 2004 term is off to an excellent start for you all. The Graduate Student Committee has been very active this summer, culminating in my attendance at the Executive Committee meeting in August. As has been the case in previous years, the Executive Committee was highly receptive to the work being put forth by the GSC, and showed great support for both our ongoing and newly proposed initiatives. I'd like to take this opportunity to outline some of the decisions made during the meeting that are of interest to students:

Mentoring luncheon. Last year's mentoring luncheon was a success, and the Executive Committee was very supportive of hosting another luncheon at the 2005 convention. They approved our request to enlarge the size of the event, and we will be able to accommodate up to 80 students this year (up from 50 last year). Furthermore, the event will again be provided at no cost to students. Information regarding the luncheon, including information on how to register, will be available on the student listserv later this term.

Graduate Poster Award. The Executive Committee continued to express its support of student research by backing the GSC Graduate Poster Award. Information on applying for the award can be found on Page 1.

SPSP Conference registration fees. Unfortunately, the location of the upcoming convention necessitates the increase of registration fees. However, the Executive Committee attempted to keep registration fees for students as low as possible. Student registration fees will increase minimally, to \$110.00.

Summer Institute in Social Psychology. SPSP is again planning on hosting a Summer Institute in Social Psychology (SISP) in 2005. Information on courses offered and how to apply will be available via the SPSP website (<http://www.spsp.org/sisp/>) later this year.

All in all, the Executive Committee remains very committed to student's concerns!

Upcoming Submission Deadlines

American Psychological Society	1/31/05
Eastern Psychological Association	TBA
Midwestern Psychological Association	11/01/04
New England Psychological Association	TBA
Rocky Mountain Psychological Association	TBA
Southeastern Psychological Association	10/12/04
Southwestern Psychological Association	11/08/04
Western Psychological Association	11/16/04

taken sufficient classes for them to rate your skills and talents with confidence.

If you found these points helpful, you may want to take a look at the

rest of the book. Go to www.apa.org/books to find information on purchasing The Compleat Academic.