

Preparing for First-Round Academic Interviews

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NOVEMBER 2, 2021



What is your disciplinary area?

- A. Humanities
- B. Social Sciences
- C. Life Sciences
- D. Physical Sciences
- E. Engineering

What positions are you applying for?

Post-doc

Non tenure track faculty

Tenure track faculty

In research intensive institutions

In teaching intensive institutions

In professional schools

What are you seeing on the market?

Last Fall:

- Hiring Freezes! Angst!
- Faster application/interview cycles
- All interviews were virtual

This Fall:

- Melting! Retirements? Recovery!
- Even faster cycles?
- All/most interviews virtual

How does this resonate, or not, with your experience so far?

What's happening with academic conferences?



You're on the
LONG SHORT list!

Are you the
missing piece?

Preparation: Interviewing from Home



Four easy things to make your virtual interview even better:



1. SOUND



2. LOCATION



3. LIGHTING



4. YOU!

Your general impression

Intellectual ability, scholarly promise, contribution to teaching

Personal & Professional attributes:

- Confidence
- Collegiality
- Flexibility
- Breadth and depth
- Interest/Enthusiasm

Use examples to
illustrate your points!

Interview Preparation

Research

- Faculty research interests
- Breadth of department – your audience
- Course offerings
- Mission of Institution
- Broader issues facing institution

Develop 3-5 talking points

Practice! Mock interviews

Interview Questions

- Tell me about your research
- Where is your research going from here?
- How would you teach the basic survey course in our department?
- What new courses could you offer?

Tell me about your research...

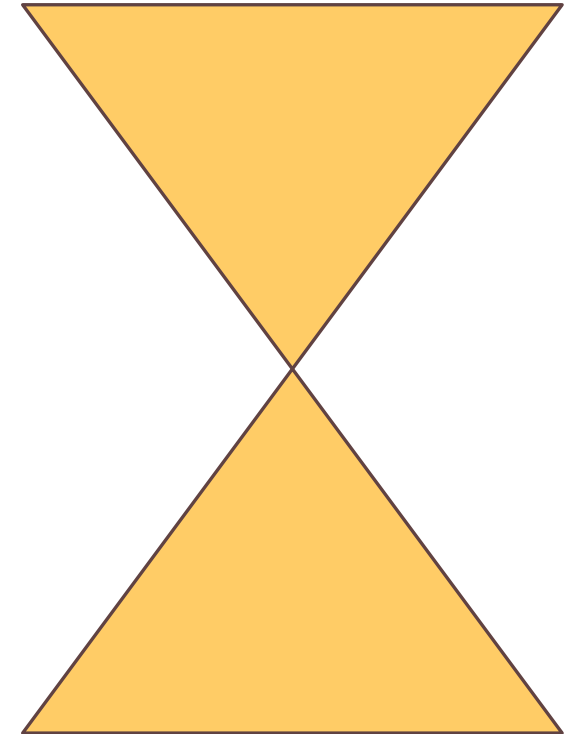
Your answer (2 minutes)

- Thank them for opportunity (if you haven't already)
- Your research interests (big picture Q)
- Your specific Q & Primary findings/argument
- Significance/impact/contribution to field

Your partner(s) give feedback (1 minute)

- Confidence/Enthusiasm
- Two memorable things

Switch and give feedback



Prepare your Questions for THEM

Intangibles

- Potential for collaborations
- Interactions with students

What is your timeline for the search?

Let them shine

- Why students choose to major in their dept
- Something unique to their location / institution / city, etc
- Recent (good) news

~~Expectations~~

- Teaching
- Time for research
- Tenure



After the Interview...

After the Interview:

- While things are fresh in your mind, reflect on what you did well, what you could improve?
- Send a thank-you email to all interviewers
- Remind interviewers of anything additional you want to mention
- Develop questions you might want to ask on the virtual “campus visit”

Upcoming Programs

- [Preparing for Campus Visits – Virtual and In Person](#) - Tues Nov 16, 4:00-5:30pm
- [“Wait... What do you do again?”: How to Explain Your Research Without Jargon](#) [FWC Event]
Wed, Nov 10, 3:00-4:00pm
Fri, Nov 12, 11:00am-12:00pm

Recorded Webinars

- [Craft and Tailor Your CV and Cover Letters](#) (see also [samples](#))
- [Going on the Academic Job Market](#)

Coming in Spring 2022

- Leveraging Your PhD – Why Employers Value Your Skills
- Real Life Stories from the Academic Job Search



Questions?
