The Academic Job Search

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College of William & Mary
About Me

▶ I completed my PhD at Stanford University Dec. 2011

▶ Main research area: Static analysis, software verification

▶ Spent a good chunk of last year looking for academic jobs and interviewing

▶ Started as an assistant professor at W&M this December
The Pre-Job Search

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- Finding a job is really marketing your PhD work
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Deciding Where to Apply

- Apply to a variety of places: don't apply to only top schools

- Pay special attention to who is hiring in your field - they are more likely to interview you than a school doing general search

- Also take your personal situation into account

  - For example, if you have a two-body problem to solve, you have to apply to many more places - I applied to over 70!
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  Should also address future research direction - this should not be "too incremental" over your current research

  Want to communicate you have done great work during your PhD and you want to do even cooler projects as faculty

- Teaching statement: address teaching interests and philosophy, but research schools won’t pay much attention
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- No one should come out of the talk without having a clear idea of why your research is important
Preparing for the Job Talk

- Practice the job talk multiple times!

Should be able to give the first 20 mins of the talk no matter how exhausted, sleep-deprived, or sick you are.

For practice talks: Invite friends and faculty from different areas and encourage them to be adversarial with questions!

Revise your talk based on feedback from practice talk.
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The Job Interview

- **The interview:** Job talk + one-on-one meetings with faculty + social events + meeting with students + meeting with deans

- The job talk: be in control, deal with questions well

- One-on-one meetings: Learn about the research of people you'll be meeting; don't just talk about yourself!

- Job interview not an exam, but an opportunity to meet interesting colleagues and potential future collaborators

- Be yourself, don't obsess about impressing others!
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