

### **Academic Job Market Advice for PhD Students in Economics**

1. The most important thing is your job market paper. All the time you spend agonizing over what you should wear, etc., has an opportunity cost. Focus on your research. Be excited about your research. This is why people will want to hire you (even when they don't fully understand what your research is about).
2. You will inevitably encounter a number of situations where older professors will try to explain what is wrong with your research during your job talk. The people who interrupt you may or may not have any idea what they are talking about. It is important that you are firm in your replies, but you should make sure that you show senior faculty sufficient respect. Ideally, you should write each of them a personal thank you email after your talk. Their feedback is valuable, and rudeness in seminars is an important part of our field's unique culture.
3. Do not, under any circumstances, do anything to suggest that you would ever consider compromising your career in any way to improve your quality of life or enable you to live with a spouse or partner. Remember: you are getting hired to be a researcher, you aren't getting hired to be a human being! Ideally, even your advisers should not know whether or not you have any friends or family outside of the office, or even whether you have left the economics building since you started your PhD.
4. At smaller departments, it can be good to signal that you would be a good "fit" by discussing common interests – for example, economics. On some occasions, faculty members may bring their wives to the seminar dinner. It is ideal to show that you have common interests with them, as well – e.g. baking. However, you should make sure it is clear that economics takes precedence. For example, you might explain that you enjoy baking (who doesn't?), but lately you have only been baking to relieve the stress of the job market.
5. Wear comfortable clothing. Campus visits are long days, and often involve a lot of walking. In many parts of the country, the weather will be almost unbearably cold during the flyout season. You may quickly come to regret the decision to wear high heels and stockings. Comfortable, dressy (but not overly feminine) boots and pants suits are ideal.

### **Special Advice for Male Students on the Job Market\***

\* NOTE: since I am not a man, I can never totally understand the particular experience of male students. Though I am not a male economist, I've talked with several male economists about their experiences. These suggestions are intended to be helpful and supportive.

1. Number #1 applies to you, too: research is paramount. Fortunately, if you are a male in the economics profession, it has probably never occurred to you to spend time thinking about clothes or really anything other than economics.
2. Number #2 is less likely to apply to you, but most male students do have some uncomfortable seminar experiences – remember, not all victims of mansplaining are female! Be firm in your replies. Anything short of throwing the laser pointer at someone is considered acceptable seminar behavior.
3. Unfortunately, Number #3 goes for you, too, male economists: it is fine to reveal the fact that you have a spouse and/or children as long as it is clear that they don't take priority over your research. Inexplicably, it will somehow be understood that you will accept your best job offer regardless of the prospects for your spouse's employment.
4. At smaller or more rural departments, it can be helpful to discuss common interests that you might share with senior faculty – for example, man caves, football statistics, and the latest in facial hair removal technology (admittedly, I am just speculating here).
5. Who are we kidding? Almost all dress shoes made for men are perfectly comfortable because... well, because that's the way the world works. Nonetheless, I would seriously suggest that male economists think twice before deciding to wear heels and stockings during a flyout. We're making progress as a society and a profession, but I'm not sure we're there yet.