

YOU AND YOUR ACADEMIC PROFILE

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OUTLINE

1. YOUR INTERNET PROFILE

2. NETWORKING AND CONFERENCES

1. YOUR INTERNET PROFILE

WHY THE INTERNET?

Firstly we live much of our professional lives online.

Second, most people will read your work online rather than in a library.

Third, people distinguish increasingly less and less between working papers and published articles.

Fourth, people may want to access your data, replication materials, sources, codebooks, etc.

Fifth, the world of citations

OPTIONS

1. DEPARTMENTAL WEBSITE
2. ACADEMIA.EDU
3. YOUR OWN WEBSITE
4. GOOGLE SCHOLAR
5. SOCIAL MEDIA

DEPARTMENTAL WEBSITE

Right now you can already do this. The comms team should have set you up with a username and password and you should email them if you have lost those!

The you go to <http://www.politics.ox.ac.uk/administrator/> and you should be able to edit this.

JOB MARKET CANDIDATES

When you are looking for positions elsewhere (predocs, postdocs, and faculty positions in particular) you should tag yourself as a 'job market candidate'.

If you do you must be sure to link to actual information about yourself! We need a CV, working papers, etc.

A note: your colleagues at 'rival' schools (LSE, Harvard, etc) are doing this - big time...

ACADEMIA.EDU

This is a user-friendly and increasingly common way for people to be able to post their CV and working papers.

Does make it hard to tell what has been published and what is a working paper.

Also has a very bog-standard look. But is increasingly used by faculty in Europe. See...

YOUR OWN WEBSITE

One problem with just using the departmental website is that once you leave here you need to start again.

A problem with academia.edu is it looks very same and basic.

This of course involves either (a) some web design skills or (b) using software / hosting companies such as Weebly, Wix, Squarespace, etc.

GOOD PRACTICE

Ideally you want to cover the following bases:

(a) Who you are (must include CV)

(b) Your research (including working papers)

(c) Your data (or link to Dataverse), other useful materials

(d) Your teaching (including syllabi)

EXAMPLES

John Ahlquist (UW Madison)

Cecile Fabre (Oxford)

Alisha Holland (Harvard postdoc)

Dominic Johnson (Oxford)

Yours truly

YOUR CV

Here's mine.

Start with education and academic employment

Then straight into publications

Then invited and conference presentations

Then awards

Then teaching

Finally, service and 'skills'

WORKING PAPERS

One way of improving your profile is to let people access your work!

Don't be afraid of having unpublished work up online though do make sure it is not TOO rough.

When a paper is accepted you may want / need to take this down. Check the copyright agreement - most journals permit you to host your own published piece.

GOOGLE SCHOLAR

Increasingly scholars are using Google Scholar as a way to (a) publicise their work and (b) keep track of citations as they come in.

Students often worry about whether they should have a profile given they don't have (m)any citations. There is no need to worry either way - you don't have to do this but people won't judge you if you do put up a low citation count!

It can also be a good place to link to your CV and webpage.

BLOGS

Finally social media is an increasingly important medium for presenting your work and ideas.

Some well-known scholars have individual blogs and others are in group blogs. Finally there are blogs hosted at Oxford and LSE

These are all very worthy but do not assume a blog post equals an article. IT DOES NOT!!!!!! So choose your time use carefully.

Blogs have a multiplicative effect with your scholarly status not an additive one.

FACEBOOK & TWITTER

Increasingly, interesting and contemporary academic discussion among colleagues happen over FB and Twitter.

Good news: react instantly and makes social science more interesting.

Bad news: react instantly (Stephen Salaita) and can be a waste of time.

Always remember, social media almost never ends up on a CV. It can help you along but it can't get you there.

2. NETWORKING & CONFERENCES

NETWORKING... UGH

Didn't we get into this career not to do this...?

Sadly, no escape. Much of your future career is based on evaluating others and evaluating them.

Most entertaining trips involve networks of other academics.

Since this profession is basically 'Calvinball' you need to understand 'informal' rules.

AT OXFORD

There are more talks here than you could ever feasibly attend.

But do attend some of them!

Use your advisor's network and other scholars' networks if your advisor is... out of the game.

Don't bootlick visiting speakers but brief introduction is fine. Attending High Table etc is great opportunity.

YOUR COHORT

Many people here are the '***stars of tomorrow***'

Coauthor with the many smart people around you - it will make you more productive and create relationships that last through your whole career.

Similarly think of your 'cohort' as people not just at Oxford but those with similar interests of roughly the same PhD year. You will see these people forever.

YOUR LETTER WRITERS

Make sure you keep in close contact with your advisor and other Oxford faculty who might be writing your letters - these are really important!

Also, as your career progresses you may ask people not from here to write letters - in the long run you would want any major figure in your sub-sub-field to (a) know who you are, and (b) be able and willing to write you a strong letter.

CONFERENCES

Try to start attending at least two years before finishing your PhD - will give you the incentive to produce more sophisticated work ready for public consumption.

Also good opportunity to learn how to present your research publicly, how to meet people in your sub-sub-field network.

Good ones to attend: biggies (APSA, EPSA, MPSA, WPSA, ISA, maybe PSA) and subfield ones (IPES, CES, SASE, Methods meetings, etc).

PANELS

Getting accepted to a good conference as a grad student is quite hard. Submitting as part of an organized panel is much the best bet.

Panels organized in this way are more likely to be coherent than the average crazy bespoke panel.

Worth inviting 'big' names to panels but be realistic

HOW TO PRESENT

You rarely have more than 15 minutes and you should probably aim for 10.

Make sure to have the hummable tune and use graphics effectively so people can picture your findings.

You are unlikely to get really useful feedback but do take questions in the Q&A seriously/

OFF-TIME

Explore Washington DC, San Francisco, Edinburgh, Barcelona, etc!

Great time to get to know your network especially among your own 'cohort' (i.e. don't feel the need / try to tag along with ancient famous scholar X).

Do visit the book showroom and get a sense of what's coming out and who editors are.