THE ACADEMIC JOB TALK—A FEW POINTERS
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WHAT IS THE ACADEMIC JOB TALK?
- An open interview session for the entire department.
- An opportunity to highlight your research and/or teaching plans for the department/college.
- An opportunity to guest-teach a course or teach a subject of the department’s choosing to a group of students.
- An opportunity to highlight the talents you can bring to the department.

WHAT DO I TALK ABOUT?
- Your current research and future research plans.
- Teaching plans and new course development.
- Teaching philosophy and style.
- A broad topic or theme within the general area you study.
PREPARING FOR THE JOB TALK-STEP I: Ask the Department or Search Committee Chair Questions!

- “What type of talk should I prepare?”
- “Who is my audience?”
- “What time of day will I be presenting?”
- “What kind of technology will be available to use for the talk?”

PREPARING FOR THE JOB TALK-STEP II: Preparing the Actual Talk

- Remember your audience!
- Tell a story.
- Highlight how you and your research and/or research background will be an asset to the department.
- Stick to the time limit given.
- Use high-contrast print/background when using PowerPoint.

PREPARING FOR THE JOB TALK-STEP III: Giving the Talk

- Speak clearly, loudly, and slowly.
- Invite the audience to ask you questions during your talk (if you feel comfortable).
- Move away from the podium, if possible.
- Repeat questions at the end of your talk so that others may hear them.
ODDS AND ENDS

- Hydrate and wear layers/comfortable clothing.
- Have a back-up plan.
- Practice! Practice! Practice!
- Attend academic job talks at your own institution. Participate in the hiring process in your own departments. Attend student/post-doc Q & A sessions, dinners, etc.