



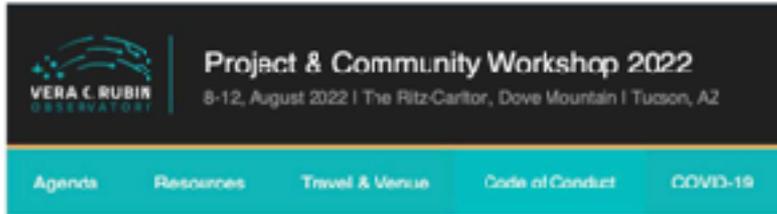
Early Career Astronomers: Networking & Tools

A Friday Unconference

Jim Annis, Community Engagement Team



Friendly Reminders- Respectful Conduct and no Covid spread



Home » Code of Conduct

Code of Conduct

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Check name-tags for these contact comfort level stickers.

Thank you for masking indoors!

Use the confidential email rubin2022-covid@lists.lsst.org to request a test, report your test results, or ask questions.

Reporting bullying, harassment, or aggression.

The Rubin 2022 Organizing Committee has appointed designated contacts:

- Ranpal Gill (rgill@lsst.org)
- Andrew Connolly (ajc@astro.washington.edu)
- Melissa Graham (mlg3k@uw.edu)

Contact via email, Slack, or the Community Forum.

Early Career Astronomers: Networking & Tools

A Friday Unconference- that is, a time when the people in the audience talk more than presentations are given.

Every generation of astronomers thinks they can tell the next how the best proceed in a job search and a job interview, how to maximize ones career to get the job you really want.

Early Career Networking and Tools

Part of being in the community is the search for jobs- that's been true since way before my time.

Every generation thinks they can tell the next how the best proceed in a job search and a job interview, how to maximize ones career to get the job you really want.

I'd start today's session with the idea that you are the true experts here- today's early career people have been pursuing science and engineering, surveys and astrophysics, and their next job, during a global pandemic.

The job search and interviewing process has completely transformed.

Seeking jobs during the pandemic

What I'm interested in is the experiences of the experts- what was it like obtaining a new position during the pandemic?

What are your stories?

In asking people if they were willing to start this off, I found many would tell me that the way they got their new position was unique to their situation and may be of limited usefulness to the more usual seeker.

Yes. Yes, but... perhaps that has been part of the pandemic experience?

Seeking jobs during the pandemic

I can start this off with a view from the senior-career side-

What used to be a weeks long process of bringing in seminar speakers, with individual conversations, relationship building, and a dinner has become a process held over 2 or 3 zoom sessions.

I can stand next to someone in an airport and not know that I interviewed them for a position a month before.

I'll say with confidence that is a different experience than before the pandemic.

What are your stories?

Seeking jobs during the pandemic

Three early career people have graciously agreed to start this:

- 1) Sierra Villarreal
- 2) Peter Ferguson
- 3) Bruno Quint

Seeking jobs during the pandemic: Experience Notes

Seeking Jobs:

The first author paper-focus is still strong on people's minds.

People's lives interact with their career search in interesting ways.

Self-doubt about graduate school experience is a thing- imposter syndrome starts early

One of the reasons we think our routes are very particular is the small number statistics of which grad school and position we take

Be prepared to explain your story to prospective employers- there is no certainty they understand!

For certain positions (context matters!) getting teaching experience is very useful, it opens doors.

Networking:

Working inside a big collaboration provides focused networking opportunities.

Big collaborations and networking in them is a two edged sword- what if you are not very social? What if you aren't in a big collaboration? Or don't know how to begin in a big collaboration?

One idea is to use full-virtual conferences to maximize participation with senior people paying attention rather than not paying attention because the in-person conferences are better

"Knowing people" is a problem across oceans.

Giving colloquia is important- what if Rubin and Sci Collaborations kept track of colloquia and seminar opportunities? The big collaborations keep track of conference talk opportunities. Also talk tours, if possible

Having big collaborations in regions distant from the US/Canada/Europe centers would maximize the possibility of people disadvantaged from access to science to be possible.

Aggressively emailing professors can work! (JTA says- oh yes.)

What does pursuing jobs mean?:

Making it possible for others to do science is a valid and respected way to proceed in science (even-if this is not widely known)

Our lack of connection to our people who have chosen to go to industry is a problem: *when do we invite them to give talks?*

If one doesn't want to be a professor- because of pay and/or family- and pay matters, there are data scientist routes- that use your science chops!

There are options in national labs which are different than universities or teaching- perhaps not well known how this works