

Landing the Academic Job: Tips from the Search Committee

Opening remarks: We have no magic bullet, no miracle pill, no snake oil. We wish we had a secret trick to share, but any such promise is a lie. The academic job market is ridiculously difficult at the best of times, and now, as many of you know from firsthand experience, it feels like a particularly Sisyphean task. What we hope to offer today is not false hope but rather a peek behind the other side of the curtain in the hopes that this insight is helpful, but we would be remiss if we didn't acknowledge that a large part of a successful job search relies on luck. We were lucky, and we're hoping that you will be too.

The panel will address each of these topics, with each panelist tagging in in turns:

1. Stages of the search.
 - a. University committee and how it is assembled
 - b. The advertisement: How it's written, how to read it.
 - c. The "paper screen"
 - i. Cover letter
 - ii. CV
 - iii. Writing sample
 - iv. LORs
 - v. Sample syllabi
 - vi. Teaching Philosophy
 - d. The interview (MLA, Skype, Zoom, etc)
 - e. Campus visit
 - f. The endless, nerve-racking wait.

2. Re-imagining the search: how we would like to see the process evolve to create greater equity and transparency
3. Questions?