

Networking for PhD Students

Strategies for Academic Networking for Graduate Students

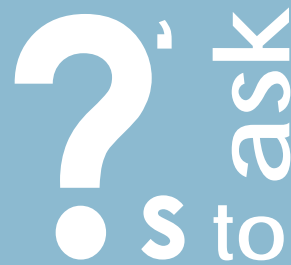
- 1) Be proactive at conferences and other academic events
- 2) Introduce yourself
- 3) Have business cards
- 4) Discuss the person's panel, presentation, or their work
- 5) Have several ready descriptions of your research at various levels, a 30 second, 1 minute, and 5 minute version.
- 6) Either wait for someone to prompt you to discuss what you are working on, or present your project only after they have discussed their own.
- 7) Be ready to ask the person questions about their work
- 8) Greet everyone and anyone who sits next to you. Make it your goal to meet a new person during each portion of a scheduled. If at a conference, meet one new person during or after each panel or presentation, during lunch or dinner, and reconnect with that person briefly, especially if they are conversing with someone you have not yet met.
- 9) Always, always, ALWAYS follow-up with any major connection. A simple email recounting the pleasure you had at making a person's acquaintance will speak volumes and keep the door open for future communications.

Sample Introduction and 30-second "speech:"

"Hello, my name is _____. It is a pleasure to meet you. So what are you doing here at this event? Do you have a panel presentation this weekend? I am here to present my work on gender and urban spaces in England during the late Victorian Era. I am particularly interested in public displays of female gender roles, and have examined regulations at zoos, parks, and gardens within English major cities. I am hoping to extend my work with a research trip to London next fall, and complete my dissertation."

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- 1) With which institution are you affiliated ?
- 2) What is your current project?
- 3) Have you been working on this project long?
- 4) What project are you planning on working on next?
- 5) What new trends in the field are most interesting to you?
- 6) Where do you see the field going in the next few years?
- 7) What do you think of New Book X?
- 8) What did you think of this particular panel/workshop?
- 9) Do you have any recommendations of sources I might use or people who might be interested in my topic?
- 10) That project sounds very exciting. Would you mind sending me a copy of that project if I send you an email?
- 11) How do you see your project complementing existing scholarship?
- 12) What is work like in your department? What constitutes a normal work week/month/semester for you?
- 13) It was very nice meeting you. Might I have a business card so that we can keep in touch?



Sample follow-up with contact:

"Dear _____, It was a pleasure meeting you at the _____ Event/Conference. I enjoyed our discussion concerning _____. I hope that I might be able to correspond with you in the future regarding our shared interests and scholarship, and look forward to seeing you again sometime soon."