

Early Career Researcher Workshop

Making the most of your conference money

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It's not about the talks...

Make the most of the coffee breaks



Wear your nametag



Don't just hang out with people from your own university



...get to know the other ECRs instead

Actively find people you want to meet

- Email before start of conference to organise a time
- Email or tweet during the conference – especially during a big event like SMB
- Ask someone for an introduction
- Ask a question in their talk to break the ice
- Attend their talk so you have a conversation-starter...
 - But, don't *only* say “I really liked your talk”. Instead, relate to something you work on, or ask a question.
- Email someone you want to connect with and ask if they will attend your talk – let them know the day and time

Ask questions at talks

- Simple questions are fine!
- Nervous? Write down your question during the talk and read it out.
- Some strategies for questions:
 - Clarification
 - Ask the speaker to re-explain one of the charts or graphs on one of their slides
 - Additional information – “would you mind expanding on X?”
- There are no stupid questions – except questions that are really long-winded personal statements, and questions that are “three questions in one”. Don’t be that person.
- Preparing to ask a question helps you focus on the talk.



Attend the conference dinner

- It's an important part of the week
- Do talk about non-work stuff
- Do sit with some new people

Advertise your career position

- It's fine to be honest about your career plans, and good to let people know if you are looking for a job – you never know who might have funding available for a postdoc!

Pace yourself

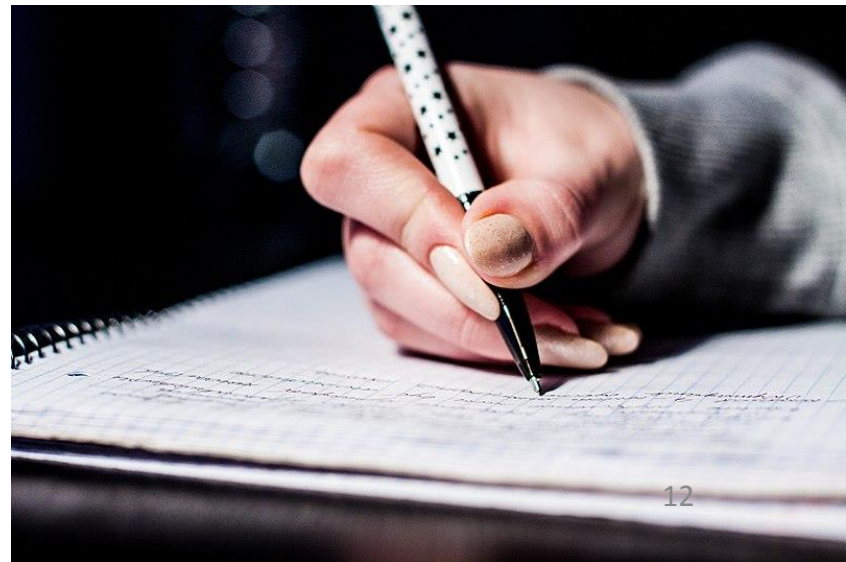
- Conferences are exhausting!
- You don't need to attend every session
- Plan out your program for the week
- Do things other than attending talks



Image: <http://elissacruz.blogspot.com>

Follow up...

- Separate notes into 'science notes from talks', and a list of 'actions'
- Follow up (via email) promptly on new contacts/collaborations



Don't forget to do some sightseeing!



Image: sydney.com

Thank you!

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Material from my guest blog post for *The Thesis Whisperer* (May 2017), plus reader comments on the post.

The Thesis Whisperer

Just like the horse whisperer – but with more pages



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May 24, 2017 · by Thesis Whisperer

This post is by *Dr Alexandra Hogan*, a mathematical infectious disease modeller. She submitted her PhD thesis at the Research School of Population Health at ANU in November 2016. She is now working on models for malaria transmission at Imperial College London.

TOPICS

- Book Reviews
- Getting things done
- Miscellany



For an academic, participating in conferences is important for lots of reasons: sharing research and having it critiqued, building networks, identifying collaboration opportunities, and