Job Market Meeting

September 2020
OUTLINE THIS TIME

• Intro – the usual market and the COVID market
  – Ad hoc committee on the overall market picture
• The schedule and the meeting schedule
• Are you ready?
  – Teaching philosophy
  – GC-CUNY help
• And what you will also need:
  – Cover letters
  – The JOE website
• Under COVID
  – Fees, etc.
  – The interview process
  – Job Signaling
  – The Scramble
Seasonality of JOE Listings

Job Count and Its Composition over Time

- How does the Fall 2021 job market look in Sept 2020?
The Econ job market in the Covid Era

The job interviews have always been a central and significant part of the ASSA Annual meeting.

Due to the cancellation of the in-person meeting, the AEA will not be providing job interview services as part of the virtual meeting.

[You may], however, continue to take advantage of the JOE Network for your job listings and letter writing, as well as the application module that includes a tool for scheduling interviews with applicants.

The AEA also continues to provide the Signaling and Job Market Scramble services as well as the EconTrack Job Information Board.

The Ad Hoc Committee on the Job Market offers guidance and periodic updates on conditions in the job market. The Ad Hoc Committee gives updated information on the condition of the market for economists. *

We will return to this slide’s material later.

* From the website: https://www.aeaweb.org/joe/communications
The Econ job market in the Covid Era

Let’s jump to the part of the Ad Hoc Committee that updates market indicators:

• Update on trends in job listings
  https://www.aeaweb.org/joe/communications/update-july-14-2020

• Financial crisis 2008-09 comparison
  https://www.aeaweb.org/joe/communications/memo-aug-11-2020

(next slide for the bright side)
Glass Half Full Remarks from the JOE Website in 2010

• Although the suggestion of a temporary decrease in the demand for Ph.D. economists is undoubtedly disappointing, our committee wishes to remind potential job candidates of reasons for optimism.

• Even if the number of new jobs listed in JOE during 2020-21 turns out to be just half of what was listed during 2019-20, that would still be nearly 2,000 jobs, which is far more than the number of new Economics Ph.D.s produced in the U.S. each year.

• Some of the listed jobs will be for senior positions, but the point remains that there is a great demand for Ph.D. economists.

• Even in the wake of the Great Recession in 2010, the unemployment rate for Ph.D. economists was just 0.9% (NSF, 2010a), which is not only far below the national unemployment rate at the time of 9.6% (BLS, 2010), it is also the lowest of any doctoral discipline (NSF, 2010a).

Against this, see two clips from the Chronicle of Higher Education, pre-one Covid.
# Job Market Schedule

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<th>Time Frame</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>May – August 2020</td>
<td>You prepare for entering the job market</td>
</tr>
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<td>September 2020</td>
<td>Dissertation proposal</td>
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<td>Jobs are announced</td>
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<td>Profs send out recommendation letters</td>
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<td>Early December 2020</td>
<td>Mock interviews at GC</td>
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<tr>
<td>3-5 January 2021</td>
<td>AEA conference “in” Chicago (all virtual)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Job interviews (all virtual)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Late January – April 2021</td>
<td>Fly-outs &amp; campus interviews</td>
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<tr>
<td>Late March 2021</td>
<td>“Scramble”</td>
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## Job Market Schedule
(for this committee)

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Are you ready?

• Does your advisor agree with your market entry?

• Do you have your documents in order?
  – Job market paper
  – Curriculum Vitae
  – Statement of teaching philosophy
  – Statement of research plans
  – Teaching evaluations
  – Website

• Are other things ready?
Are you ready?

- Job market paper
  - Completed
  - Approved
  - Proofread
  - Presented
  - Polished
- Curriculum Vitae
  - Completed
  - Approved
  - Proofread
- Statements of teaching philosophy and research plans
  - Completed
  - Approved
  - Proofread
- Teaching evaluations
  - Tabulated
- Website
  - Designed
  - Critiqued

No typos, grammatically flawless, stylistically inviting, aesthetically pleasing
Are you ready?

• **Curriculum Vitae**
• Include:
  – Name and contact information
  – Education
  – Honors and Fellowships
  – Teaching/Research Experience
  – Publications
  – Presentations
  – Professional Memberships
  – References
• And perhaps also:

  – Professional Experience
  – Grants
  – Languages
  – Technical Skills *(include online teaching skills)*
  – University Service
  – Research/Teaching Interests
  – Certifications/Professional Licensure
  – Additional Information
Are you ready?

• Curriculum Vitae
  – We have created a template. (Ask me)
  – Make it communicate instantly.
  – Be consistent in formatting.
  – Be meticulous in formatting.
  – Perfect grammar.
  – Use one font (but use different point size for emphasis*).
  – NOT ONE TYPO!!

* TBT: not too dramatic variation.
Are you ready?

• **Research Statement**
  – This should be a brief summary of all of your completed work, and anything that is sufficiently “in progress” that you can make concrete statements about the results.
  – You can list the papers individually, with brief summaries of each paper.
  – If there is an overarching theme in your research, you can write a short opening paragraph to describe this.
Are you ready?

• **Statement of Teaching Philosophy**
• Some ideas that you could address in this statement
  – What do you believe about teaching? Why?
  – What do you believe about learning? Why?
  – What principles guide you in the classroom?
  – How do you deal with students who have difficulty? Or clearly master the material easily?
  – How do you deal with diversity in the classroom?
  – What areas of your own teaching do you think you could improve? Why?
  – Be sincere!
• Length: about 1 to 2 pages, unless more is asked for.
• If at all possible, list the courses you have taught at the end of the statement
• **Many believe that hybrid teaching is here to stay**, whenever students come back to the classroom. Be sure to have a position on this.

See: Gabriela A. Montell, How to Write a Statement of Teaching Philosophy (2003)
https://www.chronicle.com/article/how-to-write-a-statement-of-teaching-philosophy/?cid=gen_sign_in
Are you ready?

- **Teaching Evaluations**
- If the school asks for evidence of “teaching effectiveness” you can send
  - Syllabi (only of courses where you’ve been the primary teacher)
  - Summaries of numerical student evaluations
  - Condensed (i.e., transcribed) versions of student comments.
  - Class evaluations by faculty members
- Include only classes where you got good evaluations, on average, but for those classes, include **all** of the comments.
Are you ready?

- GC-CUNY help with proofreading / feedback / letter writing
  - Jennifer Furlong (jfurlong@gc.cuny.edu), others will help you
- Sample cover Letters

https://careerplan.commons.gc.cuny.edu/ - click “services” for appointment system
Are you ready?

- Are other things ready?
  - Line up your letter writers
    - Advisor
    - Other members of your committee
    - Other faculty you have worked with
    - Teaching references?
  - Defend thesis proposal if you have not already done so
  - Schedule in the “student” seminar [s]

- Continue polishing the job market paper and your other papers!
And what you will also need...

• A Cover Letter
  – Your cover letter is your chance to present yourself. These letters matter a great deal!
  – No one letter is suitable for all applications
  – Thus you need job-specific letters
  – This is often the first item that recruiting committees see.
  – (If not, CV is the first item.)
Cover Letters

• First paragraph:
  – State position for which you are applying.
  – State that you are a Ph.D. candidate in economics at the CUNY Graduate Center
• Second Paragraph:
  – Discuss your research. About 4 sentences about your job market paper. About 4 sentences about other research. If you have publications or forthcoming papers, be sure to mention these. Be confident about the importance of your work without bragging.
• Third Paragraph:
  – Discuss your teaching. Discuss which classes you have taught (try to avoid merely listing these). What fields would you most like to teach? Is there anything that the search committee should know about your teaching? Emphasize your strengths here – that you’ve been more than just a T.A.*
• Fourth Paragraph:
  – Mention if you have any particular interests in the job. For example, concrete reasons why the job is in a desirable location for you. Or if you are an alum. Don’t mention if you are part of a joint (non-)academic search.
• Closing Paragraph:
  – State that you will be available at the ASSA meetings and would be happy to discuss your interest in the position further.

* (TBT) Write up you experiences with online teaching! Careful with self-evaluations: If you assign yourself A+’s it will look bad. OK to quote others’ praise of you, awards, etc.

This list is useful as an outline for first draft. You many want to vary it as per suggestions in slide 21. TT
Cover Letters

- Draft it.
- Let it sit for a few days. I suggest read it aloud.
- Think about it while in the subway, in the shower, at dinner, while watching a movie, while running, etc.:
  - Are you presenting yourself well?
- Proofread, proofread, proofread!!!
  - There should not be one typo, misspelled word, or other mistakes in your cover letter.
  - Have someone else read it.
  - You might ask your advisor to take a quick look.
Cover Letters

Articles:


• Reis, Richard M. “The Basics of Cover Letters.” *Chronicle of Higher Education*

• Vick, Julie and Jennifer S. Furlong. “Writing a Good Letter.” *Chronicle of Higher Education*
The JOE website

• During the summer of 2014, JOE changed the design and purpose of its website.
• [https://www.aeaweb.org/joe/](https://www.aeaweb.org/joe/)
• It now aims to serve all participants in the job matching process
  – Employers
  – Job seekers
  – Letter writers
Operation under COVID

https://www.aeaweb.org/conference/2021

Registration will open on September 22nd. Feel free to register at your convenience this year, in the absence of the usual rush for preferred hotel accommodations.

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Early Registration (ends Dec. 3)</th>
<th>Late Registration</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regular Attendee</td>
<td>$60</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Attendee</td>
<td>$40</td>
<td>$55</td>
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All cancellation requests must be emailed to assa@vanderbilt.edu by December 3, 2020. Refunds are not issued for any reason if requested after this date. If you register after December 3, 2020, you can not request a refund.

Virtual Platform
As an attendee, you will be able to access sessions and events from a desktop browser or the event app on a mobile device. You will receive a username and password when you register for the meetings. The virtual platform allows you to build a personal daily schedule, receive reminders and updates, search the program, take notes, and more. The app will become available for download in the first week of December.
The JOE website

• For job seekers:
  – Search and Save Available Positions
  – Create a Custom Profile
  – Manage Your CV and Applications
  – Get the Attention of Key Hiring Committees
  – Apply for Multiple Jobs from One Site
  – Request Reference Letters
  – Monitor Reference Letter Fulfillment
The JOE website

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* https://www.aeaweb.org/joe/communications

• You will need to:
  – Build your own website
  – Build your profile at the JOE Network
Selecting jobs to apply for

• Consider fields
  – Those you selected for your Second Examination
  – Those you have additional coursework in
  – “General Economics”
  – Any undergrad subjects?
    • Principles micro and macro
    • Intermediate micro and macro
    • Statistics
    • Econometrics
    • History
JEL Code and Field Description

A: General, teaching
B: History of economic thought
C: Mathematical and quantitative methods
D: Microeconomics
E: Macro and monetary economics
F: International economics
G: Financial economics
H: Public economics
I: Health, education and welfare
J: Labor and demographic economics
K: Law and economics
L: Industrial organization
M: Business admin, business eco, marketing, accounting
N: Economic history
O: Economic development
P: Economics systems
Q: Agric and natural resource economics
R: Regional, real estate, transportation economics

These choices are provided automatically in the JOE listings section.
Selecting jobs to apply for

• Consider fields
• Consider location
  – Region
  – Degree of urbanization
  – International? Which countries?
• Consider spousal preferences/opportunities
  – Professional
  – Residential
Selecting jobs to apply for

• Consider fields
• Consider location
• Consider spousal preferences/opportunities
• Consider the type of employer
  – Academic
  – Private Sector
  – Government
  – International
• Consider the level of the employer
  – Hunter College? Baruch College? John Jay College?
  – Borough of Manhattan Junior College? Bronx Community College?
Selecting jobs to apply for

- Consider fields
- Consider location
- Consider spousal preferences/opportunities
- Consider the type of employer
- Consider the level of the employer

- Thought 1: Don’t sell yourself short
- Thought 2: Don’t put all your eggs in one basket
- Thought 3: Every added restriction reduces your job prospects
- Thought 4: Don’t expect the job to come to you
Selecting jobs to apply for

Where to find them:
• Job Openings for Economists (#1)
• Chronicle of Higher Education
• www.econjobmarket.com
• inomics.com
• econ-jobs.com
Selecting jobs to apply for

• Organize the jobs you apply for in an Excel spreadsheet
  – It helps your own organization

• Provide your references with this spreadsheet to assist in their administration of the reference letters – better, tailor for the adviser

• As you add to your applications list, submit the updated spreadsheet to your references
  – Over time, your applications list will grow.
  – Don’t wait with submitting the list to your references until you collect all your applications. This would unnecessarily delay the letters of recommendation to your earliest applications.
One more thought...

• Take responsibility of your job search.
  – The world isn’t looking for you. You need to look for the right opportunity ... for any opportunity.
  – It is your future. → You search & You decide.
  – Don’t expect anybody to put a job into your hand.
  – Job search is probably more demanding than teaching a new course (or two). But the only one who can do this work for you is the person in the mirror.
  – Others can help you, but only help you.

• Scary? We’ve all gone through it.
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The Post-Pandemic College
$159.00

The coronavirus pandemic has transformed higher education like no other event in recent memory. In a matter of days, colleges closed their campuses and moved classes online, altering every part of the educational experience. As a result of the pandemic and ensuing economic crisis, colleges are facing significant financial losses, as well as a dramatic rethinking of their academic offerings—all amid the threat of a lingering disease that continues to spread, with no clear end in sight.

In this Chronicle report, leading experts examine how the pandemic will shape higher education in the years to come and what the college of the future may look like. The most responsive colleges—those best prepared to adapt to the teaching approaches of the future—will invest heavily in supporting inclusive and equitable online-learning experiences. To flourish post-Covid-19, colleges must develop a more externally-focused business model, direct resources to expand professional development in online teaching, and continue to expand mental-health services.

Purchase the report for insight into:
• How the pandemic will shape the preferences of a generation of students
• What the new classroom experience will look like and how professors should prepare
• How the pandemic will further strain enrollment and force colleges to rethink their business models
• How colleges will need to support the growing numbers of disadvantaged students
• Developing the community college experience, and why community colleges may emerge with a stronger commitment to access and local communities

Data: September 2020

For licensing requests, please contact selections@chronicle.com. For group purchases of less than 100 users, please refer to our bulk ordering schedule.
The Looming Enrollment Crisis

Higher education has experienced continued growth since the mid-20th century, but the pool of students likely to attend college is projected to rapidly decrease. States in the Upper Midwest and Northeast, which have the greatest concentration of colleges, will see the biggest declines. Even the most selective institutions should expect and prepare for difficulties in meeting enrollment and revenue goals. Threatened by years of financial strain, a steep downturn in the nation’s birthrate, and growing skepticism about the price and value of a college degree, higher education must address the enrollment declines quickly and effectively, before this complex challenge becomes an existential crisis.

The Chronicle’s report, “The Looming Enrollment Crisis: How Colleges Are Responding to Shifting Demographics and New Student Needs,” traces the turbulent futures of enrollment numbers and tuition revenues. This new report examines how colleges can best prepare for continued declines, and offers strategies for how to make the difficult decisions that will ensure the long-term survival and prosperity of academic institutions.

Purchase the report for access to:

- Data and analysis on the trends and demographic shifts that are impacting enrollment numbers, including the Great Recession, declining birth rates, and a diversifying student population
- Ten case studies of institutions that are actively combating declining enrollment numbers, by adapting their offerings, redefining their marketing strategy, and cutting costs and tuition
- Analysis from enrollment experts on the front lines with advice on how colleges can adapt and respond to emerging student needs
- A Chronicle survey of more than 250 enrollment officers on their projections and anxieties about the future of higher education

Date: November 2015
Pages: 76
Digital file size: 11.5 MB