

Interviews for Academic Jobs 4 March 2016

Moving on

Catherine Reynolds



Today


Catherine Reynolds, LSE Careers

- What to expect from the academic interview process
- Preparation and practice

Chris Moos, Management, Saïd Business School

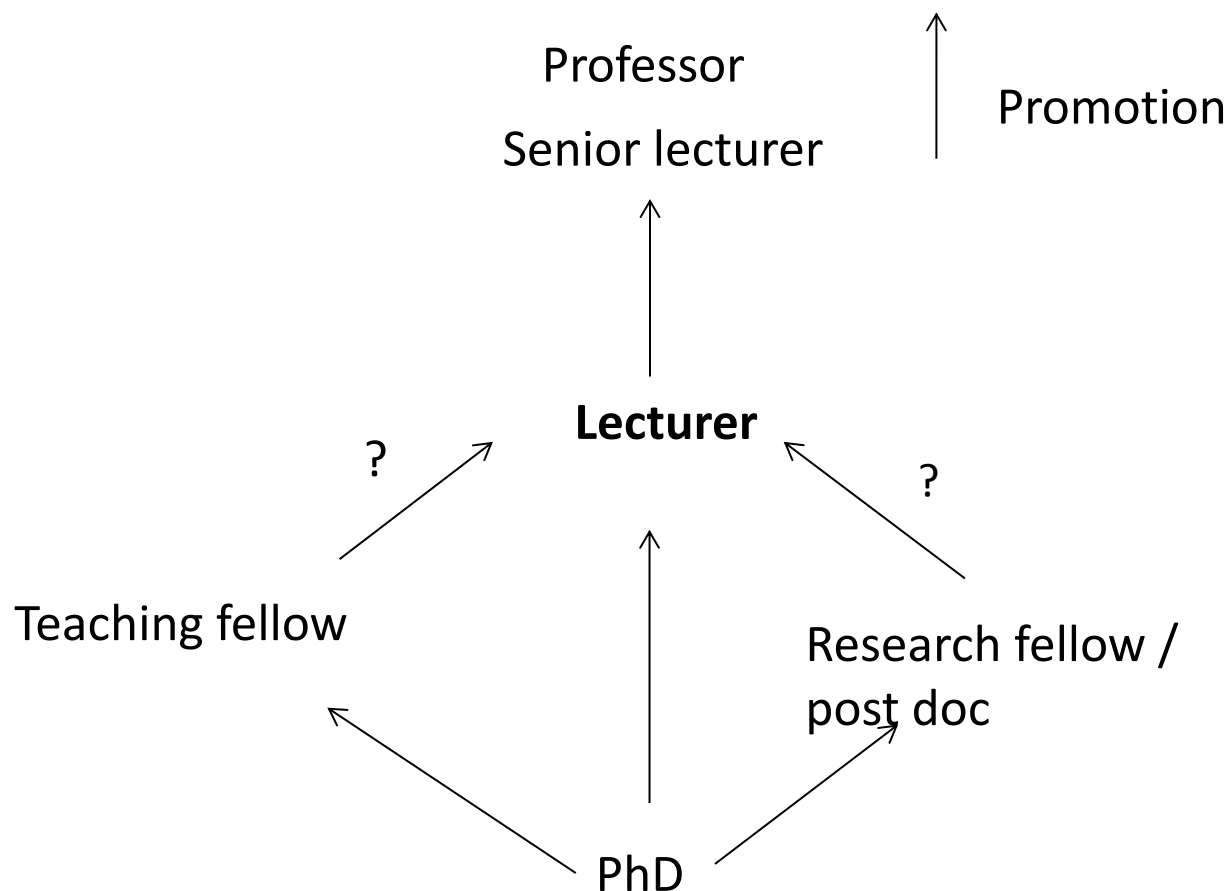
- Experience of academic interviews
- Lessons learnt

Jenevieve Mannell, Social Psychology

- Experience of academic interviews
 - Lessons learnt
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UK Academic career paths

- Jobs advertised on: www.jobs.ac.uk



Interview Process

On the day:

- Visit or tour
- Presentation
- Panel interview
- One to ones or informal chats

Already have:

- Written application
- Writing samples



Questions

1. Research interests and experience (past and future)
2. Teaching experience (past and future)
3. Service (department, discipline, field)
4. Public engagement

Motivation for this post, in this department at this university (need accurate knowledge)



Preparation

- Plan
- Prepare
- Practice (ie rehearse)

Keep asking for help!



Impact!

- Body language
- Voice
- Words



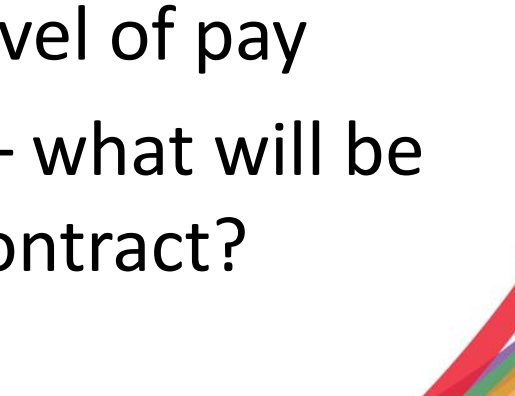
After the interview

- Make a note of questions – you'll soon forget
- If you don't hear by the suggested date, follow up
- If you are unsuccessful, ask for feedback, but don't expect too much
- Few interviews go perfectly – learn from experience



It's your decision too

Thinking about first academic job....

- Do you want to focus on teaching or research or a mixture of both?
 - Teaching load – time for research?
 - Job security/length of contract/ level of pay
 - For fixed term contract positions – what will be your next step at the end of the contract?
 - How well do you 'fit'?
- 

Further support

- PhD Careers Seminars
- 1:1 appointments including interview preparation
- Web based [information](#)

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Dr Jenevieve Mannell

My experience interviewing for academic jobs in the UK

- Lecturer in Global Health, Institute for Global Health, UCL (since 2015)
- LSE Fellow in Social Psychology (2012 – 15)
- PhD in gender studies (2012) from LSE
- MSc in social psychology (2006) from LSE
- Also, 10 years research and consultancy work

[Dr Jenevieve Mannell](#)

My experience

- Post PhD round of applications: 15 customised applications, 4 shortlisted, 3 interviews, 2 offers, 1 job!
- My 1st interview was a disaster (lack of experience, extremely high level job)

My experience

- Interviews included: a presentation of my research + a panel interview
- Pre-interview tasks: prepare a course design on xx course
- 3 different interviews (theoretical/ methodological, desirable criteria, review of my CV)

Vague things people told me about preparing for academic interviews...

1. Publish in high impact journals
2. Make sure you have teaching experience
3. Develop a clear programme of research for the future

What they really mean...

1. Publish in high impact journals
 - Be specific in your cover letter **and** CV about exactly what you have published, in which journals (including IF ratings) and any impact these have had (media, views, etc.)

What they really mean...

2. Make sure you have teaching experience
 - Be prepared to talk about the specifics of teaching students at different levels (supervising, lecturing, seminars, course design), and then some (Moodle, international students, teaching professionals, online teaching, teaching innovations, awards received, etc.)

What they really mean...

3. Have a clear programme of research

- Know your research programme inside out:
 - Contribution to the literature
 - **Theoretical framework**
 - **Methodology**
 - Top findings
 - Policy '**impact**' (national and/or international)
 - Key published and forthcoming papers
 - Grants (applied for, future plans or successes)

Common *tough* interview questions

- Why do you want this job? Why are you the best person for this job?
- How is your research new?
- How will your research have an impact on policy?
- Why is your methodology the best for answering the kinds of questions you are interested in?
- How would you design a course on xx?