

On preparing pre: Nov 15:

- You cannot predict how well you will do. Trying to 'game things' is not useful.
- Having a clean draft <<< November is very helpful. You will rewrite things for sure, but having everything written up even as you add things will reduce the pressure immensely
- Keep track of deadlines pre-Nov 15. A few jobs that friends and I applied for (esp Business schools) have early deadlines and getting your app to consideration while submitting late is hard
 - That said, I'm very unsure of how much this *really* mattered in the end. My advisors didn't have letters to submit until just before Thanksgiving. I asked for early ones for a few jobs and 2/3 actually submitted drafts early. It's unclear how much this helped me. I didn't get any of those early jobs.
 - Where it really did help is that I had drafts of cover letters, research statements, teaching statements, etc very early on, and this made the actual apps much much faster
 - Where do you find listings? I continuously screened the AEA website, econjobmarket and others daily starting in late Sept and kept an updated google doc w/ friends. Not sure what the cost/benefit ratio is but I found it helpful.
- This one is important: Treat Nov 15 as the deadline and submit everything right away. Friends who did apps one at a time as they were due had a much harder/more stressful time. You should post all of your materials by ~Nov 15. At that point, everything is public and you should be ready. Deadlines are not always representative of when people will read your stuff. A few days after Nov 15 isn't a big deal, but waiting till Thanksgiving is risky business.
 - I had a commitment device in the form of an international trip on Nov 16

-- On AEA interviews:

- The experience can vastly differ dept to dept. One interview I did had 20 people in the room, another had 2. Most had 4-8. Many were all men. I didn't find this particular aspect stressful, but it's good to be prepared.
- I think that having a polished spiel is helpful, but being prepared for (a) new questions; (b) questions about other work should be expected. I got caught off guard on one interview with a question about a conference paper I wrote in 2014.
- Be prepared to answer, "Why does this matter [for economics]?" re: your JMP as articulately as you can. People pay a lot of attention to this one.

-- On travel and flyouts:

- Do what feels right re: your comfort
 - Routine re: food and exercise are important to me, so I kept as much of home alive as I could. I tried to come home as often as I could (sometimes for <24 hours) to see my partner, eat some home food and do a gym session. This involved doing more flights than were absolutely necessary, but it helped me feel centered. Other people did very different things -- one girl I know basically spent 2 months on the road without breaks at home.

- It is okay if you don't get much work done between Nov 15 and the end of the market. You will definitely do stuff -- improve your talk (mostly), and maybe some other stuff. But it might not be a horribly productive time both because you'll be busy and because you'll be stressed out. If it's not coming, don't force it. Being on top of your game on the market is a full time job even if it doesn't necessarily feel that way on the day to day sometimes.
- Flyout dinners are often with all men. Sometimes with all old men. Most of the time it's pretty fun, but sometimes it can be awkward and sometimes people say uncomfortable things. Nothing much to do about it but be prepared. For what it's worth, nothing sufficiently awkward happened to me that it stuck around in my memory.

-- On general stuff:

- One of the most awkward part of the job market is the question of whom to talk to about stuff. I had two friends whom I felt comfortable talking to (on the market, also) because I trusted that we would be happy for each other if good things happened, supportive if bad things happened, and because we found it useful to pool information. There were many other friends whom I love and trust but whom I didn't talk to about the market almost at all. I don't regret that.