WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

BALANCING ACADEMIC LIFE & FAMILY (INTERDISCIPLINARY)

This workshop will focus on the issues or factors that create tension between family and career. Successful techniques and specific strategies will be offered for balancing family and work life. Participants are invited to describe their obstacles to maintaining a productive career and successful family life. The following discussion will examine what resources might be helpful, the issue of “unbounded time” for academics, how to set realistic goals, and how people can manage and prioritize the competing demands on time and energy.

CURRICULUM VITAE – DEVELOPMENT & REVISION (INTERDISCIPLINARY)

This interactive workshop will go over general guidelines for developing a CV. Review examples of successful CVs and learn how to write a cover letter that will bring the CV to life. Participants are encouraged to bring their CVs/resumes as they currently stand, as there will be time to work on them in small groups, exchange CVs, and provide feedback to one another.

DISSERTATION WRITING – STRATEGIES & PITFALLS (INTERDISCIPLINARY)

This workshop will provide a general overview of a filed dissertation in your field. This interactive workshop will help fellows determine where they are in the writing process and how they can transform their writing into a dissertation. We will go over how to develop a general timeline for completing current projects.

ENGAGING ACROSS DISCIPLINES (INTERDISCIPLINARY)

Important research ideas often extend beyond a single discipline or sub-field. This workshop will address some of the benefits and challenges to working across disciplines. These discussions will include how interdisciplinary work stimulates the generation of new approaches to research problems and questions. Participants will also cover the importance of new knowledge production, the vocabulary to understand other disciplines and the necessary communication skills for successful collaborations. What are the other benefits of interdisciplinary research? How does a team-based research approach translate to the job market?

GRANT WRITING AND PUBLISHING (BY DISCIPLINE)

This workshop will demonstrate general characteristics and proven methods, regarding successful grant proposals in various disciplines. Participants will discuss how to approach a grant proposal topic, surveying what writers may be interested in, and preparatory work done prior to writing to making the topic more attractive. For STEM fields, we will break down how the NIH/NSF funding agencies really operate and discuss how to address each section of the grant application in your writing, get the attention of key people in the funding stream. For all fields, the discussion will include a list of the qualities of successful proposals, and critical errors to avoid, and explain what to do if your proposal gets rejected.

The workshop also includes a discussion of academic publishing and a general timeline of publishing a paper. What makes a paper publishable in various fields? How can you transform a paper or research data you already have into something publishable? We will also discuss the general timeline of publishing a paper. Professional publishing contacts and resources will be shared.
JOB SEARCH (BY DISCIPLINE)

This workshop provides general guidelines for conducting a job search in various disciplines. The most critical aspects of applying from cover letter, CV, job talks and interviews will be discussed including when to bring up the subject of partner/spousal hires. This workshop will address these particular elements while focusing on the job search timeline and covering everything from when to go on the job market, how to look for positions, how to develop job talk materials and how to find opportunities to practice interviewing.

MENTORING: GIVING IT & GETTING IT (INTERDISCIPLINARY)

This workshop will begin with a discussion of the philosophy of mentoring. What are the mutual responsibilities and expectations from a mentoring relationship? We will discuss the long-term nature of a mentoring relationship for a doctoral-level graduate student; and describe how the mentoring relationship changes over time. We will discuss how the mentoring relationship may have changed over the last 10 years as it reflects the changes in the academic world. We will discuss the best practices and things to avoid for mentors and mentees. We will also describe how mentoring relationships may be different for students/faculty in the natural/"hard" sciences where the emphasis might be on finding a post-doc position, and securing grants and outside funding.

RACE, GENDER, CLASS & SEXUALITY IN ACADEMIA (INTERDISCIPLINARY)

The goal of this workshop is to explore personal experiences regarding this topic including challenges and successes in regard to overcoming obstacles. Participants will determine the issues that are problematic for fellows during a facilitated and balanced discussion, addressing race and gender related obstacles in academe as well as strategies to deal with these issues in a career The conversation will also include a discussion of the problematic issues of class and sexuality within academia along with strategies for dealing with these differences among colleagues.