


REPPING
YOUR SKILLS IN THE
#ALTAC  **MARKET**

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**DCS ALTERNATIVE ACADEMIC
CAREERS WORKSHOP SERIES**

SEPTEMBER 22, 2020

TODAY!

- TRANSLATING your previous work experiences into AltAc spaces
- CONSIDERATIONS for your job market materials
- BUILDING a professional online presence
- REQUESTING information interviews

 **DISCLAIMER** 

TRANSLATING your previous work experiences into AltAc spaces

IMPORTANTLY! You have the experiences for the work

When TRANSLATING your work into a resume or talking about it, think about:

Breaking down the process

Describing individual steps

SOME EXAMPLES...

TRANSLATING your previous work experiences into AltAc spaces

Your **TEACHING** Experience

Developed syllabus

Delivered content/taught the class

Developed assessments to gauge understanding

Translating the experience for **training & technical assistance work**

Identified critical topics, collated relevant materials, and designed curriculum

Transferred knowledge and information through multiple formats (presentation, development of deliverables)

Gauged understanding of topics and modified materials to reinforce important materials and lessons

TRANSLATING your previous work experiences into AltAc spaces

RESEARCHING with faculty

Conducted Literature Reviews

Managed Data & Conducted Analysis

Assisted with report and manuscript writing, and conference presentation

Translating the experience for research & project-based work

Collated existing research on various topics, identified research gaps in the knowledge base, helped develop critical questions to answer gaps, wrote summaries of research within quick deadlines

Managed primary and secondary quantitative data, and qualitative data adhering to confidentiality and security protocols, conducted mixed-methods analysis using SPSS and Atlas.ti, respectively

Developed materials for various audiences in various formats including, technical reports, peer-reviewed publications, conference presentations, and podcasts

TRANSLATING your previous work experiences into AltAc spaces

Your **DISSERTATION**

Identified important research area to fill specific need

Developed methodology and executed research project

Translating the experience for **any place, really**

Identified critically important problem and described scope of the problem, developed necessary research question grounded in theory and policy context to help answer problem. Authored all IRB paperwork and worked with agency for data use agreement.

Developed mixed-methodology to answer research question. Worked with agency research department to understand administrative data available, collected needed data and built additional variables, as necessary. Developed numerous interview instruments for incarcerated persons and prison staff. Served as liaison to prison staff to coordinate site visits and data collection protocols. Trained and managed 12 young researchers on data collectins. Developed rapport with prison officials to conduct 100 semi-structured interviews inside restricted housing units

TRANSLATING your previous work experiences into AltAc spaces

Your **DISSERTATION**

Interpreted findings to address previously identified need and contribute to larger body of research

Translating the experience for **any place, really**

Organized and managed quantitative and qualitative data. Used various statistical software to conduct iterative analyses.

Presented findings directly to agency staff and provided important practical recommendations. Authored agency final report.

Authored three peer-reviewed publications situating the findings from the work into the larger policy and practice context to provide meaningful answers to important questions.

TRANSLATING your previous work experiences into AltAc spaces



PROTIPS!

MIMIC the language of the position positing!

DETAIL areas of responsibility and role centrality

DRAW ATTENTION to areas of skill refinement

HIGHLIGHT unexpected skills

Graphic Design → Development of Infographics

Audio & Video Editing → Training videos & podcasts

“Alternative” project management and applied work

Experience with budgeting and/or cost estimation

**Important for
getting you in
the door and
salary
negotiations!**

PAUSE

ANY QUESTIONS?

CONSIDERATIONS for your job market materials

RESUME vs CV?!?!

Research-based spaces likely to ask for both (think: Urban, Vera, RTI, Rand, Pew...)

RESUME concerns

- Length (1-3 pp)
- Language – Avoid jargon, ground your experience in action verbs!
- Focus – EMPHASIZE experiences over research outcomes (e.g. publications)
- Make your own decisions about format and sections to include
- Show your personality! But, also recognize need for parsimony!
- Every resume you submit should vary based upon the position. No two resumes are created the same.



CONSIDERATIONS for your job market materials

THAT COVER LETTER, THO

- Reference the organization and position
- Explicitly discuss areas of alignment
- Focus more on applied research and direct work with agencies, and your approach to translational research
- Avoid jargon and prepare your materials for a general audience
- If it feels right... offer questions you'd love to explore or ideas you're passionate about
- SPOILER ALERT: If you do info interviews, you can ask for cover letter pointers
- Be strategic about references

CONSIDERATIONS for your job market materials



MORE PROTIPS!

ORGANIZE resume/CV sections based upon priorities of specific Alt Ac spaces



RESEARCH FIRM: Grants, Reports, Data Management Experiences, Mixed Audience Presentations, Convening Stakeholders experiences, Peer-Review Publications



AGENCY SETTING: Experiences working with admin data, grant work/proposal development, technical reports/presentations, deemphasize peer-reviewed pubs



ADVOCACY ORGS: EXPERIENCES! Especially working in community and with stakeholders, writing for general audiences, grant work/proposal development, deemphasize peer-reviewed pubs

CONSIDERATIONS for your job market materials

FLEX electronic resume skills, embedded links for example

COLLECT EXAMPLES! Get inspired, #inspo

Go down the internet rabbit hole and find examples

Look for examples from people in similar positions, **PEEP THEIR LINKEDINS FOR MORE INSPO**

Get feedback and revise!

PAUSE

ANY QUESTIONS?

BUILDING a professional online presence

TAKE THOSE HEADSHOTS and get online!



LinkedIn



Research Gate



Twitter

SLIDE INTO THOSE DMs and make connections



BUILDING a professional online presence

EVEN MORE PROTIPS!



BE CONSCIOUS of your professional social media brand

SHARE these links/accounts as appropriate to show skills

REQUESTING information interviews

USE THEIR TIME WISELY, be prepared with questions. Order them by what you think is most important. Be creative about how you ask questions to elicit helpful tips for your app.

Think about how you're perceived. **BUILD RAPPORT**. Write down "moments" for later. You're kinda already interviewing for that job you may or may not want there.


SEND SOME KIND OF PERSONAL THANK YOU.

BUT WAIT! THERE'S **MORE PROTIPS**



INFORMATIONAL INTERVIEW questions

ACTION VERB pdf

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