

## **Additional Thoughts and Student Questions for Alt-Ac Skill Building Session: Repping your Skills in AltAc Markets**

*Tuesday, September 22, 2020*

**Shannon Magnuson (to Everyone):** 11:03 AM: Welcome all! Remember to mute yourselves while you're listening. Feel free to unmute yourselves to ask questions or pop them here!

**Shannon Magnuson (to Everyone):** 11:09 AM: These translations are good if you're interested in consulting firms (Deloitte, Booz-Allen etc), technical assistant firms (Policy Research Associates, Center For State Governments)

**Shannon Magnuson (to Everyone):** 11:10 AM: Also great for any positions that call for you to do training or some kind of content development. Generally speaking, talking about your content development shows you have broad knowledge of topics and can think critically about how to talk about them and challenge them.

**Chelsea Foudray (to Everyone):** 11:13 AM: How would you denote that on your resume?

**Shannon Magnuson (to Everyone):** 11:13 AM: "authored executive summaries from collated research"

**Shannon Magnuson (to Everyone):** 11:13 AM: "distilled research quickly and produced summary information to inform decisions on the ground"

**Shannon Magnuson (to Everyone):** 11:15 AM: If you work with faculty and are analyzing agency data, note that!!

**Shannon Magnuson (to Everyone):** 11:24 AM: In the later years of my doc program, I was responsible for training undergrads and master students working on projects. I was also responsible for managing their work, their data and making sure the team was meeting deadlines. I discuss my role as CENTRL to managing the project and showed I could also manage teams and work. Consider the training you're doing at your home institutions,

even with new hires or new people on your projects. Talk about those experiences!!

**Shannon Magnuson (to Everyone):** 11:26 AM: Did you receive any grant money for your dissertation? You had to figure out a budget for those awards! Note that on resumes!

**Chelsea Foudray (to Everyone):** 11:28 AM: You took some time talking about how to highlight these skills, but I was wondering about how to prioritize them? Especially when people ask for a limited resume?

**Shannon Magnuson (to Everyone):** 11:30 AM: Great question Chelsea! Give us a few minutes we have a slide for that :)

**Nili Gesser (to Everyone):** 11:29 AM: Should your dissertation go under work experience or your education section?

**Shannon Magnuson (to Everyone):** 11:32 AM: Nili -- we'll talk here shortly about ordering (per Chelsea's question) and how to develop sections that might help answer your question more explicitly

**Shannon Magnuson (to Everyone):** 11:35 AM: Your sections on your resume should be UNIQUE to the space that you're applying to!

**Shannon Magnuson (to Everyone):** 11:36 AM: Personally, I'd cut awards (unless they are grant awards) to put in more applied work experience examples

**Shannon Magnuson (to Everyone):** 11:37 AM: You could further define research sections as: applied-research experience, administrative data research experience, project management experience Other sections on my resume (because giving trainings is part of my job) include "Professional Trainings delivered" "invited presentations". You could have a section called "Research Experience" then have the title of your dissertation then describe the process. Then, have other titles of projects you've worked on with faculty.

**Shannon Magnuson (to Everyone):** 11:38 AM: For Alt Ac spaces, I highlight presentations I've done with varied audiences more than

ASC/ACJS presentations For example, presenting at APPA, IACP and any agency findings presentations

**Christopher Thomas (to Everyone):** 11:42 AM: I don't have a lot of experience working with agencies or other non-academic work, so any suggestions on how to build that experience in the next year? Any low hanging fruit that could translate my purely academic work to more applied settings?

**Shannon Magnuson (to Everyone):** 11:46 AM: Christopher! Good point -- You can definitely investigate professional association conferences for example APPA (probation) and ACA (corrections). ALSO, agencies are ALWAYS looking for extra set of hands. You can actually (believe it or not) cold call local agencies and ask if you can offer help in any way looking at their data. Think: if you live some place that does county probation, city police department etc. You can reach out to them and offer your services.

**Shannon Magnuson (to Everyone):** 11:48 AM: Even if you do work in corrections and sentencing but reach out to a police department, it might not personally interest you, but the skills are still the same. AND, after, you now know more about another part of the justice system. Shout out to broad knowledge!

**amanda (to Everyone):** 11:48 AM: do police departments really allow for researchers to come in and help out? how would one even begin this conversation?

**Shannon Magnuson (to Everyone):** 11:51 AM: They sure do! More so though at the local level. They have questions, too! But rarely have the research staff to answer them. You may want to talk to your faculty about how to tag team a cold-call so you can show you have backing.

**Danielle Rudes (to Everyone):** 11:56 AM: You can also volunteer. Lots of non-profits and agencies will take your "free labor" and you can get applied experience in your field.

**Amy Dezember (to Everyone):** 12:01 PM: In the courts research/practitioner partnership space -- court admin data is public record and typically publicly available (with varying degrees of challenge to access depending on the jurisdiction). In a non-COVID time, go to courts and make yourself seen and available -- its a public building! Often times courts

don't even realize how research can be used to help their functioning so if you have good ideas they may be willing/interested in talking about your ideas

**Sydney Nicole Ingel (to Everyone):** 11:55 AM: How important is it to have a LinkedIn and/or social media presence?

**Shannon Magnuson (to Everyone):** 11:56 AM: Sydney -- We'll chat about that shortly. Hold tight :)

**Nili Gesser (to Everyone):** 11:55 AM: Did you say cover letter can be 2-3 pages? I heard one page max

**Shannon Magnuson (to Everyone):** 11:57 AM: Cover letter length - You can do one page or two pages. If you do information interviews this might be something you might want to ask about what's appropriate.

**Shelby Weaver (to Everyone):** 11:57 AM: Can you talk more about writing opportunities for general audiences and where we might find or look for those?

**Shannon Magnuson (to Everyone):** 11:59 AM: Yes! Corrections Today is for Corrections Professional Audience. Perspectives for Probation Audience.

**Nili Gesser (to Everyone):** 12:01 PM: I did not maintain my research gate profile until I saw someone from an institution I'm interested in viewed my profile after I had contacted him... It was a learning experience.

**Sydney Nicole Ingel (to Everyone):** 12:19 PM: For twitter, do you keep separate profiles for professional vs. personal?

**Shannon Magnuson (to Everyone):** 12:20 PM: Sydney -- you can! That's a popular technique. However.... I would say for some government jobs (local, state and federal spaces, especially) they consider ANYTHING you do in public an extension of your position with them.

**Kelsey (to Everyone):** 12:20 PM: If you are considering multiple avenues

(academic, research, nonprofit orgs), what are tips to develop a cohesive online presence that addresses multiple potential career paths?

**Shannon Magnuson (to Everyone):** 12:22 PM: Kelsey --- greattttt question! Describing your experiences objectively (think on LinkedIn), be thoughtful of the links you share or commentary you add (think twitter). You can challenge current ideas in this climate from a research perspective.