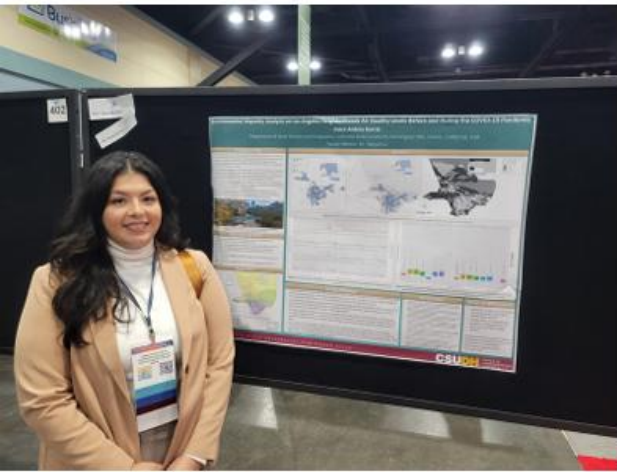


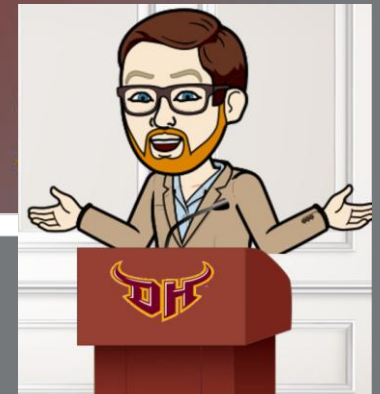
Attending Research Conferences “SUCCESSFULLY”



Facilitated by Dr. Ken Seligson, Department of Anthropology

FEB 25th | 2:30-3:30 PM |

CSUDH | OFFICE OF
UNDERGRADUATE
RESEARCH



Brief Overview

Personal Introduction

Why, Where, When?

Planning Ahead

Presenting

Making the Most of it

Afterward

Who am I?

Dr. Ken Seligson

Associate Professor

Dept. of Anthropology

CSUDH – 6 years

USC – 3 years

PhD – U. of Wisconsin

Too many conferences to
count



Why???

- Networking
- Sharing
- Learning
- CV/Resume building
- Practice
- Leadership/Org. Structure
- Socializing
- Travel
- Interviews



Where??

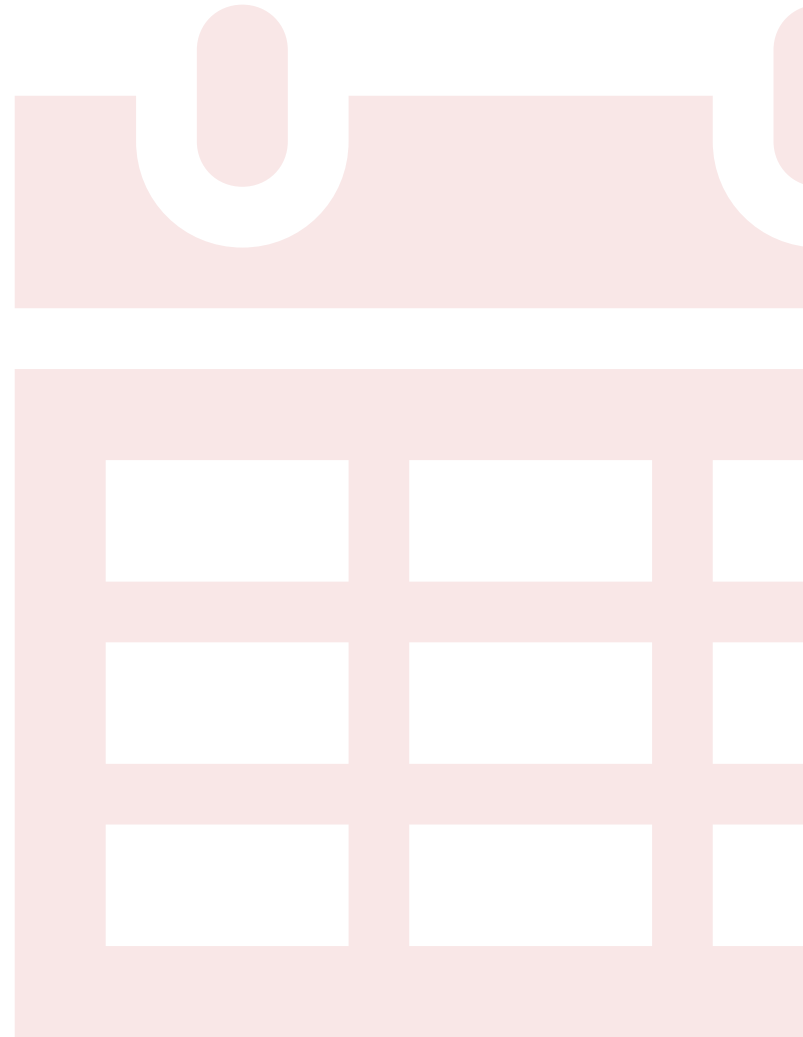
- Local conferences
- Regional conferences
- National conferences
- International conferences

- Different purposes, different expectations, different pressure levels.



When???

- Now!
- Plan in advance
 - sometimes a year or more in advance
 - Look at annual calendar
 - Maybe one or two per year, maybe more if they are local
- Attend as Undergrad to build experience



How???

Plan ahead:

Finding Conferences and Funding

- Ask your professors
- Check professional org. websites
- OUR

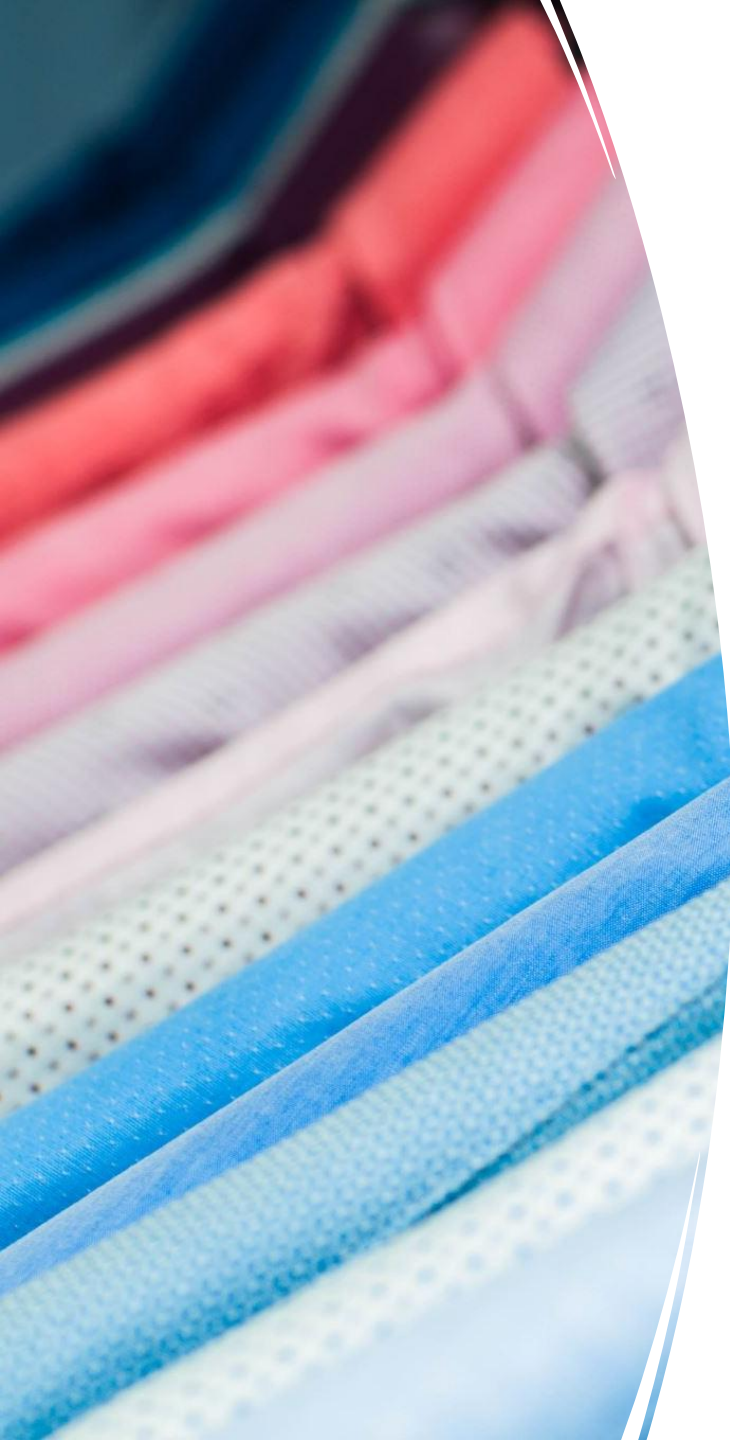
- Apply for funding from
 - OUR
 - Professional organizations
 - Private foundations



Plan ahead: Conference Hotels

- Hotels, Convention Centers
- Reserved blocks, student rates
- Room with other students
- Positives:
 - Run into people
 - Can go right downstairs to sessions
- Negatives
 - Expensive





Plan ahead: Conference Attire

- Dress professionally appropriate to the conference vibe and location
- Pants, Skirt, Button-down...
- Making an impression

Plan
ahead:
Make a
Budget

- Estimate a budget in advance as best you can
- Volunteer
- Be thrifty with food expenses
 - Bring food
 - Attend Conference events where food is served

Plan ahead:
Get Work Done in
Advance

- Homework, grading, assignments
- Don't expect to work at the conference
- Avoid being smacked by a return to reality the following week...



Presenting: Presentation Formats

- Oral presentations
 - Symposia
 - Poster presentations
 - Lightning rounds
 - Roundtables
-
- Different formats,
different expectations,
different levels of
pressure



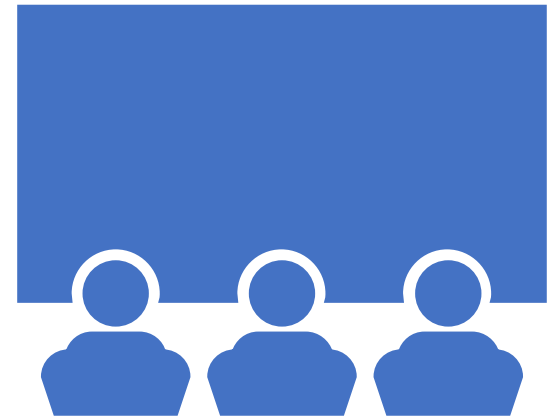
Presenting: Challenge Yourself

- The more presentations you give, the better and more comfortable you will be at it
- Very few people enjoy public speaking from the start
- YOU are the expert
- Maybe start off with small local conferences and then expand outward from there



Presenting: Practice!

- Practice your public speaking
 - On your own
 - Friends
 - Classes
 - Theater 120



Presenting: Organize a Session



- Make connections
- Build social capital
- Organizational experience
- Publication possibilities
- CV/Resume
- Make sure to not take on too much



Making the most of it: Networking

- Good place to meet researchers and scholars whose work interests you
- Your peers
- Attend conference functions, especially those for students
- Some advisers introduce you, others don't
- Don't put too much pressure on yourself – just hanging out is networking!

Make the most of it: Business Meetings

- Most conferences have “business meetings”
- Discuss policies, plans, position elections, awards
- Chance to see how organization or conference works
- Boring, but important
- Leadership?
- Student roles
- Sub-group/committee meetings



Make the most of it: Idea Notebook

- Bring a small notebook to take notes during sessions
- You will undoubtedly hear things that will spark your own ideas
- Research questions, methods, approaches you had not considered
- Phone...





Make the most of it: Business Cards

- ...Or some way to share your contact information
- Digital Business cards
- QR codes



Make the most of it: Explore

- Explore the city
- Conference trips: local museums, institutes, or other local landmarks
- Chance to not only see the sights, but to socialize



Afterward: Go with the Flow

- Take the inspiration and run with it
- Follow up on sources, articles, recommendations you received
- Start preparing for the next conference while the experiences of this last one are fresh in mind

Afterward: Follow-Up Emails

- Strengthening connections
 - Established scholars
 - Peers
- Remembering you
- Building a rep
- Invite them to give a talk?
- “It was very nice to meet you...”
- “Look forward to following up again soon...”





And most
importantly...

Enjoy!

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Thank You to

Aysa Monae Collins,
Tigress Briggs-Wroten,

and the OUR Team!

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