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SPEAKERS

Kristin Lloyd, Alex Nur, Jenn Tostlebe, Viviana Aranda-Hughes, Jose Sanchez



Jose Sanchez 00:13

Hi everyone, welcome back to the criminology Academy where we are criminally academic. My name is Jose Sanchez,



Jenn Tostlebe 00:19

and my name is Jenn Tostlebe.



Jose Sanchez 00:20

Today, we have an unprecedented three guests on the podcast. Viviana Aranda-Hughes, Kristin Lloyd, and Alex Nur to talk with us about networking and conferences during graduate school.



Jenn Tostlebe 00:33

Vivian Aranda-Hughes is a doctoral candidate at Florida State University's College of Criminology and Criminal Justice. She holds a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in sociology. Her research interests include victimization and offending over the life course, corrections, Mental Health and Family Violence.



Jose Sanchez 00:53


Dr. Kristin Lloyd is an assistant professor in the Department of Criminal Justice and criminology at Georgia Southern University. She received her PhD from Florida State University in 2021. Her research focuses on victimization, life-course criminology, and family influences on crime.





Jenn Tostlebe 01:11


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And Alexandra Nur, graduated from UC Irvine with a bachelor's degree in criminology, law and society in psychology and social behavior, and holds a master's in criminology from Penn State. She is currently a doctoral candidate in Penn State's criminology program, Her research interests focus on corrections with an emphasis on prison program completion and misconduct, and on incarceration as a barrier to human capital accumulation. Thank you to all three of you for joining us to chat about this important graduate school topic.


 Alex Nur 01:43
Thanks for having us.


 Viviana Aranda-Hughes 01:44
Thank you for having us.


 Kristin Lloyd 01:46
Thanks so much.

 Jose Sanchez 01:49
Okay, so a quick overview, like we usually do for today's episode. So, it's really just a pretty straight forward, we're going to be talking about networking and conferences. And then we're going to talk a little bit about networking, during COVID-19, which is kind of an unprecedented time for all of us. And hopefully, a just a once in a lifetime type of deal. But we can probably still learn some important things about conferencing during COVID-19.

 Jenn Tostlebe 02:21
All right, cool. Well, let's kick things off with a broad question, which is what we typically do on the podcast. So in one sentence, can each of you tell us why you think networking is important? Whoever wants to go first.

 Viviana Aranda-Hughes 02:38
I can go ahead and start. In my one sentence, I think it's important for rising scholars and new students, or students in general to it's a way for them to integrate and immerse themselves in our field.

 Kristin Lloyd 02:56
Yeah, I guess similar to what Vivian said, you know, conferencing, or going to conferences, networking at conferences really opens doors that maybe you wouldn't otherwise open. If you don't attend, and if you don't make those connections.

 Alex Nur 03:09

Yeah, I think for me, it's kind of open career trajectories and opportunities that I didn't really know that I had access to just, I think I painted grad school and its outcomes in really broad pictures, but there's very specific things you can do within the field.



Jenn Tostlebe 03:27

Yeah, then yeah, great, great answers. I think for me, just to like add in because I think all three of you are currently in criminology department. So, Jose and I are kind of in a unique situation, because we're both in sociology. So for us, it's like broadened the amount or of criminologists that we get to interact with which is not typical in our program right now.



Jose Sanchez 03:54

Yeah, I think there's only a handful of us in our department right now. So, we're pretty small group. So yeah, it is nice. Being able to speak with others in the field.



Viviana Aranda-Hughes 04:04

I can I can relate to that. So I did my Master's in sociology and ours was in that program it was a criminology You know, there was this criminology side and, and the sociology side and, and there, I mean, there was like a whole world that opened up to me when I went to my first ASC conference during my master's the second year, my master's program.



Jose Sanchez 04:24

Yeah, okay, I can agree with that, too. I went to my first ASC, my first year of my master's program, and I was I was like, I don't know what's happening right now.



Jenn Tostlebe 04:41

Alright, so kind of building off of that. When do you believe that graduate students should start thinking about building or expanding their network and why?



Kristin Lloyd 04:53

I was just gonna say, you know, I think personally early and often, you know, I didn't go to ASC my first year of the master's program at FSU or the second year. And I kind of regretted that because I felt like my colleagues in the program were starting to build relationships. And I almost had you know, this this sense of FOMO, if you will, because they were getting to experience so much. And you know, what I've learned in the last few years last like six years, I guess, is our field is really small. And you never know, like, what opportunities may come up, you never know the connections you may build. And, you know, it's just, it's super important because you never know what collaborations you can join, what jobs are going to come up, what research projects are out there. And I don't know there are cool people in our field, so why not just go talk to them.

A

Alex Nur 05:41

I think it became easier for me to really network with people, once I had a more tangible idea of what my area of interest was, even if it was broad. My first ASC I just kind of would like wander up to people and be like, Hi, I'm studying this. And they were like, okay, that's super. But I think once I became more focused, and I started learning, like, who are the other people who do these kinds of things, it became easier to approach people with like a more concrete like, Hi, I read this paper that you wrote, and it was really interesting. Would you want to talk more about that? So I think I think once you have kind of an idea of something, or even if it's multiple things you want to study and you start kind of digging deeper into the literature, you know, it might be a good idea to start reaching out to those people who you have common ground with.

V

Viviana Aranda-Hughes 06:35

Yeah, I would echo I heard most of what would Alex's said what Alex said her response was, and when all of what Kristin said and I, I completely agree. I mean, I, earlier, the better. I mean, as soon as you can, on my, I would, like I wish I would have gone during my first year. Even if I didn't have something to present. I know they can get that get expensive. But I do know that some universities offer and some colleges offer participation, money to go just to participate in the conference. And so I know it can be tough financially, because it can get pretty expensive. But boy, is it worth it. I, you know, graduate school goes by so fast. And you know, I hate to say it, but you really only have like, so much time during graduate school to start making these relationships and building these relationships early on. And, and yeah, so I it's it, I think you need to go early and start expanding, and start meeting people. As soon as you can get out there, and then you and then as you go, you start to get more comfortable as you become more, you know, more senior in your program.

K

Kristin Lloyd 07:40

Yeah, and you know, you're spending all this money to go as we touched on Vivian, it's obviously quite expensive to go to conferences, especially if you're on the west coast, you have to travel to, you know, the majority of the east coast conferences. But, you know, if your school can support you, that's great, but you're still spending all this money, and you might as well make it a little bit more worthwhile not just to see the sights around the city, and to have some fun with your friends. But you know, to make those meaningful connections that are going to last you throughout your career, hopefully, a lot of cases.

V

Viviana Aranda-Hughes 08:06

Yeah, absolutely. And then like, you know, Kristin mentioned earlier also is that our field is so is small, I mean, there's a lot of people but really, when you are starting to become more immersed in it, you realize how small it is. And so, you know, I, you know, that's why I said earlier, you want to get in there immerse yourself and, and just become part of that field, because this is what you're, you know, you're you're spending all of this time in graduate school and all of this money to go, why not become a part of it.

A

Alex Nur 08:35

The great thing about the field being so small so is that you're really only separated by most people by like a couple degrees. So, you can always kind of find someone through someone else to make those early connections with with people who might be more senior in like your area of study or like your field or that kind of thing.

V Viviana Aranda-Hughes 08:56

Yeah, absolutely. Oh my gosh, 100% agree with that. Yes.

J Jose Sanchez 09:00

Yeah. So I completely agree. So like, I mean, I went to ASC for the first time, the first year of my master's program, and I completely paid for out of pocket because I came from like a very small department, like hardly anyone ever goes. But I got lucky. So, this is kind of a funny story. I was standing in one of the hallways completely lost. I wasn't sure what I was doing. And all of a sudden, this professor walks up to me. And he says, I like basically introduced themselves asked me and asked me what I'm doing. I'm like, I don't know, I'm just kind of standing here trying to figure it out. And he said, well, why don't you come with me and you know, you can hang out with my group for a little while. And I basically became part of this network of like Hispanic scholars within criminology that I'm still part of today and like I still talk to a lot of them. People will email me when they join, because of our interest line up, like, I've had a couple people call email me that I would have never met if I hadn't, you know, it was kind of by luck. But if I hadn't gone to the conference, I wouldn't have gotten that lucky.

V Viviana Aranda-Hughes 10:14

That's awesome. That's an awesome story.

A Alex Nur 10:17

Yeah, great experience. Yeah,

J Jose Sanchez 10:20

yeah. You know, like I was there by myself, like none, no, like, no one for my cohort went. I was the only one. And only one because I had, I had an idea that I might want to pursue a PhD. So, I figured this might be a good opportunity to kind of see what it's about. And so that's the only reason I went and that I said it, it also gave me people to hang out with because I was by myself in New Orleans, which was okay, but you know, I was, like, really lost.

V Viviana Aranda-Hughes 10:48

Very cool, though.

K Kristin Lloyd 10:50

And good for you for going. Because I think one of the hardest parts of of, like getting into a new field in a way, especially that early on, and trying to get to know people is definitely this feeling of being isolated, right. Like, if you don't know a whole lot of people, it can be incredibly hard. So I know we're going to get to some of that later on. But I'm good for you for doing that. And good for that Professor for you know, kind of taking you under their wing and being able to kind of show you the ropes, you know what I mean? That's, that's awesome.

J

Jose Sanchez 11:17

Yeah, I really appreciate it. Okay, so we've mentioned ASC couple times already, so we should specify a little bit what exactly ASC is. And so ASC stands for the American Society of Criminology. And every year they have an annual meeting. The other big one that we have is the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences. ACJS, they also have an annual meeting. And so, when you're attending these conferences, how do you decide who you're going to connect with? Or is it just sort of, by chance running into people?

V

Viviana Aranda-Hughes 11:54

I can start on that one. I think for me, it's a mix of both. So beforehand, I do I think it's important, I mean, at least for me, I'm a planner, so I think it's important for me, and if somebody doesn't know where to start, I would advise this, as I, I look through the program as soon as it comes out. And I look, you know, over the couple of weeks beforehand, to see what presentations I'm interested in going to and of course there's I mean, you know, I, I don't think I'm unique in this sense where I know that I have certain scholars that I'm like a huge fan of and so I of course I like you know, I go through and see if they're going to be presenting something and whether they're going to be presenting and see and look at the times but then also if there's something that I'm working on or that I have been working on I look to see, I'll, I'll look at the program and see you know what, like who's presenting in a certain area like for instance I'm working on like something in corrections, restrictive housing, then I'll look and I'll say, Okay, well, who's presenting about this, and who may I want to go, you know, strike up a conversation with so and I literally make a list and I have I put these things in my calendar, when I might be able to catch them. And of course, a lot of these people like, you know, you have a nother like 20 billion people waiting to talk to them too. And so sometimes I get lucky and I can, I can strike a strike up a conversation and sometimes I don't, but but I also I, I try not to spend much time in my room, I get up in the morning early, I work out and then I hang out and like and I you know, go to whatever presentations I want. And I do try to make myself seen and that way if I by chance or run into somebody that I'd really like to talk to or meet, then I have that opportunity. And I don't I mean I get out and I see some of the sights but I you know, I know that my main purpose at these conferences is to is to network and so I definitely, I make that a priority and then it later on in the evening, then I'll hang out with friends go out to dinner and whatnot. No,

K

Kristin Lloyd 14:01

guess what kind of? Oh my god, Alex, I'm so sorry. You're just

A

Alex Nur 14:04

so excited to talk. So excited.

K

Kristin Lloyd 14:07

This is all you you go.

A

Alex Nur 14:09

Okay, I'll, I'll echo Vivian and then an older student when I was going to my first ASC suggested that I don't search on topic I searched by person. And that was so helpful because the people who you kind of are going to search on the

topic I searched by person. And that was so helpful because the people who you kind of are going to search on the people who you're familiar with are going to kind of be within the topics that you're interested in. And a lot of professors present multiple panels anyway. It was actually really embarrassing. My first ASC I searched on this one professor who was obsessed with her work. I just like followed her from panel to panel. Everyone was like that's such a weird thing for you to do. But it was really interesting because even if I didn't get to talk to her, I saw the people who were attending the same kinds of panels like you see kind of familiar faces, the more you go into like a similar theme of panels and it was easy to strike up conversations with them like people who weren't presenting but who seemed to be interested in the same thing that I was interested in and so that was really helpful for me to like just follow around one specific person. I don't do that anymore but it was

 Viviana Aranda-Hughes 15:19

I have to say you're not alone in that I have I have been I've been a creeper I've liked stalked out people. I won't name who these who these professors are that I've kind of stalked out, followed you know around I promise you're not alone Alex.

 Jenn Tostlebe 15:38


Now, you're not I haven't personally done that. But Jose I think has not to call you out. But

 Jose Sanchez 15:47

Yeah, it's a, yes, I actually co-authored with a person I did it too. And you kind of get a kick out of it. Yeah, so you're not Yeah, you're not alone. Actually, that makes me feel a lot better.

 Alex Nur 16:02

So affirming thank goodness that I said it because conferences are creepy, I guess.

 Kristin Lloyd 16:11

Yeah, I can't say that I've ever followed someone from panel to panel, but I've definitely done what you both have said and, and looked people up on. Like a couple years ago, for example, I love life-course criminology. So, of course, you know, Terrie Moffitt was given an award from the division of life-course criminology and so you know, I had to be front and center for her presentation, you know, that kind of thing. And then making a point to introduce yourself after right Peggy Giordano a couple years ago with her award, I went to her address and then I got to meet her after so you know, I should probably do better at going to more panels and meeting more people. But, the ones I have gone to you know, everyone has been quite receptive. And it's been really cool to meet some of the you know, giants in our field, but also to meet some of the people who are upcoming scholars, graduate students who are rising scholars, like I really tried to make a point to meet at least one person whose work I'm interested in, regardless of how many citations they have or publications they have. Right. And I think that's really helped me build my my social network within criminology, if you will. But yeah, I don't know Vivian, you know, I think maybe, maybe in some ways you get that from one of our friends Nicole. She kind of likes to do that stuff too. So, I'm not gonna put all that blame on you my friend.

V

Viviana Aranda-Hughes 17:25

Oh, you are you're so, so she's gonna listen to this and she'd be like are you kidding me? Are you calling me out?

K

Kristin Lloyd 17:31

I didn't I didn't say a last name. I didn't say were she is.

V

Viviana Aranda-Hughes 17:35

you know you're there. No, I do I can I tell a very quick story. I said I mentioned it yesterday to Dr. Turanovic. To Jill Turanovic and I said I kind of want to tell this story but I wonder if they're gonna think I'm weird but now the other people have said this. At the last ASC you know create read the one right relate that we had right before pandemic that is in San Francisco. I saw like one of my, the people that I just probably put them seriously on a pedestal is Frank Cullen. I'm obsessed. I just I love his work. And I saw him getting onto the elevator, an elevator I was gonna get onto and I was so excited. I was like, Oh my gosh, I'm going to be on an elevator with Frank Cullen, I'm in, here I am thinking how am I going to introduce myself, okay, just keep it you know, trying to be cool, and try to be cool. We get on the elevator. But then like a group of people ran and they're like, hold the elevator. And of course, I didn't get a chance to introduce myself. So I got off, he got off the elevator and then I got off on the next floor and I just happened to just go like, peek over and I saw him walking. I was like, I was all geeked out. I ran into my room and like, Frank Cullen room is right below. My roommate was like, wow, you have serious issues.

K

Kristin Lloyd 18:59

You must not tell the story about your dog.

V

Viviana Aranda-Hughes 19:01

Quick. Oh, yeah. So I have a dog and I named them Francis. His name is Francis after Frank. And Frank Cullen knows about that. Yeah, he's very smart. He's one of the smartest dogs that I've ever owned. Yeah.

J

Jose Sanchez 19:18

All right, we're, we're having like, the nerdiest conversation.

V

Viviana Aranda-Hughes 19:22


Oh god. I know this, isn't it? I know.


J


Jose Sanchez 19:26


You know, like my friends are like, you know, like, I love Dwayne The Rock Johnson or like Steven Tyler and whatever. You were like, Oh, yeah, we're we love all the like these crim theorists. Right?


 Viviana Aranda-Hughes 19:42
I know.


 Kristin Lloyd 19:43
I think I geeked out about meeting Terrie Moffitt for at least two weeks, like I couldn't stop talking about it. I'm sure my friends hated me.

 Viviana Aranda-Hughes 19:51
It happens. I met Nancy Rodriguez a few years back at the New Orleans conference and I geeked out. I was like on cloud nine for about, for Two weeks.

 Jose Sanchez 20:01
Yeah, I met her and Philadelphia, she's shows great, great personal.

 Jenn Tostlebe 20:09
Alright, so kind of tying in with everything that all three of you have already said, as a grad student, approaching a professor that you don't necessarily know especially maybe someone who's, you know, a theorist or someone who's well known can be intimidating. And so what are some of the suggestions or ways that you've actually networked with professors that you don't know besides creepily following them or going into an elevator?

 Viviana Aranda-Hughes 20:38
I think we were both planning on going in at the right time and see him walking

 Kristin Lloyd 20:54
I think for me you know see here's the problem I can talk to a rock right like I literally in social settings like I'm right at home I usually don't have an issue to speaking to people but there certainly have been situations where I'm like a little nervous you know, because I'm like oh wow, I love this person's work I hope don't say anything stupid. And so for me it's always like okay, well I'll just get a buddy you know, I'll have a buddy system I'll have someone walk up with me they don't have to talk. And for me a couple times it was my major professor actually who was Jillian Turanovic and obviously she's great and she's well connected. So that kind of eased the nerves and then once I did that a couple times I felt a little more comfortable doing it on my own but I mean, I was in grad school with Vivian and there were certainly times that we both went to a panel and talk to someone together after and so my best advice to a graduate student would be you know, buddy up find someone go go meet people with a friend

 Jenn Tostlebe 21:44

That's great advice. Yeah,

V

Viviana Aranda-Hughes 21:46

Absolutely. When I'm I have like my whole life I've been like painfully shy, I'm definitely like your textbook introvert. I can be you know, awkward AF like major and so initially, you know, it was hard because I this is not my normal personality and so like going being able to go up to people, but I knew that it was sort of you know, once you're in graduate school I know this is going to be my career. It's kind of like it's like a break or make and so exactly what Kristin said. Yeah, I I buddy up with people. I buddy up with Kristin. With Jill's amazing because she has such a nice wide network. Another professor, Mario Cano, he's introduced me he's been amazing he's introduced me to so many amazing people that I would never I mean, I would have never had the nerve to go up to he's one of these people. He's a total extrovert that he'll just go up to anybody and just say, Hey, my name is Mario. And I'm you know, the find some interest with them. But especially so he knows a lot of people and and so it's it. I think it's easier doing it that way. When you when you're with somebody else, and then you start like, Kristin said, you start to get more comfortable going up on your own.

A

Alex Nur 22:58

Yeah, I would, I would definitely say that the buddy system works great. I've leaned well, earlier in my grad studies, I leaned really heavily on my advisor, Dr. Holly Nguyen, she's great. She also has a very wide network and I would mention people to her that are like methods or whatever. And she's like, Oh, do you want to go meet so and so, and that was really amazing. So, she's also is a very outgoing person that has been great. My, my biggest piece of advice, I think, to grad students who may be scared of just walking up to somebody or like cold emailing somebody that they don't know, but maybe they do hold on this pedestal, like we often do, is to just remember that they're people, they're just people, they're people who know a lot about stuff. But I've never approached somebody, even like, you know, the most respected of professors and just totally been shoved aside. Even if they don't want to talk to me for a long time. They're always courteous. I tried to go in with a question or like, you know, I've read your work, or I've read this specific paper, could you talk to me more about this, and everybody has been very nice and accommodating and understanding that I'm still learning. And that, you know, being newer to the field, it's hard to make connections. So, yeah, we're all just people. Everybody's just people. Just go up and say, hi.

K

Kristin Lloyd 24:26

Yeah, and I would say if if, like what you're describing Alex, you know, you go up to someone, and maybe you're not pushed aside, but maybe they seem like they're a little bit short on the conversation. Like, we all have busy schedules at conferences, maybe they're just on their way to another panel or they've got another obligation. So, I wouldn't take anything personally if a conversation is short, or shorter than maybe you had hoped it would be but at the end of the day, like, like you said, we're all people and I think everyone welcomes widening their network within the field.

V

Viviana Aranda-Hughes 24:55

Yeah, I and I and I have never had like a negative experience. You know, like you guys both said. They're, they're human beings on there. And I mean, for the most part, I mean, I can't think of any. I can't think of a time where somebody was just really rude to me. I mean, maybe somebody was kind of in a hurry. And then, you know, they said, Hey, you know, if you want to talk more email me, but for the most part, they everybody's very kind and very courteous.

A

Alex Nur 25:22

Yeah, I think the worst response that I've gotten is, oh, let's talk about this more offline, you know, like, which just means like, please, I need to go somewhere, you know, like, right, like, I think that's probably the worst interaction that I've had. And even then it didn't feel like I was being ignored or cast aside or anything. It just, you know, like, everybody said, we're at conference, we're busy. We got to make the next panel.

A

Alex Nur 25:45

Yeah, yeah, I think that's been my experience as well. Most of the people are actually pretty nice. Yep, couple were cut short, because they had another panel to get to, or had to use the bathroom for a you know, but yeah, so I'm kind of on the same boat as Vivian, where I generally keep to myself, I tend to not, like huge gatherings kind of give me a little bit of anxiety. But I never, when I, one day, when I decided to go to ASC, I like, make, like, I kept telling myself, you know, steel your nerves, just just gonna, like you don't know anybody. So you're just gonna have to go up to people and like, just start talking to them. So, so, I kind of forced myself into becoming more social. And I feel like, I don't know if masters is the right word. But I've gotten fairly good at just going up to people and like saying, like, Hi, my name is Jose, and this is what I do and I'd like to talk to you about your work.

K

Kristin Lloyd 26:50

Yeah, and kind of picking up off of the piggybacking off of that, Jose, I had kind of an experience where, you know, one time I was on a panel with Mike Roque, who obviously, in life-course, criminology is a pretty big name. And I read his work, I knew a lot about him, but I'd never met him, and the coolest guy, I've ever been on a panel with hands down. And we were able to kind of make a connection. And it started because after the panel, I asked him a couple questions about his presentation, right? And so just working up the nerve, even though I just sat there and watched all of this, you know, all of this from his panel and other people on our panel with him to still be able to, you know, kind of ask him a question, I think it was super beneficial. And yeah, I think a lot of it is, you know, whatever works for you to settle anxiety, you know, breathe in, breathe out, you know, pick three things in the room, whatever it may be, maybe sell yourself, sell your nerves and, and just go out, you know, talk to someone, it's fun.

J

Jose Sanchez 27:43

And I know we're gonna ask for general advice towards the end of this, but I think one, since we're on this topic, I think one good thing to do as well, when you go up and meet people, is after the conference, send them like a follow up email, like, Hey, thank you for taking a few minutes to talk to me. Yep. You know, that, will you kind of start cementing yourself within their network.

V

Viviana Aranda-Hughes 28:05

Yeah.



Jenn Tostlebe 28:06

And they remember that you are so then, because you meet so many people at conferences. It's always good to follow up with Hi, remember, we talked and so and so? Because Yeah, it's difficult if, especially if you're meeting a lot

of new people. Yeah.

K

Kristin Lloyd 28:23

Oh, yeah. And you know, no one has perfect recall, right? It's the same thing. I tell my students when it comes to reading anything to take notes, like no one has perfect recall. Don't be afraid to introduce yourself. Don't be afraid to send an email. That's very sound advice, Jose.

V

Viviana Aranda-Hughes 28:35

Yeah, absolutely.



Jenn Tostlebe 28:37

All right. So given that we're talking about conferences, and networking, I felt like we should throw in kind of a presentation question, especially since this is geared more toward grad students. And so I know I still get nervous before I'm presenting and my first time presenting at a conference, I was like in panic mode. And so, do any of you have tips for people, especially graduate students that have helped you prepare to present at a conference?

K

Kristin Lloyd 29:09

Yeah, I can. I can start with this one. First, I would say the same thing that you know, Jill Turanovic told me when I was defending my dissertation, and that is, you know more about this exact project than the people in the room. They may know a lot about the subject, but you're the one who knows this project. And then two this I got from Miriam Holmen, she's a political scientist who has a pretty good blog, and she had a thing on conference networking. And she said, you know, nobody will remember your mistakes the way that you will. So just give yourself a break. And it's okay to mess up. And I think that's probably one of the greatest pieces of advice I ever read and that I've ever used, and I still use it to this day, even in the classroom, even, you know, in conversations with people so, you know, cut yourself some slack. We're all humans, and it's okay to mess up and if you do, people probably won't remember it.

A

Alex Nur 29:59

Yeah. is a great way to look at it. Certainly, I would also say, I think one of the biggest things that that students, at least here at Penn State get worried about is that they're going to forget something or that people are going to ask all these follow up questions, and they're going to kind of like, not be able to know the exact statistics, or whatever. So I encourage everybody, I head our travel committee, so I talked to all the students about their presentations, and things like that, to have the post-presentation slide set up, especially if it's something like a big table, or like descriptive statistics, or like sensitivity tests that you're doing. And that's really helped to calm me down. Because people will, will kind of, say, oh, she's really prepared. So, oftentimes, you take your presentation down anyway, for the next person to go. But if you have like a printout with you, you can keep those slides with you or something like that. So, I would just say that if you're worried about forgetting something, and you don't have space for it in the presentation, just throw it in either notes that you've prepared yourself, or any kind of slides in the back or something like that. And I always feel much better when I do that, because I know that whatever people are going to throw at me, I probably have a slide to address that.



Jenn Tostlebe 31:22

Really good idea. I know my like biggest fear are the questions at the end, just because you don't know what to expect. Yeah, we have actually ever done slides after the presentation. But that's a good idea.

A

Alex Nur 31:36

We do practice presentations, two weeks before ASC specifically here. And honestly, presenting for our department is worse than anything that you could present at conference just because you also have to, like look those people in the eye every single day. Or it's like, someone commented before with that, yeah, you'll...

V

Viviana Aranda-Hughes 31:56

I cannot agree more with that.

A

Alex Nur 31:59

Honestly, it's like training at altitude, I would also suggest just present for people in your department first, and nothing will be worse than that, I guarantee.

V

Viviana Aranda-Hughes 32:09

Yeah, and I was I was what I was gonna say is is practice, practice, practice, practice. I mean, get practice it until you're sick of practicing it. And and so like, and but I mean, like, so I do, I do some of the things same things that Alex said is, you know, you include some, some extra slides at the end and be that you have questions that you might anticipate. But I also I also do the same thing where I print out my slides, I never use them, I have them more as almost like a security blanket, it just makes me feel more comfortable that they're there. I mean, I can't remember the last time I've ever looked at them. But I practice, I practice my talks so much like, but I'll do it like while I'm driving, I don't practice I try not to practice while I'm looking at my slides. I practice while I'm driving, I practice while I'm in the shower, I practice as I'm getting ready, I practice in front of the mirror, and I try to practice it like more but I try to keep in mind that that people are are coming to your practice because there are to your to your presentation or to that panel, not because they want to hear something that you've just memorized and that you're reading off of some something you almost want to tell it like a story and so when I practice my presentations, I practice it like if I'm having a conversation with somebody, and then once I get up there of course the nerves are going to be there and I start sweating like crazy. But I try to focus on a couple of people out in the audience. Or like towards the back and not really looking at anybody and pretend like I'm having a conversation with somebody and it and it just seems to work for me. Of course I leave there and I'm drenched in sweat, but I got through it. I usually try to wear like darker clothing

K

Kristin Lloyd 33:53

Yeah, Vivian you know an Alex, to your advice like if y'all would have tweeted that I would have retweeted it, you know what I mean? That's, it's, that's real solid and I would also say get a friend to go. Like if you're that nervous, Vivian, I know I keep going back to when we were in grad school together but I'm pretty sure we've been to each

other's panels, like we would have grad school groups that would go to each other's panels. Alex, I'm sure you've had the same experience with some of your colleagues and your friends that you know if you're that nervous about it, just ask someone like hey can you be at my panel I just need one person in the audience to you know look at and you can help me kind of calm my nerves and settle down you know.

V

Viviana Aranda-Hughes 34:29

Yeah, it is comforting to go at least looking out and if you know because, you can, it, it can get intimidating, especially if you have like, you know, these these big name people out there and they're staring at you and they're expecting something from you and, and then being able to look at your friends and not, you know, avoid the eye contact with the other person too much. It is very, it's comforting, like okay, well that at least my friends here they're they're here for support.

K

Kristin Lloyd 34:54

Yeah, and just someone in some ways to like kind of nod back at you when you're saying I think you know, it just makes you feel Good. Yeah.

A

Alex Nur 35:01

Yeah, also say that I've never had anybody asked me like aggressive or particularly mean questions at conferences, certainly questions that I wasn't quite sure how to answer. But it seemed acceptable to just kind of be like, you know what, I didn't think about that. But that's a great point. You don't like that kind of thing. I don't think I've ever seen anyone be very, very mean at a conference to anybody else who was presenting.

K

Kristin Lloyd 35:27

Yeah, I've also never had that experience. I think the hardest question I was ever asked was why I chose a certain measure. And I was, you know, I was able to handle that without too many issues. But yeah, people usually aren't nitpicky, we're aggressive. You know,

A

Alex Nur 35:43

I was asked one time. So what's the next step of like, you know, you studied x and y. So what is z? And I was like, I don't even know how to answer that question. But now it's like a question that I prepare for always. I don't know why it was a very strange question to be asked. But that's probably the worst I've ever gotten.

J

Jose Sanchez 36:10

Yeah, you know, I think this is all great advice. And just to kind of throw in some advice that I've gotten over, the over the years, you know, one like, like, Vivian mentioned, like, you typically, you should know this project better than anyone else, right? Like you're you're presenting that you should know, pretty well what it is that you're doing. And something that I was told was, because you, you should not so well, you can kind of predict or control what questions you're going to be asked, and I haven't completely mastered this skill. But sort of thinking through my projects for

what are the limitations, kind of where the gaps are, I can kind of tell, if someone were to ask me a question, I can kind of foresee what that question is going to be. And I can prepare for it. And also, at conferences, most professors tend to not really go after grad students. And so this doesn't mean to, you know, like, you should still try to give the best presentation that you can give, but focus your energy on that, not necessarily on, like prep, trying to prepare for some heated debate that you're going to have with some professor, because it's probably not gonna happen.



Viviana Aranda-Hughes 37:26

Excellent advice. Yes. It's so true. Because I think they, I mean, most of the time, I get you absolutely right, Jose, like usually, like, the professors will come up and be like, that was that was a great job. You know, like, we know you're a graduate student, you're doing great. You're gonna go. And it makes me feel bad. But yeah, you're right. They usually reserved the debate with that with our nemesis. Yeah.



Jenn Tostlebe 37:54

Or I have had, I think, at the last ASC, I presented and then after the presentation, all the questions were done, I had a professor come up to me, not aggressive or anything, but just asking harder questions to answer. And then we had a conversation about it after, so that way, it wasn't like it didn't feel intimidating. It was more just a conversation, which was nice. Yeah,



Jenn Tostlebe 38:19

Yeah. And I would also say like, that could be an opportunity to maybe learn a little bit more about the project. Maybe it's someone who does work in that area. And they're they're not asking to have like a gotcha moment. But they're just asking because they're curious. And maybe it's a chance for you to learn something that some insight that they might have. And then I don't know what it was. Yeah. Yeah. And how cool is that? It's like free advice.



Jenn Tostlebe 38:43

Yeah, it was really cool.



Jose Sanchez 38:45

Yeah, so actually, I think Jen and I were on that same panel. And yeah, someone came up after me, after our presentations and asked, like, why did you choose to do this? And why did you choose A instead of B? And I told, I was honest I was like, because we kind of screwed up the analysis. So, we had to redo it like an hour before.



Jenn Tostlebe 39:07

We did.



Jose Sanchez 39:09

And so you know, the person was like, Okay, yeah, quit like don't worry about like, that happens all the time. But

yeah, like, maybe you should think about doing this moving forward. I was like, Yeah, no, you're absolutely right. And that's what we're gonna try to do.



Jenn Tostlebe 39:20

No. We redid that analysis like 10 minutes before.



Viviana Aranda-Hughes 39:25

I so admire you guys's honesty with that person.



Jose Sanchez 39:31

Oh, okay. So kind of staying on my conferencing. So I don't I don't know about other conferences. But one of the best parts of the, at least in my opinion, about ASC is on the Friday. We have the receptions like these different schools will sort of rent out these I don't know what are the like ballrooms, or whatever. And it's basically like a massive gathering where they like serve food. drinks. And you know, people are talking to other people. Can you talk to us about your experiences with receptions and how successful you might have been with connecting with other people?



Alex Nur 40:14

So I have a bit of a weird experience with receptions because I head up our travel committee and part of my job is to hand out drink tickets. So, that's been both a curse and a blessing because I'm kind of a



Jose Sanchez 40:29

You're the most popular person.



Alex Nur 40:30

I know!



Alex Nur 40:34

Reception like room, but people have to come up to me and speak. And so, I've been kind of blessed in that way. And that's been interesting, because they'll come up to you for the drink ticket. And I kind of hold them hostage for a minute talking to them about, you know, their work and how was your panel and like that kind of thing. So, that's kind of a weird experience. For me, my husband is actually very good at the receptions he's also in criminology and goes to ASC and he just hops around from room to room just finding somebody who's standing by themselves and he like goes up and talks to them about their work and so that's how he's had success kind of meeting with people and talking with people at receptions just kind of finding the wallflowers and stealing their attention

K

Kristin Lloyd 41:26

So Alex, what you're saying is now that we have this connection through the wonderful Jenn and Jose that we're going to meet in person in November and you're going to be the most popular person in the room for more than one reason

A

Alex Nur 41:39

Yes, there's going to be a huge you know, circle around me everybody's going to be talking.

V

Viviana Aranda-Hughes 41:46

We will be stopping by the everybody will be around Alex.

A

Alex Nur 41:54

This is gonna go out and everybody at ASC is gonna flock to Penn State's reception and go anybody's seen Alex.

V

Viviana Aranda-Hughes 42:01

She's the drink ticket person.

K

Kristin Lloyd 42:04

Well, you know, so I've actually never gone to another university his reception I don't know if I should say that publicly. Because I guess I've only been to a handful of ASCs and I always just go to the FSU reception because I guess that's where I like felt comfortable because I knew everyone So maybe it maybe this year Alex, that'd be the reason I get out of out of my old habit. Come visit Penn State but you know, I've seen other people like our receptions for example, and met some good people, or people who do like good work and just like kind people, nice people. You know, a lot of folks who I follow on Twitter, I think Twitter is becoming a huge, huge, huge, huge source for networking in our field. And yeah, again, it's kind of the buddy system for me, like if I see someone who's walked in and I'm like, Oh, that's you know, so and so you know Vivian let's go say hi. You know, that's always my go to.

V

Viviana Aranda-Hughes 42:55

Yeah, I I've been to a few all I usually I mean, I spend most of my time at the FSU one because uh, you know just like Kristin said it seems like a lot of people from different places will come in and and they're I mean usually it's our FSU one is so cool, it almost takes you the entire time trying to get around the entire room to at least try to get in and say hello even if I you know if people are like in deep conversations or you know, sometimes I'll just I just wanted to say hi. So, so, I do tend to spend most of my time at the FSU one but that is what I do I make sure to make go through the entire room and and say hello to people or you know if I see somebody you know that's by themselves and then but you know by seeing maybe a friend of mine that's going heading off to another one I'll go and I'll tag along and I'll and I'll just briefly like pop in on the on a couple of other ones but I don't spend too too much time and it's usually like with those it's like whoever it is that I that I've latched on to, to go to some of the other ones that don't introduce

me to a couple of people I have found it hard to just you know on my own try to go off to, to any of the other receptions I can be on my own at the FSU one because usually I'm meeting up with you know, I won't see Kristin or I'll meet up somebody else with another group and and and i i do the buddy system even there.

A

Alex Nur 44:14

I do like the receptions because a lot of the the alumni students will come back to like their old the reception for their old universities and it's really easy to connect with alumni from your institution because they're everywhere you know, but if you're an older student or if or if you're a younger student, you can kind of buddy up with an older student and they have connections to some of the students who have since left and so I think that just networking even with the alumni can be so great when you're at you know, reception for the university.

V

Viviana Aranda-Hughes 44:55

I mean those Friday nights all all. I'm with Jose, those are my fave,. favorite of the entire ASC is it's like by then everybody's kind of for the most I mean, I've had a couple of Saturday presentations, but for the most part, the presentations are done, everybody's kind of a bit more relaxed and, and just having fun. So, it was a good time to meet people there.

K

Kristin Lloyd 45:18

I was just gonna say, you know, the last few Asus. FSU has had professors retiring. So, that's kind of taking up the bulk of our receptions. Like, you know, saying goodbye to them and all that good stuff. But, yeah, I mean, I don't know where I was going with that, I guess just, you know, alumni coming back and making those connections, like Alex said, is a really good point. Oh, and it's a good opportunity, you know, if someone who's who's been like a good figure in the field that you're really interested in for a long time. If they're getting ready to retire, and they're doing something in their honor, you know, go to that reception, at least hear what people are saying about them and see if you can, you know, sneak your hand in there and get a handshake out of it or something.

V

Viviana Aranda-Hughes 45:59

Here's a plug, Dr. Chiricos goes is retiring, so we're having awhile thing for him this this time around.

K

Kristin Lloyd 46:06

I know, I might cry, what a man. I was I was fortunate enough to be his teaching assistant for a couple years. And I learned more, more than I ever could have imagined from him, you know. So it's, it's, you know, it's sad, because he's not in academia anymore. He is an ASC fellow. So that's pretty cool. But it's a well deserved retirement after a long good career for him. So, that's my shameless plug about the man that his Ted Chiricos.



Jenn Tostlebe 46:35

I do have one point about receptions. So even if your university or institution doesn't have a reception, you can still go to receptions. This was something that I had no idea about until Jose was like we're going to all of these different receptions and so typically, we hit like, almost every single one on Fridays, because we, our school doesn't have a

reception during ASC. So.

J

Jose Sanchez 47:00

Yeah, we're not tied down to any one reception. We kind of we go reception hopping to see who has the best food and the best drinks.

K

Kristin Lloyd 47:11

Well, now you have a Penn State connection. Right? Yeah.

J

Jose Sanchez 47:15

We were at the Penn State one the last ASC. I actually got to meet Dwayne Osgood, which I love Dwayne Osgood. Not Dwayne, Wayne. There's a long there's a long story about why I was calling him Dwayne, but I won't get into it. But it's about Dwayne it's Wayne

A

Alex Nur 47:43

I was gonna say UCI, UCI is reception usually has some poppin food like I'll tell you.

J

Jose Sanchez 47:50

Yeah, UCI is usually pretty good. So yeah, so ucis is where I met when I met Nancy Rodriguez in Philadelphia. I tried to meet Cheryl Maxson and but I think one of the problems with like the receptions and trying to meet people is sometimes already sort of surrounded by a flock of other people, especially for like the bigger names. So like, I tried to meet Cheryl Maxson, one of her students tried to introduce me, but she was just like, surrounded by people the entire time. So, never, you know, I eventually met her somewhere else. But like it didn't happen at, at ASC. And that's happened to me a couple times with, with other people were like, they're just surrounded by people. So, although I did, I did learn the art of fading into a conversation where there's like a group of people and you just like immers, like, mean, like you'd like put yourself in the in the group and, and people are like, Where'd you come from?

V

Viviana Aranda-Hughes 48:50

I do that, I do that often. I say that's like 50% of my socialization. socializing at a at a ASC. I did at the at one ASC. I won't name names. But I did do that. There was there were a couple of people in the group that I knew. And then some others that I didn't and I did that I tried to fade into it and, and one of the persons turned around and gave me the most horrific look like I see what you're doing. I was like wow.

J

Jose Sanchez 49:27

Yeah, I've also, I've also used them to sort of try to build like the network for other people. So like one of our colleagues at CU. She's a fellow student. I think that might have been her first ASC. Do you remember Jenn was that Erica's first ASC? Yeah.



Jenn Tostlebe 49:47

I think it was the one in Atlanta.



Jose Sanchez 49:49

Yeah, it was Atlanta. And so it was her first ASC and I was like, alright, like you need to meet people. So, and I know some people so now you're gonna meet my people. And so we went to one of them. Yeah. So, we went to one of the receptions and there was a specific someone that I was looking for because I knew they'd make a great connection. And I spot him. He's like across the room. And so I tell Jenn and Erica are up, like, we're going, and we just like beeline. It's like, straight towards him. And admittedly, I think we were already like, a few drinks in. And so my, my sense of distance wasn't like on point. And so I was walking a little too fast. So, like, next thing I realized, like, I'm, like, right up on his face. Like, if I take him one more step, like I would have straight up tackled this man,



Jenn Tostlebe 50:43

You guys would have been on the ground.



Jose Sanchez 50:44

Yeah.



Viviana Aranda-Hughes 50:47

So it was his reaction.



Jose Sanchez 50:52

Nothing. Honestly, I think he might have been a few in too cuz I don't think he even budged. We were both like, like inches from each other. And I don't think we realize that, that we like, you could put like, a Hershey's Kiss between us. And like, have it hauled, like, suspended in midair. So yeah, but yeah, so receptions, I love receptions. I, I kind of heard that they might not happen this year. I kind of hope they do. But we'll see what happens.



Kristin Lloyd 51:25

Well, FSU is for sure having one.



Viviana Aranda-Hughes 51:27

Yeah, I was gonna say we've they've been sending out they keep sending them reminders, then they've asked people to RSVP and so we've, I mean, I I've been getting something like once a week on it. Don't forget, ours will be going out. Oh, yeah, I mean, I mean, that's a great point that you make is that we have, I mean, we have some senior students and I

on: Oh, you know, Jose, that's a great point that you make is that as I you know, as as more senior students and I and I do try to do this also is with the with some of the younger students, I you know, I do, like if they it's, it's like their first or second time or they, they haven't met anybody I do that. Also, I try to get like, introduce them to the people that I know. And I think I think that's just a nice thing to do. You know, we again, we're a smaller community, and why not.

K

Kristin Lloyd 52:13

And I would also like, I'm sorry to cut you off and go ahead. And but I would also like recommend to graduate students, especially younger ones who maybe haven't gone to a conference and network before, you know, come up with an elevator pitch and just have something ready to go about who you are and what you do. Because as you start meeting people, they might start asking you to, you know, kind of brief questions about that. And it's always good to be a little bit prepared. And then you can go back and forth, and then get into non research related stuff.



Jenn Tostlebe 52:40

All right, so shall we move on to our second kind of topic, which is on networking during COVID time, so hopefully kind of this like, once in a lifetime timeframe, but you never know. So, unfortunately, many conferences have been canceled over the last what year, two years, depending on the conference. Jose and I were actually supposed to go to Eurogang, but it's been canceled twice now. So, hopefully this coming year. And for a lot of people conferences are kind of like this prime opportunity for networking and meeting people who do research in your area that you don't get to socialize with on a normal occasion. So, have each of you been able to network with people without having events like conferences? And if so, what strategies did you use to network outside of conferencing?

K

Kristin Lloyd 53:36

Yes, I have and I was able to do it through Twitter, just connecting people you know, replying to threads or if people ask questions, trying to respond to those most of the time I just kind of lurk on Twitter. I tweet mostly about sports and other stuff, but I like to stay involved and follow different people in the field you know, I talk to a lot of people in private messages but that's been the best way for me but of course other people I'm sure have had other experiences.

V

Viviana Aranda-Hughes 54:05

I it's the same with me. It's been I mean I'm not on Twitter a lot, it's, I'm more of a lurker also but by you know by if I see someone on there that I'm not connected with I connect and I try to answer. I try to be involved in some of the threads especially my I always get nervous because I'm like okay, I'm just a graduate student so you know, be careful about how you write this and you know, so you don't want to put a ton of stuff out there but if you know, if somebody asks a question and it's something that I know where you know, somebody, there's a conversation going on, I try to respond that at the very least so people see that you know, my name out there and what it is that I do, and then I am you know, one of those that shamelessly will share or not shamelessly I don't know. I will share like a paper that I that is out that you know, that I was on or that I that I worked on. It. Just to try it. You know, to share my work and to, you know, show people like, hey, here I am.



Jenn Tostlebe 55:06

⋮ ⋮ ⋮ ⋮ ⋮

yep, I do that too.

J Jose Sanchez 55:08

I do that too. I don't think there's any shame in that.

V Viviana Aranda-Hughes 55:11

Okay, I like seeing other people and you know why and some of the times sometimes you know, before it before I get like alerts or anything on from Google Scholar, I see them first on Twitter. So I do appreciate when other people do it. But sometimes, like, when people are thinking, golly.

J Jose Sanchez 55:29

If you don't cheerlead for yourself, no one, no one else is gonna do it.

V Viviana Aranda-Hughes 55:33

That's true. That's true.

A Alex Nur 55:35

it I've struggled really during COVID trying to network with people. I am not on Twitter, which I've been trying to like work up the courage to start an academic Twitter for a very long time. But I'm not quite where I

V Viviana Aranda-Hughes 55:53

I was bullied into it. And I finally did it.

A Alex Nur 56:00

i went really hard on LinkedIn. I was like, I've decided that this is going to be my platform. But of course LinkedIn is not really the place to be.

K Kristin Lloyd 56:10

I think if it makes you feel any better, my personal Twitter account became just this giant conglomerate of every facet of my life. So, now like my high school friends, my like Florida State football friends, you know, all my like sports corners of the world. And then people I know in my personal life and the people I know in my professional life, and it's wild so if you already have a Twitter and you're saying you don't want to make an actual academic Twitter, that's okay, too. It's just you know, some people might unfollow you if you don't tweet about crim enough, but that's okay.



Alex Nur 56:43

I have no I don't have any Twitter and I think that like right after we log off here, I'm going to like make a Twitter and add all of you and just like feel good. for people.



Kristin Lloyd 56:55

You should do it, @kristinlloyd3, holler at your girl.



Alex Nur 57:01

I did, I did have a really neat opportunity to go to like a smaller virtual conference, which was interesting,, but it was like, super organized between a couple bigger schools and, and they had professors who were really good at certain things like give really interesting feedback and like anything on paper. So, it was kind of a unique opportunity, which I was really grateful for. But I think that most people, unfortunately wouldn't have had that experience. But yeah, it has been a struggle, I think connecting with people during COVID for myself, so I have to say, opposite of Kristin and Vivian, it's been it's been hard for me for sure.



Viviana Aranda-Hughes 57:37

Oh, no, it's it's definitely been hard. I mean, I've just I've had to rely on Twitter and I'm not that active again. I think I said, I'm a I'm a lurker, mostly, I don't post very often, but it has definitely been a struggle. Yeah, it's absolutely been a struggle. I'm not even going to try it's not I'm sorry to say it's not. Yeah.



Kristin Lloyd 57:56

Listen, Vivian. It's okay to lurk. Like Lil Wayne once said, real G's move in silence, like lasagna. really matter, you know, connections when the but I do have a question for y'all do Oh, I'm sorry, Jose, we keep doing this.



Jose Sanchez 58:18

I'm sorry. No, go ahead.



58:20

I was just curious, did anyone go to or enroll or register, I suppose is the correct terminology for CrimCon, either last year this year?



Jenn Tostlebe 58:29

No, no.



Jose Sanchez 58:32

Yeah, I think I learned about a lot too late.



Jenn Tostlebe 58:34

Yeah.



Kristin Lloyd 58:36

I was just curious.



Jose Sanchez 58:37

Yeah. Since we're, since we're pretty much on the Twitter train. One of the things that comes up on Twitter, mostly from like the students is questions, you know, like hashtag academic Twitter, hashtag crim twitter, whatever, where they're asking about cold emailing professors, and other professionals. And I think it's kind of really taken off because of COVID where people are kind of finding themselves needing to cold email more, more and more if they really want to network. Do you have, do you have any experience with cold emailing people? And if you do, can you share some of that experience with us?



Alex Nur 59:14

Yeah, I actually just recently had a really good cold email experience with Dr. Jillian Turanovic, actually, she was so sweet and wonderful. I was trying to do a meta-analysis and was so very lost and my advisor Holly she was like I really think that you should reach out to somebody who does this because you know they have more experience and I just kind of went right into it. I introduced myself I named dropped Holly which was helpful to create kind of like that, you know, one degree of separation between us and then I just kind of got like right into the problem. She was so sweet. She pointed me to articles. She pointed me to code like she was super encouraging and understanding. And it was, it has given me the kind of, I've done it multiple times since then it's always gone very well. It sometimes takes a little while for them to get back to you but it usually goes really well in my experience



Kristin Lloyd 1:00:20

Yeah honestly, Jill, is one of the absolute best human beings on the face of this earth so it's not shocking to hear that so, I promise you Alex anything you need ever again like she'll, she'll respond quickly and be able to help you if she can and if not, she'll get you going in the right direction you know? But I have also had an experience cold emailing someone it was last summer there was an article that was, that I didn't have access to and I wanted to assign a portion of it for my undergraduates. And the person was super, super kind sent me like a page proof they didn't have an actual PDF of it yet or something there was something with the reason why I got the page proofs but I was able to take some of that and share it with my students and now you know, like I'm friends with that person on Facebook we follow each other on Twitter and it feels like it went really well and now I kind of have that connection so you know that was, that was great. And I've never like you said Alex I've never had an issue cold cold emailing anyone since then, either.

A

Alex Nur 1:01:28

The worst thing that happened is they took three weeks to get back to me and I thought that I had been stood up via email but it just they were just very busy. Yeah.

V

Viviana Aranda-Hughes 1:01:41

I'm I'm embarrassed to admit that I I'm trying to think if I've ever I don't I don't think I've ever cold emailed anybody.

J

Jose Sanchez 1:01:50

It's OK Vivian, I've never cold emailed anybody either.

V

Viviana Aranda-Hughes 1:01:53

Okay, I don't I it's not out of fear or anything. I just, I just they're like, I just have never, I haven't had I haven't needed to or maybe I would, I did I don't know, I usually just go reach out to like, my, my, you know, the people that I kind of already know, or I asked somebody, hey, do you know somebody that you know, knows this or whatever, and I and then I get connected? But yeah. Jose, you have never either?

J

Jose Sanchez 1:02:26

Oh, sorry, actually thinking about it? Um, well, I don't know if it counts as call the mind because we are we've had already talked before. So I think technically, no, I don't think I've ever, like just straight up randomly called him out somebody.



Jenn Tostlebe 1:02:41

I have been all of the experiences that have been really positive. And yeah, I tend to try and drop a name, like Alex mentioned to, like, close the distance. So a friend or an colleague that they've worked with before, but not always, and I have not been responded to a few times, but that's okay, people are busy. But when they do, it's always very positive. And they're always more than happy to talk with me. So yeah.

A

Alex Nur 1:03:15

We had a recent graduate of Penn State cold email his way into a postdoctoral position. I won't say his name and I won't say where he is but he he is a very ambitious person in general and he knew that he wanted a post doc but there it was not a great year on the market for a lot of people last year obviously, for clear reasons. And he was like I'm just gonna do it and he cold emailed like 10 or 12 universities asking if they had like the space for somebody to come and study under you know, their department or like in in and a lot of them got back to him with like a thank you and if we are ever hiring, you know, please reach out to us and then one place was like, Yeah, we're actually looking for somebody who does what you do and you know, whatever. We had another person cold email her way into. A postdoctoral position in Norway. I can't remember it's like these, these crazy places, just like way out there. But yeah, just do it. Honestly. Because the worst thing that's gonna happen is they're gonna say no.

V Viviana Aranda-Hughes 1:04:32
I feel like I'm missing out.

K Kristin Lloyd 1:04:36
I would also say like

J Jose Sanchez 1:04:38
I respect the the hustle but.

K Kristin Lloyd 1:04:41
But if you're kind of going off what what you're saying Alex, like it really can't open doors. So even if you need to email someone and you're afraid, like as a graduate student to take it on yourself and do it, maybe your advisor or someone else in your department, or college like knows knows the person you're going to email and see if they can connect you right like Vivian. I was going to ask her I'm sure you've been on emails where, you know, someone has emailed on your behalf. Yeah. Happy to connect with you. Right? So yeah, situation is as equally as good in those situations, right?

V Viviana Aranda-Hughes 1:05:12
Yeah, yeah. I I've been on on a number of those, and then they always didn't work out. Well, I mean, because I mean, yeah, they, they absolutely, absolutely work out.

A Alex Nur 1:05:23
I think it's the same. We were speaking earlier about, you know, advice on people who might be scared to just walk up to somebody at a conference and introduce yourself. And I think it's really the same feeling is that you're scared that they're going to reject you, and you're scared, they're going to be mean to you. But I think most of the time, it's just people, it's just people and connecting with them, you know, is it's easier than we perceive it to be. I think that Yeah.

K Kristin Lloyd 1:05:53
Maybe Penn State should put on a tutorial on how to cold email,

V Viviana Aranda-Hughes 1:05:57
Oh, my gosh.

A

Alex Nur 1:06:01

Yeah, we have some students who are very excited to cold email, we also had somebody cold email her way into this really unique police data. She just reached out to a department and was like, I have this kind of supplemental data, but it would be cool if you had other data for me. And they were like, yeah.



Jenn Tostlebe 1:06:21

That's cool. Yeah, you never know what you're gonna get. might as well ask, the worst thing they can say is no or not respond.

K

Kristin Lloyd 1:06:29

So yeah. And then you're right back in the same position, right? Like it's no, no skin off your back? No loss at all. Yeah.



Jenn Tostlebe 1:06:36

All right. So our last question, really, for all of you is, if you have any other general advice for networking, or contacting with other academics, professionals, conferences, anything along those lines.

V

Viviana Aranda-Hughes 1:06:52

I mean, we mentioned this a couple of times, but I just I can't stress enough the the you know, especially with the conferences is that the buddy system, it just it always works and never fails, you won't you feel more comfortable when you're with another person, or you know, read or your advisors I work with, with Dan Mears. And sometimes, you know, just just talking to him at a conference, people will randomly come up, and they'll introduce me. So you use your, you know, take advantage of your advisors and the people who are willing to, to take you around and introduce you to different people. So, so having somebody there I, you know, I can't stress that enough.

K

Kristin Lloyd 1:07:33

Yep. I would obviously echo what Vivian just said, I would also say like, be kind to everyone. You know, there's, there's never a reason to, to not be kind, I don't think graduate students, or anyone really, in our field has that issue. But, everyone includes yourself, right? And so if maybe you didn't have, excuse me, maybe you didn't have the best presentation or, or maybe you missed a panel you really wanted to, or an interaction felt awkward, like, give yourself a break, you know, it's okay. And then, you know, I guess I would also say, don't compare yourself to others. That's another piece of advice I got from that blog I was telling y'all about earlier. Comparison is the thief of joy. And we all have different career goals and career aspirations. And we're all at different places in our lives and in the program. So, you know, don't compare yourself to others. Just kind of take it in stride and understand that you're exactly where you're supposed to be.

A


Alex Nur 1:08:33

Absolutely, I think that the [INAUDIBLE] that I, I will say, just a little piece of advice is that if you're scared to walk up,

and you're scared to talk to somebody, something that's comforting for me is if I make little notes, if I really know that I'd like to speak to somebody, I read maybe a recent article that they publish, and I just make a little note, and then it's so easy. It's so easy to walk up and say I read your recent article, could you tell me a little more about x? Or, you know, what, what else? You know, are you working on? Or is there anything you know, more that you'd like to do, and I do something similar? So if you're, if you have a hard time being just normal social, like I do sometimes, and you'd like to be academic, social, make little notes, just keep a little tally for yourself, and it becomes so easy to connect with academics on that level like that.

 Kristin Lloyd 1:09:35

That's great. That's great advice.

 Alex Nur 1:09:39

Yeah, normally

 Jose Sanchez 1:09:40

I would have two pieces to add to that. So, one thing is kind of like, somewhat related to what Alex was saying. Like if you are uncomfortable going up to people. The cold emailing people before the conference might be good and no setting up like a time to get some coffee and talk, that's a good way to do it, but you're gonna have to work up the courage to call email. But that might be a little easier than then, you know, meeting up, going up randomly in person. And, then the second thing I'd add is in the we mentioned how expensive it can be to go to these conferences. If even, if you're not presenting, I would ask your advisor, some professor, the department chair, the grad chair, whoever about possible funding, because a lot of the times, they may be able to scrounge up the funds for you to go to these conferences, because I think most people understand how important these can be for students and networking.

 Kristin Lloyd 1:10:47

I would also add one thing to that, the, ACJS, the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, they do a doctoral summit every year, right? And so that's often a good opportunity to get funding for a conference to go and network. And the whole point of that summit is to network, I was fortunate to receive that scholarship, in 2020, it got canceled, and then I couldn't go this past spring either. But, you know, I got to see everything they had laid out for networking and learning about these things. And it covers so much, so yes, your your advisor, your department, you know, maybe the graduate college at your university, but also, sometimes there are divisions within like our larger bodies, but also the, the various academies themselves that can provide some kind of financial assistance for graduate students. Yes.





Jenn Tostlebe 1:11:40


Yeah. And to go also to, if you like submit a paper or something for an award, a lot of times you get funding for travel if you win a place. So yeah, and I think those come from the bigger conference, but also the different divisions, like Kristin mentioned.

 Kristin Lloyd 1:11:56

And one more thing that maybe not many graduate students are aware of is that with ACJS, if you've never been a member before your first year membership is free as a doctoral student. So that's pretty cool, too.

 Jose Sanchez 1:12:10
Oh, that's cool.

 Viviana Aranda-Hughes 1:12:10
Yeah, that is cool.


 Jose Sanchez 1:12:12
All right. Well, that's all the questions we have for all of you. And thank you so much for joining us today. This was a great discussion. Is there anything any of you would like to plug anything that we should be on the lookout for in the near future? I know Alex is going to be handling the drinks at ASC.

 Kristin Lloyd 1:12:30
The most important plug right there.





Jenn Tostlebe 1:13:29

And is everyone presenting at ASC? Yes, I am. Yeah, so come and find us not only to go see Alex for drink tickets but at our presentations to

 Viviana Aranda-Hughes 1:13:44
No hard questions. Yeah, no her only praise

 Jose Sanchez 1:13:51
Jenn is not speaking on my behalf. Do not come to mine.

 Viviana Aranda-Hughes 1:13:56
Now we're all going to be at yours. You can't do that. Right? You know now people are going to be pouring out

 Alex Nur 1:14:05
A million people trying to invalidate everything that we've said here about everyone being a nice and cordial.



Jenn Tostlebe 1:14:11

If people come to my presentation and only do that I'm good with it.



Jose Sanchez 1:14:19

Okay, so where can people find you? Kristin and Vivian we know that you are on Twitter Alex may potentially be on Twitter



1:14:31

Yeah. @mvivianhughes. M as an Mary the the news on Twitter but it'll be an under you know my name will show up Vivian Aranda-Hughes.



1:14:45

Um, yeah, I'm going to create one I'm looking at Twitter right this again, so I'll probably be @alexv.nur at you know, whatever Twitter. Yep, sure. That's it.



Jose Sanchez 1:15:01

We'll also post on our website and in the episode description so people can find them there as well.



Viviana Aranda-Hughes 1:15:08

Yeah, anybody can feel free to reach out through my FSU email be be for Vivian Hughes at FSU.



1:15:17

Yeah, I'm on Twitter @kristinlloyd3 and then people can reach me at my email Feel free to cold email me I love emails. Maybe that's because I'm only in my first year my career I'll learn to hate them. But you know, I'll always respond. And my email address is klloyd@georgiasouthern.edu.



1:15:36

You can just look me up on Penn State's website. Okay.



Jenn Tostlebe 1:15:46

All Thank you. All three of you. It was great having you.



Jose Sanchez 1:15:50

Awesome. Thanks. Thank you all again.



Alex Nur 1:15:51

Thank you so much.



Jose Sanchez 1:15:54

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