

## Getting Invited to Publish

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## Getting invited to publish

- You have probably heard of authors who submitted their work to dozens of publishers before getting an offer (or giving up)
- It is easiest to get INVITED to publish something.
- Believe it or not, editors/publishers of academic journals and edited books are often in need of authors.
- They need to know that you're out there!

## Collaborate with a Senior Professor

- The more seniority and recognition professors have, the more they get invited to submit their work rather than having to go through the regular submission process
- Students—apply to graduate programs where you can collaborate with professors who do work similar to yours
- Junior faculty—approach senior faculty about collaborative research or writing projects

## How to become networked

Become a member of professional organizations in your field

- this often includes receiving newsletters about jobs, editors looking for authors of anthologies, important issues in your field, etc.
- this can be expensive! However, if you are not currently employed, or if you're a student, you will qualify for low-income membership
- if you can't find an organization that seems to fit your writing well, that may indicate that it will also be quite difficult to publish in your field. Many academic journals (and audiences for academic books) are linked to professional organizations

## How to become networked

Email authors whose work you admire, mention your ongoing work

- most people who publish books and articles never hear from readers, and will be flattered
- it's important that major people in your field know about your work. The worst that can happen is that they just delete your email. On the other hand, they may refer the media and editors to you if they are booked

## How to become networked

Submit your work for presentations to academic conferences

- conferences often accept a very high proportion of submitted proposals
- the work involved in conference paper submission is minimal
- you will get more recognition as a speaker at a conference than if you just attend talks as a member of the audience
- when you see the level of mediocrity of other speakers, it should hopefully motivate you to speak at conferences in the future!
- Your topic does not have to be a major breakthrough. The most popular talks at conferences are often discussions, informal workshops, etc. You can propose topics such as "being a queer person of color," "moving to a new area with a same-sex partner," "isolation in academia."

## How to become networked

### Conferences (continued)

- ask people to join you for lunch or dinner. Many people are extremely shy and would love to have some company during a conference. The worst that can happen is that they tell you they already have plans for that meal.
- after the conference, email presenters whose talks you admired and send them a copy of your work in progress (or tell them what you're working on)

## How to become networked

- when you see a call for proposals for an upcoming conference, email the conference organizers to see if they need help with the reviewing process. Include a paragraph about your background and interests, so that the proposals they send you for review are a good fit. This takes very little time and you can list it on your resume as "guest reviewer, annual convention on \_\_\_\_\_" I regularly urge my graduate students to do this and they are often accepted for this role

## Look out for calls for proposals

Look for “calls for proposals” on email lists and in professional newsletters

- The website <http://www.h-net.org> has many calls for proposals. Click on “announcements” at the top right and you will see “calls for papers,” “calls for publication,” etc.
- a call for proposals almost always means that the editor or guest editor of the journal badly needs contributors.
- Think about how your work fits their needs. This means using some of the terminology from the call for proposals.
- Meet their deadline!
- Be sure to include a cover letter.