

Communication in Computer Science

All the other shoes

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Exercise empathy (1/2)

A conference is not only for

- you, attendee, and/or
- you, speaker.

Exercise empathy (2/2)

A conference is also for

- the other attendees,
- the other speakers,
- the organizers (local or PC members)
- the head hunters,
- etc.

Put yourself in their shoes.

About the other speakers

Be prepared to receive talks:

- Read the proceedings the evening before.
- Go and talk shop with the authors:
they too came here for that.

You are a speaker

After your talk, you should

- make yourself visible and available, and
- be ready for more questions.

So are the others too

After the other speakers' talk, you should

- look for them, and
- ask them more questions.

Your input/output at a conference

Output is unlikely:

Don't hope too much to find
a Very Important Person who will listen to you.

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Input is more likely:

Professors love to talk,
so **ask them about their research.**

Empirical theorem

- Professors will tell you about their research, no matter how busy they are.

Empirical corollary

- Professors will tell you about their research, no matter how busy they are.
- And then they will welcome questions, because they are, you know, professors.

Empirical opportunity

- Professors will tell you about their research, no matter how busy they are.
- And then they will welcome questions, because they are, you know, professors.

This is your chance to start a conversation.

Common sense in theory

A true conversation requires both

- people who talk and
- people who listen,

not just

- people who wait for their turn to talk.

Common sense in practice

- Don't jump at anyone's jugular.
- Be mindful of the other messengers.
- Be mindful of the messages.
- In a conference,
there are too many people to talk to anyway.
- If someone is too busy (or not there),
talk to his/her ambassadors.

Remember

You are a scientific ambassador

- of your PhD advisor, and
- of your institution.

So go talk with other ambassadors!

Sanity check

Keep notes about

- who is who,
- whom you talked to,
- what you said, and
- what you were told.

As a session chairperson (1/2)

Meet all the speakers prior to your session.

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And if he overruns, get up and
slowly walk towards the side of the screen.

As a session chairperson (1/2)

Meet all the speakers prior to your session.

Agree with them about the signals (5', 1', stop).

Make sure the speaker sees your signals.

And if he overruns, get up and

slowly walk towards the side of the screen.

No need to sing “Don Giovanni” though.

As a session chairperson (2/2)

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Keep your session on time, especially if there are parallel tracks.

Take notice of the student helpers

The student helpers are

- the over-achievers of their generation, and
- tomorrow's PhD students.

You will most likely meet them again.