



# What I learned from my job market experience

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It is your turn to go on the market –

**First of all, congratulations  
for making it all the way here!**

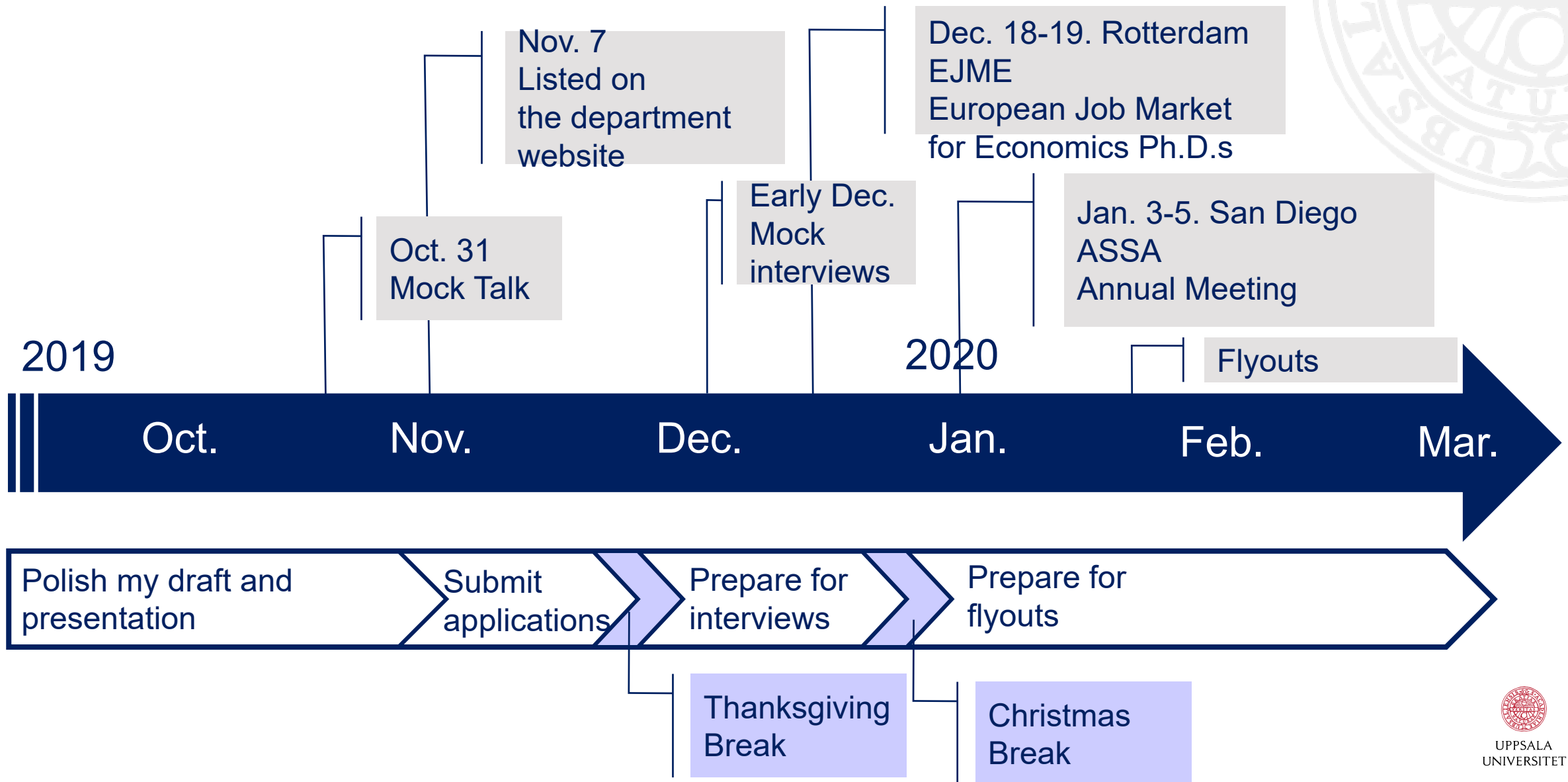
**There's really no one-size-fits-all advice.**

But I give some food for thought  
based on my own experience.

**Questions and comments are welcome!**



# The job search is like a marathon





# My three principles to handle the econ job market with grace

1. Know your work and life priorities
2. Focus on what is within your control
3. Take a good care of yourself





1

Know your work and life priorities



# 1. Know your work and life priorities

- What do you value the most?
  - Types of jobs (academia, government, industry ...)
  - Types of work environment
  - Contract period
  - Location
  - Salary, compensation and benefits
  - Possibility of spousal hiring
  - Visa sponsorship
  - Teaching load
  - Available research funding
  - Data access
  - Experimental facilities .....etc
- Discuss them with people who you care about (your advisors & family)



# Knowing priorities helped me ...

- To be open-minded to apply for more positions
  - If you do not apply, you do not get interviewed.
  - The gender gap in the #. of applications (?)
- To take educated risks
  - Would I like to accept this **exploding offer**?
  - Crucial to be prepare to take a risk (if you want to)





2

Focus on what is within your control





## 2. Focus on what is within your control

- Polish your draft
  - E.g., Chaubey "The Little Book of Research Writing" 2018th edition
- Prepare for your presentation & interviews
  - E.g., Eliana La Ferrara "How to Present Your Job Market Paper"
- Practice how to handle questions
  - Make a list of questions that you've received in the past. Practice how to handle them with your classmates.
- Make a list of questions/conversation openers that you can use during flyouts
  - Be curious about others' work, too.
- Make interview-day/flyout-day checklists



# Some ideas for the online interview-day/flyout-dat checklist

Before interviews / seminars,

- Check lighting angle and warmth. Try it at different times of the day.
- Set up your webcam so that you can make eye contact.
- Mute your phone. But keep it face-up by your side just in case your recruiter wants to reach out to you by phone.
- Restart your computer (~an hour before)
- Fully charge your devices (computer, wireless earphones, ipads ... and whatever you may use)
- Turn off notification on the computer
- Use wired internet (if you know your wifi connection is unstable)
- Clear the desktop.
- Set up dual monitors if possible.



# Trouble happens! Don't get panicked.

Here are some ideas for backup plans

- Have organizer/host's phone number handy to text/call if problems
- Setup the wifi hotspot through the cellphone as a backup. (This helps in case of a blackout)
- Have handy a phone dial-in number for the Zoom/Webex/etc room
- Send slides in advance in case you wind up audio only





3

Take a good care of yourself



# 3. Take a good care of yourself

- Keep some sense of normalcy.
  - Keep a regular sleep schedule.
  - Eat well.
  - Do exercise regularly.
- Curve out time for a quality break.
  - Spend quality time with family and friends.
  - No need to feel uncomfortable to take a break.
- Keep digital sanity.
  - Put your phone away when your sleep.
  - Use technologies to keep a healthy distance from the online world (Apps such as Stay Focused, AppBlock, and, for Twitter, @blockpartyapp\_ ... etc.)





**“Neither interviews nor flyouts are exams.  
It’s a process to find a good match”**

Try to be the best version of yourself,  
and enjoy the chance to meet new people.





**Thanks!**

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# Appendix:

## Econ job market resources

- About the econ job market
  - [European Job Market](#) by EEA
  - [Understanding the job market](#) by AEA
- Links to some great public goods
  - [Guide to the European Job Market](#) by David Schnindler
  - [Beamer Tips](#) by Paul Goldsmith-Pinkham
  - [Job Market Resources](#) by Johannes Pfeifer
  - [Advice for current and aspiring academic economists](#) by Jennifer Doleac
  - ... and many more links out there.

