

A BRIEF COMMUNICATION ON JOB INFORMATION

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In an earlier issue Auslegung published Kenneth Helstrom's report "Information on Seeking Jobs in Philosophy." While that report is substantially accurate, it was prepared in 1974, and some of the details of the situation have changed.

1) Joining APA

Although it is still necessary to join the APA in order to receive Jobs in Philosophy, the APA no longer maintains a file of "Applicant Resume Forms." Employers were, evidently, not making use of this file. This means that employers are relying on letters of application and other sources of information on available philosophers.

2) Sources of Information about Vacancies

Since Helstrom's report, the Cooperative College Registry has been discontinued. Jobs in Philosophy is clearly the best source of information on vacancies, but the APA also recommends the following periodicals for notices of vacancies:

Academe - published four times a year by AAUP

Chronicle of Higher Education - published weekly during the academic year, every other week during summer

Community and Junior College Journal - published eight times a year by American Association of Community and Junior Colleges

Though many of the positions announced in these periodicals eventually end up in Jobs in Philosophy, there is, I believe, an advantage to finding out about vacancies early so that you can get your letter of application in before the onslaught of applications that usually follows an issue of Jobs in Philosophy.

3) Procedure at APA Meetings

The procedure followed at the placement service at APA meetings has changed somewhat since Helstrom's report.

You may send messages to prospective employers requesting an interview only during the first day of the conference. Thus you should plan to spend a good part of the first day of the conference looking at newly announced vacancies and sending messages to departments that are interviewing. Throughout the conference the placement office continues to transmit messages from interviewers to prospective employees, so you have to keep checking to see if you have any messages. This procedure may change from meeting to meeting. APA publishes this information in Jobs in Philosophy, so you should check this information before going to a conference.

One general word of advice. The job situation is not improving. The pool of available Ph.D.s is increasing so that the situation is absurdly competitive. For this reason I think it is advisable to start the process of looking for a job early. Admittedly your chances are slim of getting a job without the Ph.D. degree in hand, but it is important to be well prepared for job hunting; for this reason it is extremely useful to go through the process of preparing a CV, attending a convention, and, if possible, having interviews. In addition to making you familiar with the process and procedures and therefore more comfortable and confident, it should also be noted that there is an element of luck in getting a job. Thus; the earlier you start making contacts, having interviews, etc., the better are your chances of meeting people you click with and hitting on positions that fit your specializations.

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