

Networking advice
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Adapted from “Developing and Maintaining Networks: Top 10 List Committee on the Status of Women in the Economic Profession,” Fall 2005

1. Organize a small 1-2 day conference directly on your main research agenda. Invite the half-dozen or so scholars whose research you most respect. Or volunteer to organize such a conference if there’s an organizational structure for them. Examples include below. However, organizing section panels for a large organization is often not good use of your time while you’re working toward tenure.
<https://sites.google.com/site/spireeastcoast/home>
2. Take any opportunity your institution provides to invite people in your field to give a talk. Organizing the departmental or field speaker series is a productive type of service you can perform for your colleagues and also helps you personally. (However, try to avoid taking on a lot of logistical work, for example, scheduling meetings for them or arranging their travel. Many places pay students or have administrators take this on.)
3. Contact authors of recently published research closely related to yours. Send them a polished paper you are ready to submit for publication or you recently published and very briefly indicate how it may be building on or extending their research.
4. Email people to thank them for their assistance or advice after you complete something they helped you do, even if it’s only for data they made available to the public.
5. Don’t be shy about asking your graduate school contacts if they could suggest your name for the speaker series at their department. If you’re in such a position yourself, and you respect their work, you could consider inviting them.
6. Attend 2-3 conferences a year to present your research and meet others working on your topic. It is worth using your own funds for one conference a year if other funds are unavailable. However, sometimes department chairs will come up with funding for a special opportunity, such as a specialized small conference with influential researchers.
7. At conferences, attend social events and your section business meeting. You run into people that way. At panels, ask a good question directly on the main point of one of the papers, and after the panel, you can briefly chat with the presenter as a follow-up.
8. In these exchanges and settings, everyone should be cordial and constructive. If pointing to a criticism, pose it as a question and offer a possible solution. This holds regardless of the expertise or rank of the person you are talking with.