

**CSUDH**

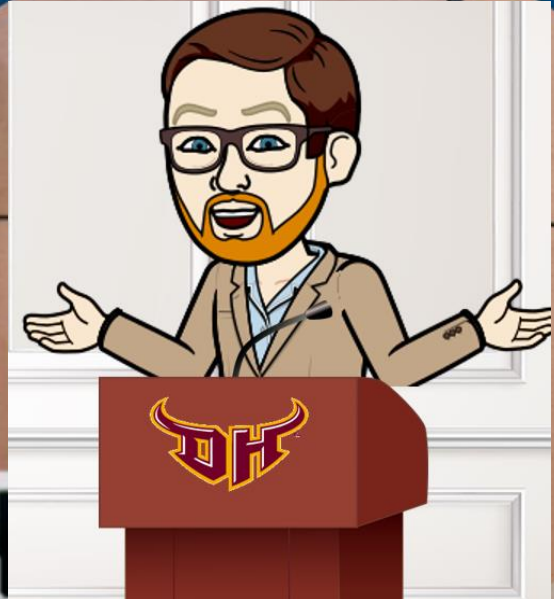
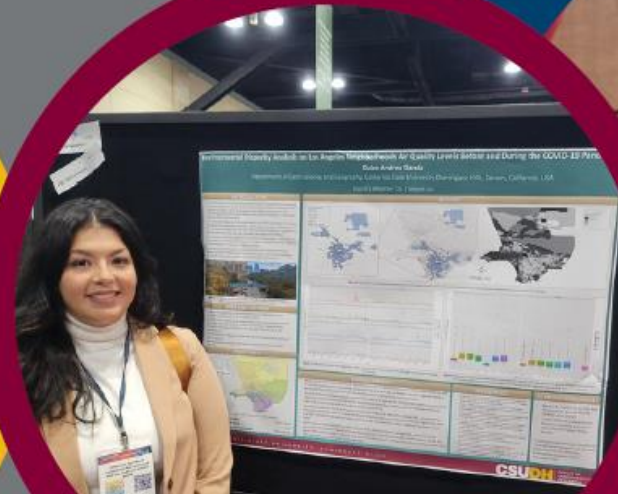
OFFICE OF  
UNDERGRADUATE  
RESEARCH

# ATTENDING RESEARCH CONFERENCES SUCCESSFULLY

With Dr. Ken Seligson  
Department of Anthropology

**MAR 19**

**2:30-3:30 PM**



# Brief Overview

Personal Introduction

Why, Where, When?

Planning Ahead

Presenting

Making the Most of it

Afterward

# Who am I?

Dr. Ken Seligson

Associate Professor

Dept. of Anthropology

CSUDH – 5 years

USC – 3 years

PhD – U. of Wisconsin

Too many conferences to  
count



# Why???

- Networking
- Sharing
- Learning
- CV/Resume building
- Practice
- Leadership/Org. Structure
- Socializing
- Travel
- Interviews



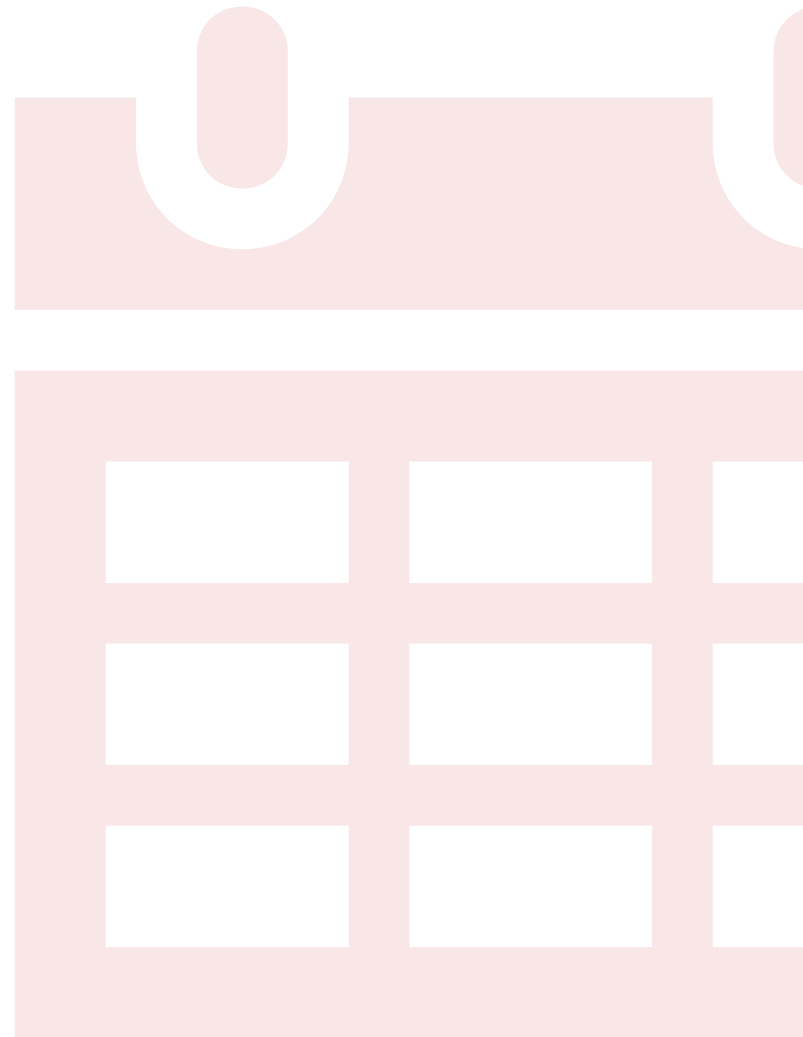
# Where??

- Local conferences
- Regional conferences
- National conferences
- International conferences,
- Different purposes, different expectations, different pressure levels.



# When???

- Now!
- Plan in advance
  - sometimes a year or more in advance
  - Look at annual calendar
  - Maybe one or two per year, maybe more if they are local
- Attend as Undergrad to build experience



How???

Plan ahead:

## Finding Conferences and Funding

- Ask your professors
- Check professional org. websites
- OUR
  
- Apply for funding from
  - OUR
  - Professional organizations
  - Private foundations



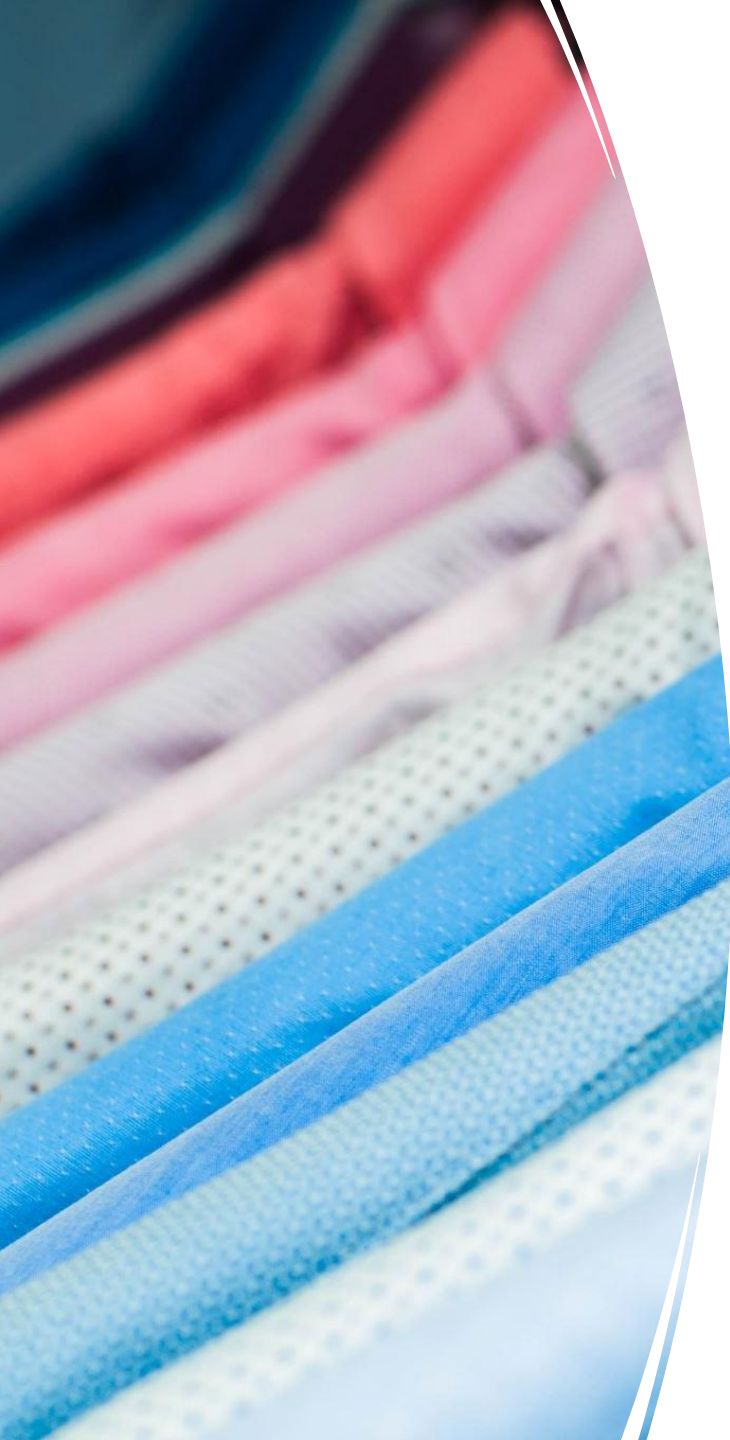


# Plan ahead: Conference Hotels

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- Hotels, Convention Centers
- Reserved blocks, student rates
- Room with other students
- Positives:
  - Run into people
  - Can go right downstairs to sessions
- Negatives
  - Expensive





# Plan ahead: Conference Attire

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- Dress professionally appropriate to the conference vibe and location
- Pants, Skirt, Button-down...
- Making an impression

Plan  
ahead:  
Make a  
Budget

- Estimate a budget in advance as best you can
- Volunteer
- Be thrifty with food expenses
  - Bring food
  - Attend Conference events where food is served

Plan ahead:  
Get Work Done in  
Advance

- Homework, grading, assignments
- Don't expect to work at the conference
- Avoid being smacked by a return to reality the following week...



# Presenting: Presentation Formats

- Oral presentations
    - Symposia
  - Poster presentations
  - Lightning rounds
  - Roundtables
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- Different formats,  
different expectations,  
different levels of  
pressure



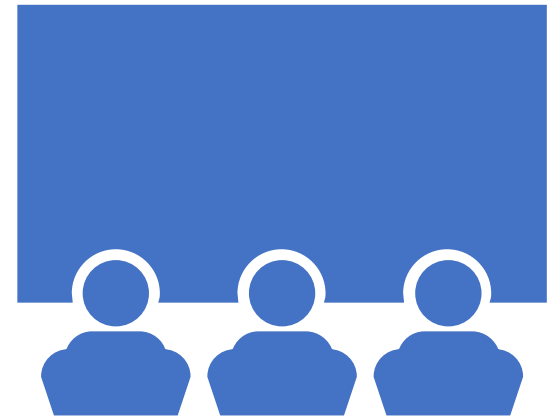
# Presenting: Challenge Yourself

- The more presentations you give, the better and more comfortable you will be at it
- Very few people enjoy public speaking from the start
- YOU are the expert
- Maybe start off with small local conferences and then expand outward from there



# Presenting: Practice!

- Practice your public speaking
  - On your own
  - Friends
  - Classes
  - Theater 120



# Presenting: Organize a Session



- Make connections
- Build social capital
- Organizational experience
- Publication possibilities
- CV/Resume
- Make sure to not take on too much





## Making the most of it: Networking

- Good place to meet researchers and scholars whose work interests you
- Your peers
- Attend conference functions, especially those for students
- Some advisers introduce you, others don't
- Don't put too much pressure on yourself – just hanging out is networking!

# Make the most of it: Business Meetings

- Most conferences have “business meetings”
- Discuss policies, plans, position elections, awards
- Chance to see how organization or conference works
- Boring, but important
- Leadership?
- Student roles
- Sub-group/committee meetings



# Make the most of it: Idea Notebook

- Bring a small notebook to take notes during sessions
- You will undoubtedly hear things that will spark your own ideas
- Research questions, methods, approaches you had not considered
- Phone...





## Make the most of it: Business Cards

- ...Or some way to share your contact information
- Digital Business cards
- QR codes



# Make the most of it: Explore

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- Explore the city
- Conference trips: local museums, institutes, or other local landmarks
- Chance to not only see the sights, but to socialize



## Afterward: Go with the Flow

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- Take the inspiration and run with it
- Follow up on sources, articles, recommendations you received
- Start preparing for the next conference while the experiences of this last one are fresh in mind



# Afterward: Follow-Up Emails

- Strengthening connections
  - Established scholars
  - Peers
- Remembering you
- Building a rep
- Invite them to give a talk?
- “It was very nice to meet you...”
- “Look forward to following up again soon...”





And most  
importantly...

**Enjoy!**