**The Professor Is in: A First-Timer on the Job Market?**



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[*Image:*](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bundesarchiv_Bild_183-M0711-0027,_Birgit_Treiber,_Kerstin_Kerger,_Angela_Franke.jpg) *GDR swimming championships, 1973. Rainer Mittelstädt, Photographer (via German Federal Archives)*

**I’m going on the academic job market for the first time starting this coming fall. What should I expect?**

That depends a lot on your field and your subfield, as well as on your own qualifications. But there are certain common features that hold true across the tenure-track market, which tends to be highly competitive in many disciplines and subdisciplines, though far worse in some than in others. At any rate, let me try to enumerate some of the many things that you can expect as a first-timer on the faculty market.

* You can expect the competition to be fierce. In many fields you may find very, very few tenure-track openings for which you can apply. In certain humanities fields, the number of positions advertised over the course of the entire job cycle in 2015-16 may be in the single digits.
* You can expect to receive little or no acknowledgment of your applications from departments. You may well never be told that you have been removed from consideration.
* You can expect to depend on the [Jobs Wiki](http://academicjobs.wikia.com/wiki/Academic_Jobs_Wiki) for information on the progress of searches.
* You can [expect to be Googled](https://chroniclevitae.com/news/1027-how-to-tailor-your-online-image), once you make the long shortlist.
* You can expect to be competing against people with many years of teaching and publishing experience, including some tenure-track assistant professors. Some of them will have an advantage over you.
* You can expect to be competitive, even as a first timer (and/or as an A.B.D.),if you have an impressive record of sole/first-author peer-reviewed publishing and experience teaching on your own (as opposed to a TA gig). You will also need to have presented papers at major conferences and have excellent recommendation letters.
* You can expect to have your teaching record closely examined, even for positions at major research universities.
* You can expect to have your publishing record closely examined, even for teaching positions.
* You can expect to be asked inappropriate questions.
* You can expect many awkward interactions during the interview process.
* You can expect to receive bad advice from many corners: your friends, your university’s career-services office, and perhaps even your adviser.
* You can expect to need new clothes.
* You can expect to be asked questions for which you did not prepare.
* You can expect to panic.
* You can expect to need to stretch outside your comfort zone intellectually, pedagogically, and socially.
* You can expect to spend endless hours on your job-application materials, and to find the hiring process enormously disruptive to both your scholarly and personal life.
* You can expect to feel ambivalent about your successes on the market, seeing your friends’ struggles.
* You can expect to feel despondent about your own struggles on the market, seeing your friends’ successes.
* You can expect to confront, at one point or another, the possibility that you will not find a job this cycle.
* You can expect to feel conflicted and angry about the academic career.
* You can expect to be on the academic market again in 2016-17

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- See more at: https://chroniclevitae.com/news/1036-the-professor-is-in-a-first-timer-on-the-job-market?cid=VTEVPMSED1#sthash.cIPTYvFB.dpuf