

# Professional Networks & Developing & Maintaining Professional Collaborations



# Developing Professional Networks

- With what types of people do you need to develop professional relationships?
- What types of things can you do to develop your professional networks?



# Who Do You Need to Meet?

- Fellow researchers with an interest in the same hot topic on your campus & across the world (use your literature)
- Theorists – they don't have to be in your field
- Funding agency officers
- Top names (scholars) in your field
- People with a methodological expertise (statistics, instruments etc)
- Editors of journals
- Department chairs who might hire you
- Leaders of professional associations
- Policy makers
- Gatekeepers of your population (e.g. principals of schools etc)
- Ethics/IRB Committee/staff members



# What Can You Do to Develop & Maintain Professional Networks?

## ➤ Active conference attendance

- Make a plan for conference attendance – what do you want to learn, who do you want to meet, set up a strategy to achieve this
- Use people you know to be introduced to others
- Attend social events at conferences – work the room
- Be brave – introduce yourself to leaders
- Ask Qs at sessions – find people after sessions
- Go to poster sessions & seek out fellow scholars
- Go special interest group meetings
- Attend events specifically put on for grad students
- Attend keynotes



# Finding & Developing Professional Networks?

- Join professional organizations – get involved
- Join online scholar communities – discipline-based listservs, online blogging communities etc
- Many journals run author sessions at conferences: attend & ask good Qs
- Use google scholar to identify relevant people to meet
- Use campus-wide search engines to find cross disciplinary partners
- Ask faculty & other VIPs with whom you should connect
- Write to authors



# Maintaining Professional Networks

- Keep your professional memberships
- Be active in online scholar communities – bounce your ideas off others electronically
- Use skype for online face to face meetings
- Appropriate use of email
- Arrange brownbag lunches to get together
- Set a regular meeting time – e.g. 1<sup>st</sup> Friday in every month
- Take a role in group projects & follow through on your responsibilities
- Reading/theorist/methodology /writinggroups
- Organizing retreats
- Go early – stay late from conferences

