
benefiting from CLS, LIN etc. visitors

1 message

T. Florian Jaeger

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22 November 2015 at 16:22

To:

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Hey HLPers,

I wanted to encourage you--old or young, fresh or ... ripe?--to take advantage of opportunities to meet with visiting researchers.

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Redacted In both cases, I learned to my surprise that many of you either didn't go to the talk or didn't ask for a meeting.

These things are, of course, optional but I hope you don't mind if I list a few reasons why I think you should try to take advantage of these moments:

- An important part of science is communicating your ideas to other, including other researchers. In particular, it's important to learn how to communicate your ideas *effectively* (i.e., also getting across why they are exciting and worth addressing) to researchers *who are not already familiar with them*. No matter where you are, we're always part of a bubble. Speaking to visitors is one way to learn to convey the relevance of your research to people with a different background.
- The different background that our visitors bring to us is also critical in that it means that we will get unexpected feedback, feedback that might prevent us from being surprised or looking silly when we go to conferences, feedback that makes us aware of related research, feedback that makes us realize that there's a whole field that we could reach if we just knew about it.
- Our visitors are also often successful academics, who lead labs and thus might have a post-doc for you down the road or vote on a faculty job. Beyond these rather immediate consequences, they are often in positions where they can spread the word ... if they are aware of your work.
- What comes around, goes around. There will be moments when you visit places (many of you already have been in those situations). I am sure you felt (or will feel) how nice it is to feel welcome and to have colleagues take of some of their time to meet with you and exchange ideas.

hth. It's probably all obvious anyway, but I love listing things, you know?

Florian

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