

Job Possibilities in Astronomy

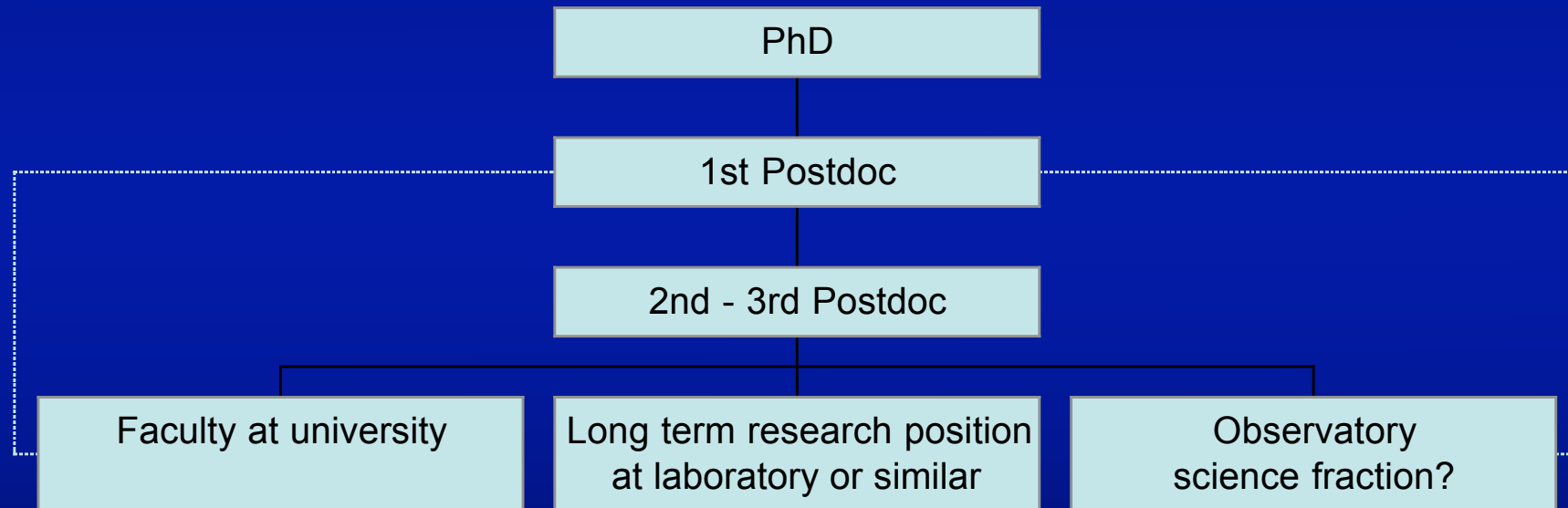
Harald Kuntschner

ST-ECF

1st Question

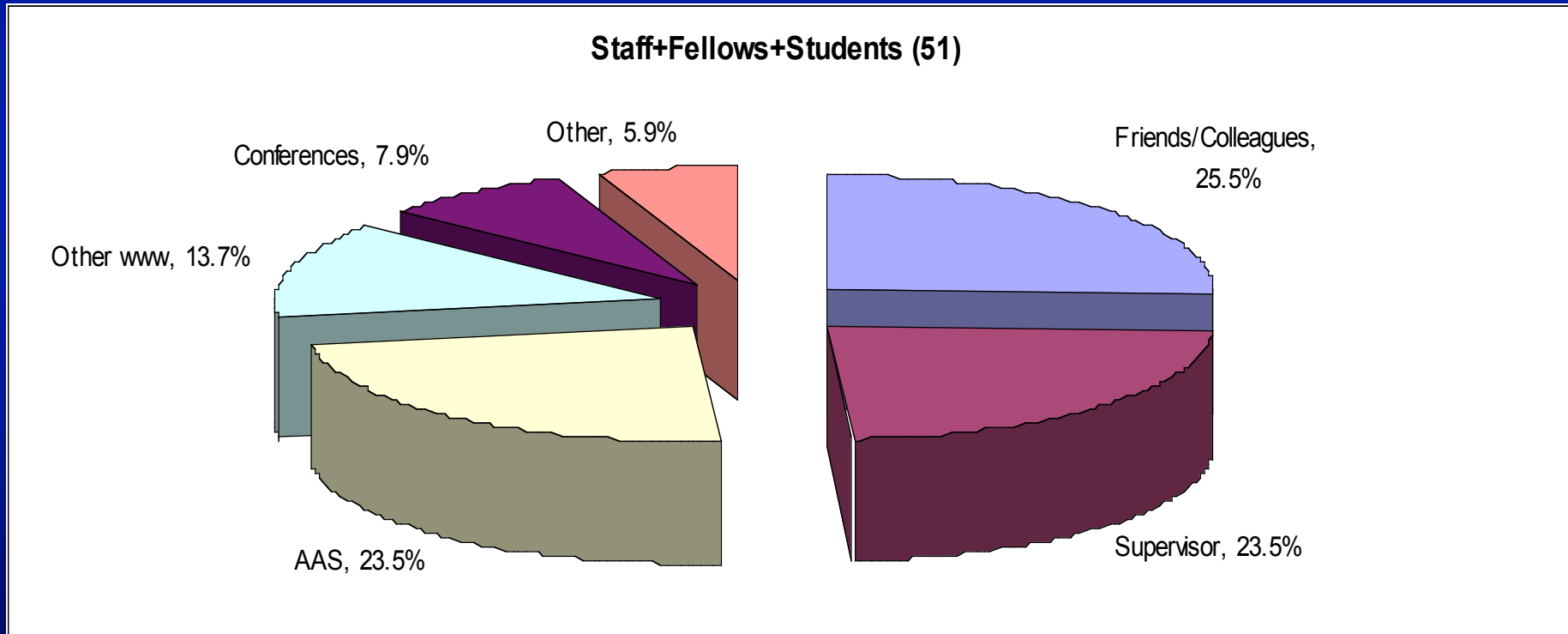
- Do you really want to continue in astronomy?
- Really?
- Be serious!

Career Path

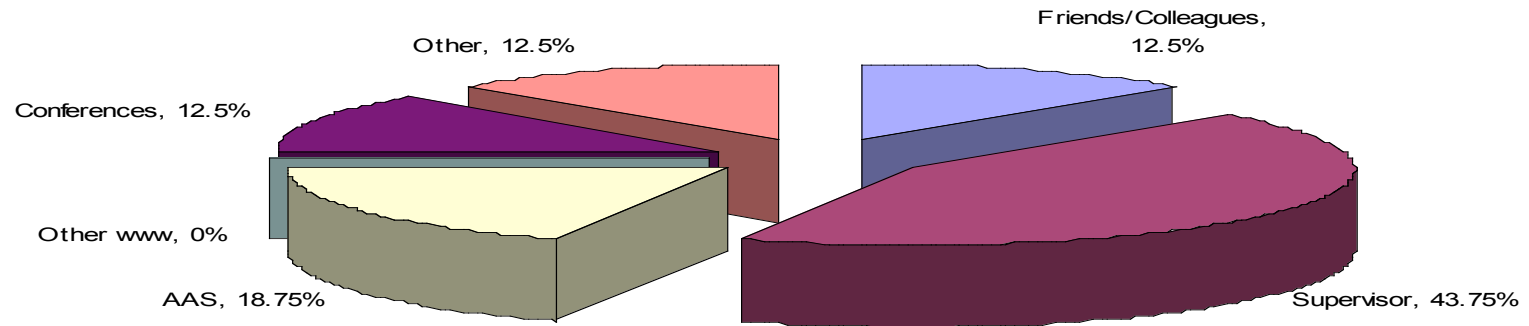


ESO job-hunting survey

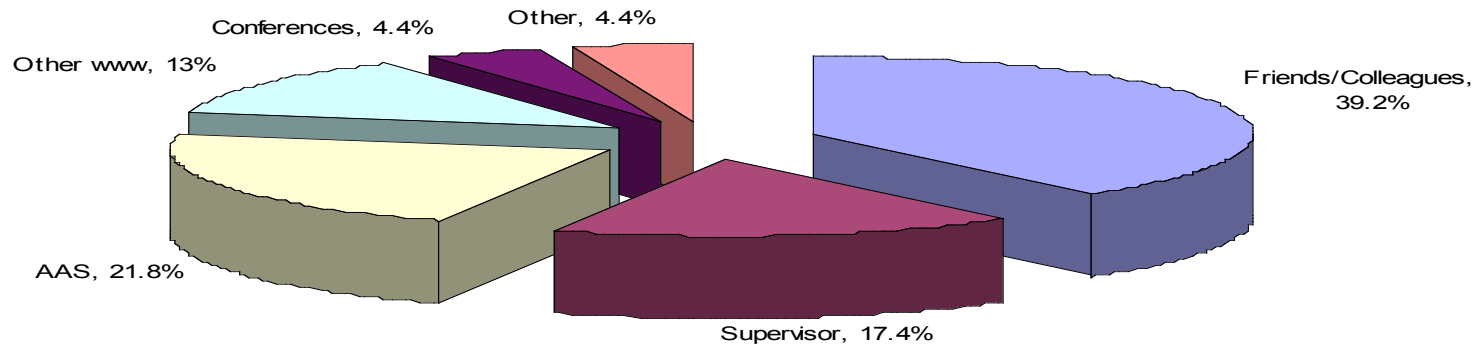
Q: How did you get to (do you plan to) hear about your 1st post-doc?



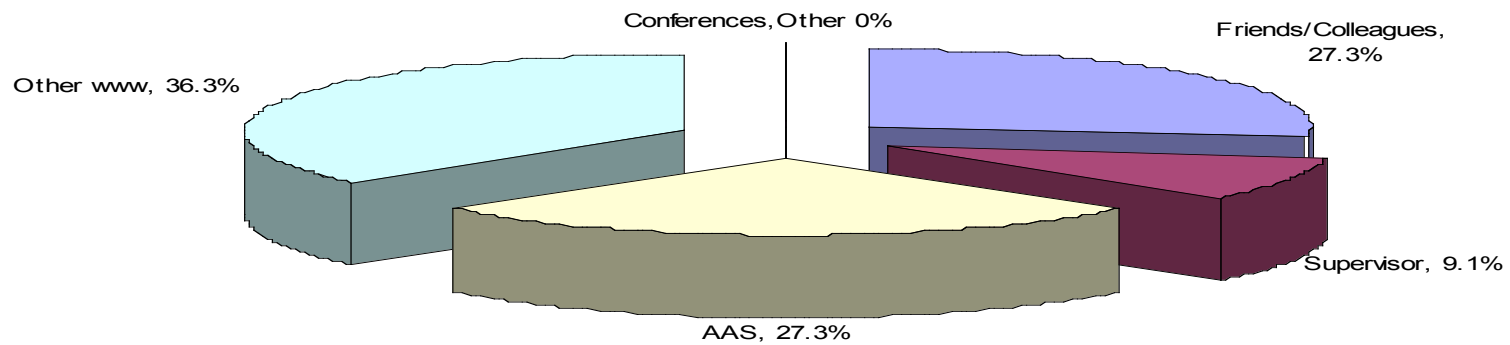
Staff only (16)



Fellows only (23)



Students only (11)



PhDs are important

(Gibson et al. 1999, astro-ph/9904229)

PhDs remaining active: 55-75% overall

up to ~80% for “prestigious” institutes

only ~50% for “non-prestigious” programs

(Trimble, 1991)

Within 10yrs of PhD ... recipe for success?

45% permanent

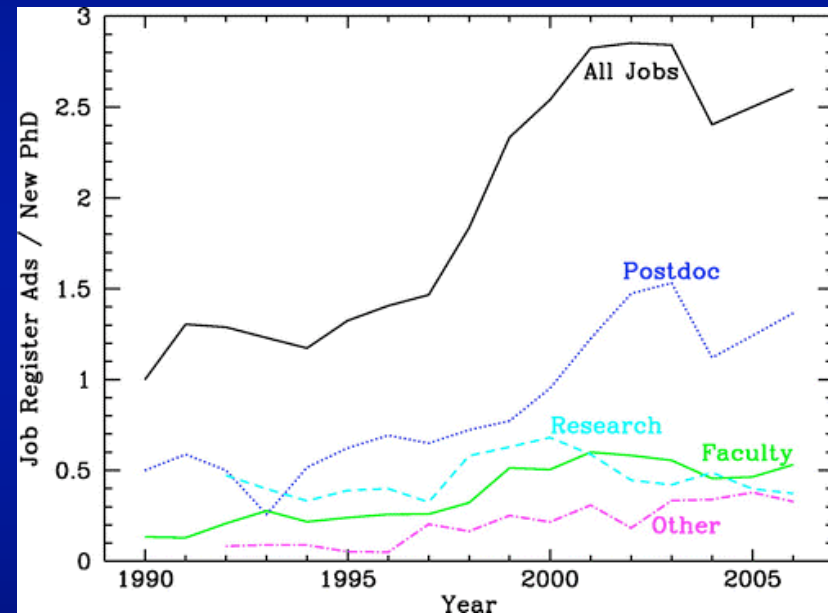
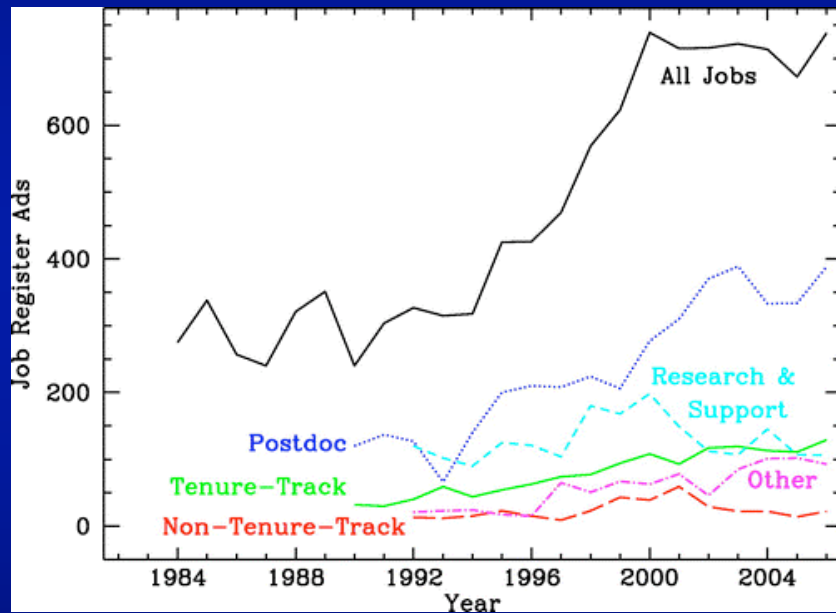
20% “soft-money”

35% quit research

See also Metcalfe, 2008, PASP, 120, 229

How many jobs are there?

AAS statistics (“US centric view”)



Metcalfe, 2008, PASP, 120, 229

What's needed for application

- CV
 - Standard information
 - Observational experience
 - Teaching experience
 - Computing experience
 - Talks / posters
 - Science related activities e.g., outreach
- Research proposal / statement
- List of publications
- Reference letters

Get the timing right

AAS monthly statistics

2006-3-1	65	*****
2006-4-1	66	*****
2006-5-1	54	*****
2006-6-1	43	*****
2006-7-1	46	*****
2006-8-1	46	*****
2006-9-1	119	*****
2006-10-1	182	*****
2006-11-1	218	*****
2006-12-1	179	*****
2007-1-1	118	*****
2007-2-1	58	*****
2007-3-1	48	*****
2007-4-1	52	*****
2007-5-1	47	*****
2007-6-1	54	*****
2007-7-1	62	*****
2007-8-1	139	*****
2007-9-1	144	*****
2007-10-1	190	*****
2007-11-1	237	*****
2007-12-1	219	*****
2008-1-1	159	*****
2008-2-1	74	*****
2008-3-1	67	*****
2008-4-1	69	*****
2008-5-1	65	*****
2008-6-1	81	*****
2008-7-1	62	*****
2008-8-1	83	*****
2008-9-1	120	*****
2008-10-1	63	*****
2008-11-1	26	*****
2008-12-1	2	*****

Contact AAS www.aas.org AAS Governance Copyright Notice Privacy Policy
© 2008, American Astronomical Society
Modified: June 25, 2007 12:16 pm

Find: UniR Next Previous Highlight all Match case

Nov 2006

Nov 2007

Recipe for successful PhD

- (1) Investigate past history of school/supervisor
- (2) Know what's "Hot"
- (3) Get experience writing grants (and proposals!)
- (4) Be sure to network
- (5) Avoid excessive observing
- (6) Be wary of undertaking PhDs in very large teams
- (7) Move institutes for your PhD and PDF, and be prepared to emigrate
- (8) Be aware of the competition
- (9) Publish papers *during* your PhD

WWW Job Hunting

- **Astronomical Societies:**
 - American Astronomical Society (AAS): <http://members.aas.org/JobReg/JobRegister.cfm>
 - European Astronomical Society (EAS): <http://eas.unige.ch/eas/jobs.jsp>
 - Royal Astronomical Society (RAS): <http://www.ras.org.uk>
- **Fellowship/Studentship Programmes:**
 - Einstein fellowships: <http://cxc.harvard.edu/fellows>
 - ESO: <http://jobs.eso.org/> (15 Oct deadline)
 - EU programs (formerly Marie-Curie): <http://www.mariecurie.org/>
 - STFC (UK): <http://www.scitech.ac.uk/Grants/Fells/Contents.aspx>
 - STSci (Hubble and Giacconi fellows): <http://www.stsci.edu>
- **Some specific Institutes/Observatories/Organisations:**
 - Centre National de Recherche Scientifique (CNRS): <http://www2.cnrs.fr/en/349.htm>
 - European Southern Observatory (ESO): <http://www.eso.org>
 - European Space Agency (ESA): <http://www.esa.int>
 - Joint Astronomy Centre (JAC): <http://www.jach.hawaii.edu/admin/employment/>
- **Science Magazines:**
 - Nature: <http://www.nature.com/naturejobs/>
 - New Scientist: <http://www.newscientistjobs.com/>

WARNING : This list is by no means complete