Identifying and Applying for Academic Positions in Geography

Career Ranks US:
- Adjunct (typically course-by-course)
- Lecturer (typically multi-course; can be one or multi-year)
- Postdoc (usually science-oriented; 1-3 years)
- Assistant Professor (typically tenure track; lasts six years)
- Associate Professor (typically with tenure)
- Professor (aka “Full Professor”; highest rank short of named/endowed professor)

Career Ranks UK:
- Postdoc (usually science-oriented; 1-3 years)
- Lecturer (equivalent to Assistant Professor US)
- Senior Lecturer (equivalent to Associate Professor US)
- Reader (equivalent to Associate/Full Professor US)
- Professor (equivalent to Professor or named/endowed professor US)

Issues to Consider:
- When to begin your job preparation and search process.
- How to find and interpret advertisements in geography and interdisciplinary programs.
- Researching the positions beyond the advertisement.
- Differences in expectations across institutional types.

Preparing application materials:
- Letters of application, CV, Statement of Teaching Philosophy/Teaching Portfolio
- Letters of recommendation

Phone and campus interviews.

Anticipating the questions and answers:
- Teaching experience, philosophy, techniques, fit into department curriculum
- Current and future research directions, plans for external funding, collaborations
- Service to the unit (how can you contribute to a healthy organization) and profession
- Fit into existing department and wider university context (centers, other units)
- The interview: Job Talk, Teaching Talk, individual/group, dean(s), dept head/chair
- Questions for the committee, dean, dept head/chair
- Negotiating salary and startup
- Dual career issues (partner hires)

Resources:

*Chronicle of Higher Education* careers section – for advertisement and relevant online columns (more here than you could read)