DON'T PANIC

bonus slides
Don’t Panic
– or –
how to survive a PhD

Jilles Vreeken
Attending a Conference
Attending a Conference

. . . (Ping) The captain has turned off the seat belt sign...

So... are you travelling for business or for fun?

Me? Well...

I'm going to a research conference so... it's... uh... sort of... um...

None of the above?

It's not for fun, that's for sure.
Attending a Conference
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Talk to people at all occasions
- after presentations, in coffee breaks, in rest rooms

Plan which sessions/presentations to attend
- combination of topic and presenter

Make the most out of a poster presentation
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A DATA-DRIVEN SKETCH OF WIKIPEDIA EDITORS

WIKIPEDIA IS...

- Current info source
- Most important different losing editors
- Largest and most popular reference work on the Internet (Source: Wikipedia)

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A DATA-DRIVEN SKETCH OF WIKIPEDIA EDITORS

EDITORS HAVE MORE ONLINE TIME

- 3x as much as readers-only
- 9x as much as non-readers
- But how do they spend it?

1. How old are you?
2. What is your gender?
3. What is your highest degree?

13K EDITS ON 5.1K ARTICLES BY 1.9K EDITORS

5.3K EDITOR-ARTICLE PAIRS

(40% entertainment-related)

WIKIPEDIA EDITOR SURVEY

- Wikipedia editor survey
- How old are you?
- What is your gender?
- What is your highest degree?

1. How old are you? 28 (median)
2. What is your gender? Male
3. What is your highest degree? High school

47% OF VARIANCE EXPLAINED BY...

- More entertainment
- More science & news/media

CO-EXPERTISE

- Expertise cat.
- More edits per user
- Larger edits
- Higher chance of being logged in

FUTURE IDEAS

- How do readers become first-time editors?
- Use results to target promising readers during editor recruitment

CORRELATES OF EXPERTISE:

- Sample 1,000 search queries per editor
- Interest (a):
- Interest (q,a):
- Expertise (a):
- Co-expertise (a)
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Be as active as possible. It is boring if you’re not.
Giving a Presentation
What is a PhD about?

Learning how to do science, such that you become an independent researcher.
Surviving on Stage

Just a few things to remember

The medium matters as much as the message
- it is all about confidence

Realise that you are the expert
- attendees want to learn what you discovered

It is not a competition (anymore)
- your paper was accepted, now it is about advertising
The Body shapes the Mind

How you feel influences how you behave.
The Body shapes the Mind

How you **behave** influences how you **feel**.
The Body shapes the Mind

How you behave influences how you feel influences how you behave

The Body shapes the Mind

Only two minutes of power posing reduces stress levels and changes behaviour

Power Posing

Amy Cuddy (2012) Your Body Language Shapes Who You Are, TEDglobal
Power Posing

Amy Cuddy (2012) Your Body Language Shapes Who You Are, TEDglobal
Power Posing
How to work

Everybody works differently

-find out what works for you

It's not about how many hours — stupid!!

-say no to peer pressure

Life is much more than just work

-have fun and do sports: a healthy mind lives in a healthy body

Create a stimulating environment

-optimize your workplace
Giving a Presentation
Giving a Presentation

Don’t overestimate your audience
■ Go sloooow on technical details – or leave out

Don’t overestimate your time
■ 90-100 seconds per normal slide

Who on earth invented overview slides?!?
■ Introduction, ... Experiments, ... Conclusions

Clearly emphasize the key points
■ Visually and audibly

Think about the take-home message
■ say thanks on the last slide, keep the conclusion visible

Get feedback on all aspects and practice
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You’re taking an elevator with Donald Trump

Donald: “So, what are you working on?”
You: ...
The Pitch

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- Donald: “So, what are you working on?”
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- Donald: “So, what are you working on?”
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Forces you to focus on the essential, see the big picture, get others excited, and remember **you & your work**
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The Pitch
The Pitch

Perhaps even more important: **Cocktail Party Pitch**
- Next family reunion
- “My child does something with computers.”

So, how is your work useful?
The Pitch

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So, how is your work useful?
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Think of a 60 sec summary of your work. Ask jv@cispa.saarland for feedback.
The Thesis

In CS, typically a collection of papers
- in the best case on a related topic

Rewrite per-paper introductions
- there’ll be a long introduction

When you don’t know what to write
- just write something

It will take longer than you think
- even if you expect it to take longer than you thought
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In CS, “easy” if you have published. But, takes longer than you think.