Partner Status of U.S. Academic Workforce

9,043 Full-Time Faculty from 13 Leading Research Universities

- 36% Have Employed (Non-Academic) Partner
- 36% Have Academic Partner
- 13% Have Stay-at-Home Partner
- 14% Are Single

Schiebinger et al., 2008
Gender Differences

Women are more likely than men to have academic partners

Schiebinger et al., 2008
Overall, ~10% of faculty enter the academy through dual hires

Schiebinger et al., 2008
Dual Career Advantages & Disadvantages

Advantages:

• There is a high level of understanding of each other’s work.
• You are passionate about many of the same things

Disadvantages:

• Difficulty navigating the job search
• Stigma of the ‘trailing spouse’ to be ‘less good’
Things to think and *talk* about as a couple:

- Are you willing to ‘compete’ against each other (applying to the same jobs)?
- Who is willing to take the position as the ‘trailing spouse’?
- Are you willing to have a long-distance relationship?
- Is one of you willing to work in a non-academic field or in a non-tenure track job?
Strategies when applying for jobs:

• Apply in metropolitan areas where there might be other universities close by that might have job openings.

• Apply to larger/wealthier universities where there is a better chance for a second position.

• On the other hand – many universities with no peer institutions within commuting distance set aside funds for partner hiring and recognize the desirability of hiring academic couples.
More Thoughts & Data:

Dual-Career Academic Couples –  
*What Universities Need to Know*

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http://gender.stanford.edu/dual-career-academic-couples-what-universities-need-know


http://www.euraxess-tandem.eu/