

ASP Research Reviews Presentations

ASP Research Reviews are presented every other week from winter to early summer. ASP fellows are expected to present one Research Review each year. The purposes of the Research Reviews are to foster scientific exchange and discussion among the postdoctoral fellows, help develop mutual understanding of the research projects being conducted in ASP, to provide advice to the presenter, to develop new collaborations where appropriate, and to provide professional development in scientific communication. The Research Reviews are *not* intended to be formal seminars, and should not over-emphasize results. Instead, they should focus on motivation and strategy and on the broad significance of the research endeavor. They may describe research currently underway or plans for new projects, and they should openly discuss questions or challenges a fellow might have with their current project so others can attempt to make suggestions and give their ideas. All ASP fellows, the ASP director and the ASP science advisor attend the Reviews.

A few tips for a successful Research Review Presentation

1. Time allotted for your talk

Each talk is 15 min (you will be cut off by the session chair if you go over 15 min.), followed by 15 min of Q&A and feedback. Feedback will be provided on content, research questions and challenges, as well as on presentation style and tips on how to present content more clearly.

2. Consider your audience

These talks are directed at an audience having diverse scientific backgrounds. With that in mind, keep your talk general. Use jargon only if it is clearly explained. Explain how your research fits in the broad background of earth Systems Science. Why does the subject interest you, and why should it interest others? Do not focus on the results at the expense of clearly explaining your motivation and approach.

3. Be careful of presenting too much information

Slides should be simple with a few clear points. It's difficult to read and comprehend a lot of text, especially while listening to someone talk. If your audience is confused by something in your slides or overwhelmed by lengthy text, they often simply ignore them.

4. General use of slides

You should use your slides to add to your spoken presentation. In other words, don't read your slides. Use your slides as an outline for what you're going to say; you can go into more detail in your talk. If English is not your first language or you are worried if people will follow a complex issue, add more text to your slides. Do not speak too quickly.

5. Equations, data & figures

Explain your equations: What does each symbol represent? Is the equation empirical or derived from first principles? How does one solve it? What sorts of data are used, at what temporal and spatial scales, and how are these data obtained? Explain your figures. What do the axes represent, and what are the units? What feature of a function should we focus on? Where is agreement good, where is it bad, and why? Consider how your figure will look from far away; choose colors that will show up well, and use thicker lines. Show labeled color bars when appropriate.

