**Get to know Silicon Valley**

- Since you are in Silicon Valley, it is worth trying to get a general sense of the area and especially the entrepreneurial mentality. This includes participating in company visits (e.g. Google, Facebook, Xerox PARC, Apple, NASA, Venture capital firms, etc.), pitch events, workshops, seminars and the like.
- Getting to know the local expatriate community helps to get a window into the area. There are plenty of sports events, barbecues, groups, etc.
- Silicon Valley could be described as full of super-friendly, delusionally optimistic, dynamic, work-oriented, meritocratic, dedicated and highly performing health nuts. Appearing to be relaxed and cool while actually being rather stressed is elevated to an art form.
- An amazing range of outdoor, sports, cultural and social events exist as well as quite decent restaurants.

**Understand the ABCs of Stanford**

- One of the most interesting things for SCANCOR scholars is to learn about a different university environment, understanding the basic culture and workings of Stanford. Key insights: superior research quality, resource-endowed, dynamic, entrepreneurial, industry-friendly, multidisciplinary, collaborative, professor-led, decentralized, campus-based. While many Nordic university representatives come here to learn about what should be benchmarked and "copied," it is also interesting to think about what doesn't work and what works in different ecosystems.
- Stanford has 7 schools, about 70 departments, about 100 research centers (http://www.stanford.edu/research/centers.html - skim through this list) and 5 multidisciplinary programs. Potentially interesting centers (semi-random selection) include Clayman, Deliberative Democracy, SIEPR, CES, Freeman-Spogli, H-STAR, Humanities Center, CIFE, CRGP, CISAC, Center for Leadership Development and Research (CLDR), PACS, Social Innovation, IRISS, Media-X, CDR, WTO. Each typically has its own seminar and social event/wine (go to these to meet people, potentially easier than trying to set up meetings). The Career Development Center (http://studentaffairs.stanford.edu/cdc) can be an excellent resource for example for polishing your CV and the postdoctoral association AIMS (http://aims.stanford.edu/) organizes interesting talks monthly.
- A range of amazing talk series typically takes place in the evenings between 7-9pm around the campus. They are usually listed on the Stanford.edu website's calendar and/or download the iStanford iPhone app. If you let them, interesting talks will take up all your time. Nonetheless, if a Nobel-prize winner is giving a talk in the next building, it might just be worth going.

**Follow SCANCOR informal rules**

- SCANCOR is an embassy, safe haven, forum, base of operation, meeting place and so many other things, but do not expect it to do everything for you. You can take the role of a scout finding out interesting seminars and events and tell other SCANCORians. The beauty of the place is in the community where everyone learns from each other. You are quite free to wander around and explore, and the available opportunities can be overwhelming, thus it might be better to do a few bigger things very well (such as participation very actively in 1-2 seminars, taking a course, presenting at a seminar or two) combined to exploration in terms of smaller things, instead of running around aimlessly. Being very clear about your objectives during your stay is important and monthly and weekly plans and targets might be a good idea.
- Be mindful that SCANCOR has a very good reputation so your behavior affects both SCANCOR alumni and future SCANCORians' opportunities. For instance, being well prepared for seminars and course (i.e. reading all the material and participating) is important.

**Participate in seminars and workshops and take courses**

- Academic life at Stanford revolves around workshops and seminars, i.e. "talks." In addition to SCANCOR seminars, potentially interesting seminars include:
    - Stanford University Entrepreneurial Thought Leaders Seminar (http://etl.stanford.edu/)
    - Work Technology and Organization seminar (http://www.stanford.edu/group/WTO/cgi-bin/index.php)
    - Comparative Systems workshop (Profs. Ramirez and Meyer)
    - Philantropy and Civil Society seminar (Profs. Powell and Reich; http://pacscenter.stanford.edu/)
    - Higher Education seminar (Prof. Larabee)
    - Networks and Organization workshop (Profs. Powell and Barley)
    - Economic Sociology seminar (Profs. Granovetter, Parigi, Zhou)
    - Organizational behavior seminar (Stanford Business School)
    - Social Science and Technology seminar (Stanford Institute for Economic Policy and Research)
    - Stanford HCI group Seminar on Computers, people and design (http://hci.stanford.edu/courses/cs547/)
    - Center for Design Research at the D-school . DesignX seminars (https://www.stanford.edu/group/designx_lab/cgi-bin/mainwiki/index.php/People)
    - The Career Development Center at Stanford (http://studentaffairs.stanford.edu/cdc/phd-post-doc)
    - Berkeley School of Information seminar series (http://www.ischool.berkeley.edu/newsandevents/events)
- Some of these seminars are listed as courses and/or on the website and some of them you just have to know about (contacting the organizing professor directly is the best way to get on the list). You should always prepare well for seminars and the assumption is that you have read the paper.
- A wide range of courses is available: http://explorecourses.stanford.edu/CourseSearch/. Contacting the teacher in advance if the class room size is relatively small is a good idea. Please note that many doctoral level courses are taught as workshops and involve a lot of work.

**Collaborate with Stanford faculty?**

- The majority of professors are open to short discussion meetings, especially if they see them as potentially valuable.
- Asking for a 1 hour meeting for the purpose of having a local professor comment on a paper of yours probably will not work. Previously successful SCANCOR-Stanford collaboration has developed over time and been driven by a) SCANCOR scholar having interesting data, b) SCANCOR scholar possessing specific methodological expertise, c) SCANCOR scholar working on developing or extending Stanford professor's theory/model/approach, and/or d) SCANCOR scholar having secured external funding to financially support Stanford collaboration project. These are not necessary, but they can help a lot.
- At Stanford, while searching through departments' and centers' websites is useful, picking an individual professor and learning about her/his work/course/seminar is a good start for potential collaboration. It's all about finding the right person and that person can be in a very different discipline or department than you expect her/him to be.  Research tends to be focused on specific themes or theories (e.g. innovation, higher education, neo-institutional theory, networks, social movements, population ecology) around which groups with a critical mass are formed and seminars are developed.
- To use Steve Jobs' (borrowed) words to summarize the local attitude towards work and life: "Stay hungry, stay foolish."