

Beyond the Professoriate



A Virtual Conference for PhDs in Transition

May 3 and 10, 2014

Hosted by Maren Wood (Lilli Research Group) and Jennifer Polk (From PhD to Life)

Speaker Bios

Conference hosts: Jennifer Polk and Maren Wood

Jennifer Polk is a coach and consultant who helps graduate students and PhDs make important changes in their lives. She's an advocate for the value of PhDs beyond the professoriate, blogs for *University Affairs*, and has written about her post-academic journey for the *Globe and Mail*, *Vitae*, and *Academic Matters*. Find Jen online at [From PhD to Life](#) and follow her on Twitter [@FromPhDtoLife](#). She earned her PhD in history from the University of Toronto and is completing her certification with MentorCoach, an International Coach Federation-accredited institution. Jen lives in Toronto.

Maren Wood (Founder, [Lilli Research Group](#)) is a research consultant and professional development specialist, working exclusively with graduate students and PhDs. In addition to one-on-one coaching services, she is a research consultant to the American Historical Association and the Chronicle of Higher Education/*Vitae*, studying academic employment trends and tracking PhD career outcomes. She earned a PhD in history from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and knows firsthand the challenges of being an adjunct, having worked as a Visiting Lecturer in the Department of History at UNC Chapel Hill teaching courses in American History and the History of Sexuality. A proud Canadian, she currently resides in Denver.

Career Day (May 3, 2014)

11:00 A.M. – 12:20 P.M. (EDT): Higher Education

Chair: Jennifer Polk

Panelists: Nikki Boots, Kristine Funch Lodge, Meagan Kittle Autry, Anne Mitchell Whisnant

Nikki Boots's love for educational technology stems from her days of teaching, where she strived to increase student engagement and learning with the help of the latest technology. Nikki completed her PhD in Learning, Design & Technology at Purdue University, and seeks to pursue evidence-based research for learning initiatives. Nikki's research interests include faculty professional development, inverted classrooms, online education, and educational video games. Nikki currently serves as an Instructional Designer at Dartmouth College. Her website is nikkiboots.com, and you can find her on LinkedIn ([linkedin.com/in/nikkiboots](https://www.linkedin.com/in/nikkiboots)) and Twitter ([@nkb617](https://twitter.com/nkb617)).

Kristine Funch Lodge holds a master's degree in English from Wake Forest University and a PhD in English with a concentration in Medieval Studies from the University of Oregon. She trained as an Anglo-Saxonist and wrote her dissertation on Anglo-Saxon hagiography. After a lot of soul-searching, she realized academia was not the place for her, and, in 2006, she accepted a position at the University of Oregon Career Center, where she's worked ever since. Kristine is currently the Assistant Director, Academic Programs, where she coordinates career courses and an internship program.

Meagan Kittle Autry is the inaugural Director of [Thesis and Dissertation Support Services](#) in the Graduate School at NC State University. Her work combines scholarly writing instruction across the disciplines, coaching on best practices for graduate education, and professional development for both academic and non-academic career paths. She earned her PhD in Communication, Rhetoric, and Digital Media from NCSU. She would love to connect with you on Twitter ([@makautry](https://twitter.com/makautry)) or [LinkedIn](#).

Anne Mitchell Whisnant is Deputy Secretary of the Faculty and Adjunct Associate Professor of History and American Studies at UNC-Chapel Hill. Since finishing her PhD in History at UNC-Chapel Hill in 1997, she has pursued an "alternative-academic" (or altac) career in academic administration, first at Duke (2002-06) and then at UNC (2006-present). For a decade, she has frequently written and spoken about non-faculty career paths for PhDs and this year, with a colleague, she has convened an "Altac Working Group" of 15 altac professionals to create a proposal for change at UNC-Chapel Hill. Meanwhile, Anne's ongoing history teaching, research, consulting, and writing focus on public history, digital history, and the history of the U.S. National Parks. In 2006, UNC Press published her book, *Super-Scenic Motorway: A Blue Ridge Parkway History*. Anne has also been the co-principal historian on several National Park Service projects including an administrative history of De Soto National Memorial and a Historic Resource Study of Cape Lookout National Seashore. Most recently, Anne chaired a task force commissioned by the Organization of American Historians and the National Park Service to study the state of historical practice within the Park Service. Its report, *Imperiled Promise: The State of History in the National Park Service*, was published in 2012. At UNC, Anne serves as adviser for [Driving Through Time: The Digital Blue Ridge Parkway](#), a digital history collection being developed collaboratively with the UNC Libraries. Her website of "alternative-academic" and job search resources is <http://annewhisnant.web.unc.edu/altac/>.

12:30 P.M. – 1:50 P.M. (EDT): [Corporate / For-Profit](#)

Chair: Maren Wood

Panelists: Melissa Nysewander, Alessandra Polizzi, Ryan Raver, Tracy Shroyer

Melissa Nysewander is Director of Data Science at Fidelity Investments in Durham, NC. She received her PhD in Physics & Astronomy from UNC in 2006, and since then has worked in academia, government, and now in the corporate world. In her current position, she works across the financial enterprise on a wide range of business problems using Big Data techniques and platforms. While the application may have changed from astronomy to environmental science to finance, her career has followed a straight trajectory of using advanced modeling and technical skills to provide data-driven solutions. She lives close to her alma mater in Chapel Hill, NC, with her partner, child, and three cats. Connect with her on [LinkedIn](#), Twitter [@MNYsewan](#), and her [personal website](#).

Alessandra Polizzi is a certified coach who currently leads education for 7-Eleven in her role as the Dean of 7-Excel University. She has been in corporate education, change management, and organizational development for over 15 years, earning several honors in her field including a 2012 "Best Place to Learn in Dallas" award from the American Society for Training and Development, a "Top Innovator Award" from *Chief Learning Officer* magazine, and *Training* magazine's "Top 40 Under 40" award. She serves on the board of directors for the DFW Learning and Development Director's Roundtable and participates in the Network of Executive Women and Women's Foodservice Forum. She has a PhD in English with a specialization in 20th century American literature from the University of North Texas (2001). She lives outside of Dallas with her husband, son, daughter and rescued pug. Read more about Alessandra's path in [this autobiographical post](#). You can learn more about her experience by visiting [her LinkedIn profile](#) and by following her on Twitter at [@FromProf2Prof](#).

Ryan Raver is currently a Global Product Manager for Sigma-Aldrich Corporation in St. Louis, MO. He currently manages the RNAi product portfolio and helps to bring new products to market within the Functional Genomics field. Previously, he interned for Promega Corporation in Madison, WI as an Associate Product Manager in Proteomics during the last 8 months of his PhD. He earned his PhD from UW-Madison in 2013 in Cellular and Molecular Pathology and since has continued working in the biotech industry. Ryan also currently runs [The Grad Student Way](#) (founded in 2012), which is geared toward providing grad school advice, solutions, and insights with a focus on alternative PhD careers. Ryan has authored two books (both are free), one of which provides PhD advice on how to network while in graduate school in order to gain crucial and marketable skills to land your first job outside of academia. Ryan's hope is that no matter what stage you are at in your career, you will find his advice and site useful.

Tracy Shroyer completed her PhD in Organization and Management with a Leadership specialization from Capella University. She has over 17 years' experience in the financial services industry across the areas of operations, risk management, project management, analytics, leadership, and customer service. She currently works full-time as an Account Executive for a Fortune 500 company and is an Adjunct Faculty Member of Business at Columbus State Community College. You can connect with Tracy Shroyer via [her website](#) and on Twitter at [@tshroyer2](#) and [@lifebtsw](#).

2:00 P.M. – 3:20 P.M. (EDT): Non-Profit & Government

Chair: Jennifer Polk

Panelists: Susan Gundersen, Pamella Lach, Stephanie S. Morgan, Jared Wesley

Susan Gundersen is a Research Fellow at the Educational Facilities Financing Center at the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC). She was placed in this role through her acceptance to the 2013 [Education Pioneers Analyst Fellowship](#). As a Research Fellow at LISC, Susan is gathering information on 200+ federal, state and private charter school facilities financing programs, and will publish this information in the 2014 version of the [Charter School Facility Finance Landscape](#) this June. Susan is also a Volunteer Citizen Teacher, co-teaching a project-based Social Entrepreneurship course to sixth-graders in East Harlem, NYC. Prior to her Fellowship, Susan worked as a Graduate Research Assistant and Instructor at the University of Notre Dame, where she received her PhD in Cognitive Psychology in 2013. Susan received her Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Florida State University, and is therefore an avid fan of the Seminoles and the Fighting Irish. Find Susan on [LinkedIn](#).

Pam Lach is the Associate Director of the [Digital Innovation Lab](#) (DIL) at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She holds a PhD from UNC in U.S. Cultural History with an emphasis on gender and film history (2007), and a MS in Information Science from the UNC's School of Information and Library Science (2012). Pam is interested in how new and emerging technologies can support and redefine scholarship and pedagogy in the humanities and hopes to bridge the divide between technology and humanists. Among her many duties, she oversees DIL staff and project work, and is the Project Manager for [DH Press](#), a WordPress-based digital humanities toolkit, in development at the DIL.

Stephanie S. Morgan, PhD graduated from the Department of English and Comparative Literature at UNC-Chapel Hill in 2012. She is currently Vice President of Education and training for a trade association representing the electronic security industry. You can connect with her via [LinkedIn](#).

Jared Wesley earned his PhD in Political Science from the [University of Calgary](#). He's now director of social policy in the Ministry of International and Intergovernmental Relations for the [Government of Alberta](#), adjunct professor of political science at the [University of Alberta](#), adjunct professor of political studies at the [University of Manitoba](#), and academic chair of the Institute for Public Administration Canada ([IPAC](#)) (Edmonton Regional Group). Find him on [LinkedIn](#), Twitter ([@ipracademic](#)), and [Flipboard](#).

3:30 P.M. – 4:50 P.M. (EDT): Teaching, Writing, Research

Chair: Maren Wood

Panelists: Joseph Fruscione, Kelly Morrow, Allison Schrager, Harry Thomas

Joseph Fruscione has nearly fifteen years of experience as a professor (adjunct) specializing in English studies, American literature, and first-year writing. He has a PhD in English (George Washington University, 2005) and has published a book, written several articles and reviews, and presented at numerous conferences and the Library of Congress. He is currently in his last semester as an adjunct assistant professor in the University Writing Program at George Washington University. Joseph is reinventing himself as a freelance copyeditor, proofreader, and writing consultant. He's handled several editing projects in the last few months, including: a scholarly book manuscript; nonprofit organization's proposal in response to a government RFP; two Master's theses; and a part-memoir, part-leadership book project. Yet, he's still finding his way through post-ac and the private sector. He's worked with Jennifer Polk and others in writing about the post-ac job search, self-marketing, and (in Chris Humphrey's phrase) being "a professional _____ with a PhD." Find him on [LinkedIn](#) and Twitter [@ProfessorF74](#).

Kelly Morrow is a Senior Research Associate at Morgan, Angel & Associates where she works on tribal trust claims and Superfund site litigation projects. She earned her PhD in United States History at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2012. Prior to joining Morgan Angel, Kelly worked at a political polling firm and as a field organizer for a presidential campaign. She currently volunteers at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History. Find her online at <http://www.morganangel.com/index.php>.

Allison Schrager is a writer and economist. She has a PhD in Economics from Columbia where she specialized in saving and pension issues. Allison uses her research to create investment products that help the average investor. She has also written economic commentary for *the Economist*, *Quartz*, *Reuters* and *National Review*.

Harry Thomas finished his PhD in American Literature at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2012. Since then, he has been an English Teacher at The Upper School of Durham Academy in Durham, North Carolina.

Professional Development Day (May 10, 2014)

11:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. (EDT): Career Exploration Strategies to Jumpstart Your Career Transition

Chair: Jennifer Polk

Presenter: Fatimah Williams Castro

Fatimah Williams Castro, PhD, is speaker and coach to academics on topics of professional development, career planning and entrepreneurship. She landed her first postacademic job within one month of graduating with her PhD in Cultural Anthropology from Rutgers University in 2011. Fatimah has leveraged that role as a program manager in the nonprofit sector to consult for nonprofits, philanthropies, and government on program development, strategic planning, and community engagement. She shares tips for PhD job seekers on her blog, [Beyond the Tenure Track](#), and on Twitter [@FatimahPhD](#).

12:15 P.M. – 1:15 P.M. (EDT): Ditching the C.V.: The Art of Resumes and (Non-Academic) Cover Letters

Chair: Maren Wood

Presenter: Heidi Scott Giusto

Heidi Scott Giusto owns and operates an editing and consulting business, [Career Path Writing Solutions](#). She launched her business shortly after graduating with her PhD in History from Duke University in 2012. She specializes in helping writers with “high stakes” writing including resumes, cover letters, CVs, application essays, and business documents.

1:30 P.M. – 2:30 P.M. (EDT): The Language of LinkedIn

Chair: Jennifer Polk

Presenter: Anna Marie Trester

Anna Marie Trester is the Director of the MA program in Language and Communication (MLC) at Georgetown University in the Department of Linguistics. She is passionate about finding professional applications of sociolinguistic research, methods, and insights. Her research interests include language and the performance of identity, language and professional self-presentation, and the language of business, all of which come together in her recent research on LinkedIn. She has been published in journals such as *Text and Talk*, *Language and Society*, the *Journal of Sociolinguistics* and is the co-editor (with Deborah Tannen) of *Discourse 2.0: Language and New Media*, published in 2013 by Georgetown University Press. She received her MA in Linguistics from NYU in 2002 and PhD from Georgetown in 2008. She tweets [@CareerLinguist](#) and blogs at [Career Linguist](#). Find her on LinkedIn [here](#).

2:45 P.M. – 3:45 P.M. (EDT): Career Discovery: Awakening Your Entrepreneurial Spirit

Chair: Maren Wood

Presenter: Harish Vasudevan

Harish Vasudevan, PhD, is the Vice President of Innovation and Commercialization at Tait Laboratories Inc., a firm focusing on developing novel products to treat chronic digestive and neurological ailments. He is also a strategy and innovation management Consulting Partner with hi5bio Consulting. Originally from Bombay, India, Harish is an alumnus of the University of British Columbia (UBC). He has strongly believed in and pursued the entrepreneurial spirit to create new opportunities for himself and others and his philosophy is to expose trainees to many opportunities and empower them to make their own choices. As a former Graduate Career Consultant with UBC, he has worked extensively with and constantly encouraged graduates and postdoctoral fellows to harness their inner entrepreneurial spirit, know their ecosystem, and invest in themselves to create their own jobs. He tweets at [@gradcareerusher](#).

4:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M. (EDT): Understanding Recruitment and Hiring

Chair: Jennifer Polk

Presenter: Catherine Maybrey

Catherine Maybrey, PhD, is the owner, Catherine Maybrey Coaching Services, and the Alumni Career Coach at McMaster University. With over 10 years of experience in various aspects of career development in Canada and the United States, Catherine blends research, program management, and coaching skills to help clients reach their goals. Find her online at [CM Coaching Services](#), check out her [LinkedIn profile](#), and follow her on Twitter [@Cate_Maybrey](#).

5:15 P.M. – 6:15 P.M. (EDT): Networking and Social Media for PhD Job Seekers

Presenters: Jennifer Polk and Maren Wood

See above for Jen's and Maren's bios