Where Do I Go from Yale?

Fortune Favors the Prepared Mind: Unleashing the Potential of Your Degree

Friday and Saturday, April 8 and 9, 2022

Sponsored by
Yale Graduate School Alumni Association (GSAA)
Yale Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (GSAS)
Where Do I Go from Yale?

Fortune Favors the Prepared Mind: Unleashing the Potential of Your Degree

April 8-9, 2022
Virtual Event

Friday, April 8, 2022

3:00 – 3:10 PM  Welcoming Remarks

James Shulman (PhD ’93, Renaissance Studies), GSAA Chair and Vice President and COO, American Council of Learned Societies

Jia Chen (PhD ’00, Physics), GSAA Vice Chair and Product Leader of Blockchain for Healthcare and Life Sciences, IBM Watson Health

How to Make the Most out of WDIGFY

Lynn Cooley (PhD ’84, Chemistry, University of Texas Austin), Dean of the Graduate School, Vice Provost for Postdoctoral Affairs, and C.N.H. Long Professor of Genetics and Professor of Cell Biology and of Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology

Overview of Symposium Agenda

Keerthi Shetty (PhD ’15, Immunobiology and MBA ’18, Quantic School of Business and Technology), WDIGFY Co-Chair and Associate Director of Program Management, Intellia Therapeutics

Pamela Adams (PhD ’85, Political Science), WDIGFY Co-Chair and Associate Professor, Stillman School of Business, Seton Hall University

3:10 - 3:55 PM  Keynote Panel: Negotiating Your Career

This workshop will improve your mindset for negotiating what you deserve, at work and in your personal life. Dr. Cain will also provide tips on collaborating with difficult people. We finish with Q&A.
Daylian Cain (PhD ’07, Organizational Behavior and Theory, Tepper School of Business, Carnegie Mellon University), Senior Lecturer in Negotiations, Leadership, and Ethics, Yale School of Management

Moderator: Jacob Gonzalez (PhD ’14, Cell Biology), Senior Associate Director of Graduate and Postdoctoral Career Services Office of Career Strategy, Yale University

Q&A Facilitator: Chelsea Xu (PhD ’23, Neuroscience), Current Graduate Student and McDougal Career Fellow, Office of Career Strategy, Yale University

4:00 – 4:55 PM Concurrent Sessions: Pursuing an Academic Career or Another Degree/Fellowship

Session 1A: Academics for STEM

Interested in an academic career in STEM? Join us for a discussion of the transition from graduate student to faculty member. Our panelists provide examples of the pathways from graduate study to full time faculty positions at a range of institutional types – from large research-intensive universities to small liberal arts colleges – and much in between.

Moderator: Jim Staros (PhD ’74, Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry), Professor Emeritus, Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, and Former Provost, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Omotooke Arojo (PhD ’17, Immunobiology), Senior Scientist, Immunology and Cell Therapy, Bristol Myers Squibb
Marco Bonett-Matiz (PhD ’17, Physics), Assistant Professor of Physics, University of Bridgeport
Han Li (PhD ‘14, Mathematics), Assistant Professor of Mathematics, Wesleyan University
Ewa Syta (PhD ’15, Computer Science), Assistant Professor of Computer Science, Trinity College
Helen Willsey (PhD ’15, Genetics), Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, University of California San Francisco

Session 1B: Academics for Humanities and Social Sciences

Our panelists will discuss options for Yale graduates interested in pursuing academic careers in the Humanities and Social Sciences. While the current job market in higher education is challenging, the work we do as humanists and social scientists is more relevant than ever. The global
Covid-19 pandemic, political polarization at home, and a devastating war in Eastern Europe, to name just a few, have intensified the demand for analysis and expertise to help people navigate the world around them. Join us to learn more about how our alumni are making their own contributions to the production and dissemination of critical knowledge in these areas and beyond. We will discuss the academic job search process, how to balance teaching and research obligations, and share what we wish we’d known before we pursued careers in academia.

Moderator: Tammy Ingram (PhD ’07, History), Associate Professor of History, College of Charleston

Khalil Johnson (PhD ’15, African American Studies and American Studies), Assistant Professor of African American Studies, Wesleyan University

Esther Chihye Kim (PhD ’13, Sociology), Assistant Professor of Education, University of Southern California

Shari Rabin (PhD ’15, Religious Studies), Assistant Professor of Jewish Studies and Religion, Oberlin College

Katie Wang (PhD ’14, Social Psychology), Assistant Professor, Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Yale School of Public Health

Session 1C: Additional Degree/Fellowship for STEM

A Matter of Degree(s): Sometimes It Takes One More Degree to Chart the Course You Really Want for Your Career. Although it may seem that more school is the last thing you want to consider as you complete your Ph.D., our panelists will share the ways in which an additional degree - MBA, JD, or MPH - has transformed their careers, allowing them to follow their passions and realize their visions. If you have ever considered founding a startup, working for a startup, pursuing an interest in business or in law, or working in public policy or for the government - or even if you haven't - come hear our panel’s fascinating and inspiring stories. Our panelists will show you that it is never too late to take control of your future and pick a direction that excites you, while drawing on all the skills you have acquired and the experiences you have had so far.

Moderator: Anne Toker (PhD ’98, Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry and JD’91, Harvard Law School), Partner, Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP

Yana Bebieva (PhD ’18, Geology and Geophysics), Postdoctoral Fellow, Climate Science, Georgia Institute of Technology

Nina Brahme (PhD ’14, Cell Biology and MPH ’15, Quantitative Methods, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health), Clinical Analyst,
Session 1D: Additional Degree/Fellowship for Humanities and Social Sciences

One might think that a graduate degree from Yale is more than enough to pursue a career. Some alumni, however, find themselves pursuing a second graduate degree or fellowship. How does this happen and why? The panelists will discuss how an additional degree complimented their graduate work and opened a door to greater career opportunities. The challenges of a second degree, especially in a separate field of study with its own internal methods and analytical approaches, should not be discounted, and panelists will also discuss how they navigated those particular hurdles.

Moderator: Alissa Ardito Ashcroft (PhD ’04, Political Science), Senior Counsel, International Monetary Fund

Sara Hudson (PhD ’11, American Studies), Chief of Staff, Philanthropist
Madeleine Muzdakis (MA ’20, European and Russian Studies), Current Law Student, NYU School of Law
Max Walden (PhD ’18, History), Current MBA Student, NYU Stern School of Business
Alex Zhang (PhD ’18, Classics and Philosophy, and JD ’21, Yale Law School), Judicial Law Clerk, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

Session 2A: Non-Profits for STEM

Panelists will tell their post-Yale journeys, the challenges they faced, and how Yale prepared them for these challenges. They will share the different types of hats they are wearing today and what lessons they have learned on their paths. They will talk about the world outside academe as well as other non-faculty appointments in the academy. Panelists will focus on openness, curiosity, exploration, and innovation -- as it pertains to their careers and lives.

Moderator: Esther Zirbel (PhD ’93, Astronomy), CEO, Learning Ledgers Foundation

Tarek Fadel (PhD ’11, Chemical Engineering), Assistant Director, MIT
Titilayo Omotade (PhD ’20, Microbial Pathogenesis), Diversity, Equity,
Session 2B: Non-Profits for Humanities and Social Sciences

Career options for those seeking opportunities beyond the academy abound. The nonprofit sector is of increasing appeal, particularly to those in the humanities and social sciences. There are numerous types of nonprofit organizations and fulfilling career paths. Meet the panelists who will describe their journeys from Yale and share helpful tips on how to navigate this process. Some of the panelists recently participated in the Office of Career Strategy’s new program, Strategizing Careers in the Nonprofit Sector: https://ocs.yale.edu/channels/strategizing-careers-in-the-nonprofit-sector/. Check this out for more information on nonprofit careers.

Moderator: Ellen Babby (PhD ’80, French Literature), Nonprofit Management Consultant and Senior Fellow, Center for the Future of Arizona

Craig Harwood (PhD ’02, Music Theory), Director, The Paul & Daisy Soros Fellowships for New Americans
Elizabeth King (PhD ’82, Economics), Nonresident Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution
Marissa Moore (PhD ’18, Music), Executive Director of Piano Cleveland
Brandi Waters (PhD ’21, Latin American History and African American Studies), Director, AP African American Studies, The College Board

6:00 – 7:00 PM Networking Session (breakout rooms)

Continue the engaging Q&A and conversations with the panelists at this highly interactive and valuable networking session. This is your chance to get insights from alums who were once in your shoes on job opportunities, interview processes, and career trajectories in innovative institutions and fields!

1. Keynote Speaker Daylian Cain
2. Moderator and Panelists from Session 1A: Academics for STEM
3. Moderator and Panelists from Session 1B: Academics for Humanities and Social Sciences
4. Moderator and Panelists from Session 1C: Additional Degree/Fellowship for STEM
5. Moderator and Panelists from Session 1D: Additional Degree/Fellowship for Humanities and Social Sciences
6. Moderator and Panelists from Session 2A: Non-Profits for STEM
7. Moderator and Panelists from Session 2B: Non-Profits for Humanities and Social Sciences

Saturday, April 9, 2022

9:05 – 9:55 AM  Keynote Presentation: Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB): Considerations During Your Job Search and Beyond

For both candidates and employers, DEIB is more important than ever during the interview process and beyond. 70% of candidates consider a company’s commitment to DEIB when evaluating potential employers. At the same time employers are seeking candidates, diverse and non-diverse, who will support and advance their DEIB efforts. During this session with a former head of HR, we will explore the definition of DEIB and how it has evolved over time, the importance of self-reflection as a candidate to identify your values and how they align with a potential employer, and what to expect during the interview process as it relates to DEIB.

Pamela Puryear (MBA ’88, Harvard Business School, and PhD ’08, Organizational Psychology, California School of Professional Psychology), Public Company Director, and Former Executive Vice President, Global Chief Human Resources Officer, Walgreens Boots Alliance

Moderator: Da’Von Boyd (PhD candidate, Political Science), Chair, Yale Graduate Student Assembly

10:00 – 10:55 AM  Concurrent Sessions: New Ventures on the Rise: Working with or as an Entrepreneur at The Frontier

Session 3A: Startups for STEM

Startups, VCs, IPOs... Sound familiar? You may be an aspiring entrepreneur, investor, or just a curious observer, and we can help you to learn more about what startups are all about. We will discuss startup lifecycles, fundraising, key considerations in founding or working for a startup, and where to learn more.

Moderator: K. Mahala Burn (PhD ’13, Cell Biology), Director, Corporate Development and Strategic Financing at bioMérieux

Akwasi Asabere (PhD ’13, Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology), Strategic Partnerships, Helix
Session 3B: Startups for Humanities and Social Sciences

Join our discussion on how to prepare for a career in entrepreneurship. Transforming an idea or passion into a sustainable business or non-profit takes courage, and the journey from graduate school to a startup can be challenging or even intimidating. We'll talk about what it takes to succeed as an entrepreneur, how to overcome challenges along the way, and the gifts Yale and the Yale alumni community offer that can help you pursue your passions. Please join us for this open and honest discussion and bring your questions.

Moderator: Tom Kimberly (MA ’08, International Relations and MBA ’08, Yale School of Management), CPO and CTO, Edelman Financial Engines

Veronica Baker (MA ’20, Global Affairs), Executive Director, The Climbing Initiative

Pianpian Guthrie (M.Phil ’13, Sociology and MS ’10, Social Science, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology), Founder and CEO, Amotions, Inc

Heidi Knoblauch (PhD ’15, History of Science and Medicine), Entrepreneur in Residence/New Ventures Manager

Rachel N. Laryea (PhD ’22, Anthropology and African American Studies), Founder, Kelewele, LLC

11:00 – 11:55 AM Concurrent Sessions: Crossroad to the Future: Industries That Are Seeking Your Talent

Session 4A: Industries for STEM

In crossroads to the future, we dive into the transition from academia to industry and industry research. What is the process? Pros? Cons? How do you get a job that you will find fulfilling? The panel’s background and career choices provide unique examples of what trajectories students might take, how, and what they might accomplish as they leap into the next stage of their career.

Moderator: Zlatko Minev (PhD ’18, Applied Physics and Quantum Computing), Team and Tech Lead, IBM Quantum
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Stefan Elrington (PhD ’17, Physics), Global Startup Ecosystem Lead, IBM Quantum

Emma Ideal (PhD ’15, Physics), Manager, Data Science & Engineering, Netflix

Ashley Schloss (PhD ’17, Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry), Strategy and Operations Manager, McKinsey and Company

Nripesh Parajuli (PhD ’18, Electrical Engineering), Machine Learning Engineer, Caption Health

Session 4B: Industries for Humanities and Social Sciences

In graduate school, academia can seem like the clearest career path available—after all, you’re surrounded by professors, postdocs, and peers who can counsel you along that path. In contrast, the prospect of leaving academia can feel like venturing into the unknown, all on your own. This panel will dispel common myths about the transition from academia to industry, with a focus on helping you develop the self-confidence to chart your own path. We will pull together common practical tips, advice, and experiences to help you transform your humanities or social science degree into the foundation for a career in industry.

Moderator: Laura Brown (PhD ’20, Music), Senior User Research Manager, Wayfair

Kaeli Andersen (PhD ’15, Political Science), Vice President, Goldman Sachs

Javed Jaghai (PhD ’19, Sociology), Senior Data Scientist, Premise

Eugene Meng (MA ’16, East Asian Studies), Senior Product Designer, Google

Jason White (MAR '01, Religion and Ethics, Yale Divinity School), Director of Product Marketing, Meta

12:00 – 1:00 PM  Networking Session (breakout rooms)

Continue the engaging Q&A and conversations with the panelists at this highly interactive and valuable networking session. In addition to the panelists from today’s session the breakout rooms will also feature seven additional industry leaders (some who are GSAA Board members) who will discuss opportunities in their companies/sectors. This is your chance to get insights into job opportunities, interview processes, and career trajectories in many of today’s hot companies and fields!
1. Keynote Speaker Pamela Puryear
2. Company Showcase: Humana (Health Insurance Services): Vishal Agrawal (MS '96, Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry and MD'02), Chief Strategy and Corporate Development Officer, Humana
3. Supranational Institutions and Development Banks: Federico Galizia (PhD '98, Economics), Chief Risk Officer, Inter-American Development Bank
5. Company Showcase: Halda Therapeutics (Biotech): David Puleo (PhD '18, Pharmacology), Research Investigator, Halda Therapeutics
6. Company Showcase: Samsara BioCapital (Biotech Venture Capital): Levi Smith (PhD '19, Cell Biology and PharmD '15, Butler University), Senior Analyst, Samsara BioCapital
7. Opportunities in the Connecticut Bioscience Industry: BioCT: Dawn Hocevar (BS, Biology and Chemistry, San Jose State University), President & CEO, BioCT and Todd Arnold (PhD '92, Molecular Biology and Genetics, University of Georgia), Bioscience Consultant
8. Moderator and Panelists from Session 3A: Startups for STEM
9. Moderator and Panelists from Session 3B: Startups for Humanities and Social Sciences
10. Moderator and Panelists from Session 4A: Industries for STEM
11. Moderator and Panelists from Session 4B: Industries for Humanities and Social Sciences

Join us for the Three-Minute Thesis Award Ceremony on Thursday, April 14, 2022 from 5:00 to 6:30 pm in Loria Center.

The Three-Minute Thesis Competition challenges Yale PhD students to describe their research to the public – in just three minutes! Join Dean Lynn Cooley as we celebrate our finalists, announce this year’s winners, and view the winning presentations. Our panel of judges, all GSAS alums, will also share insights about their careers and the value of strong communications skills in shaping their success.

Register here: https://yale.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_NyRQWgHkRwuWk0YyeFrTNA

Expand your network and connect with fellow students and alums from the event at the Where Do I Go from Yale LinkedIn page at https://www.linkedin.com/groups/9043956!
2022 Participants’ Biographies

Pamela Adams (PhD ’85, Political Science) (She/Her)

After completing her Ph.D. at Yale University, Pamela Adams joined the faculty of the Business School of Bocconi University in Milan, Italy and directed their MBA program. She has taught management in many countries including France, Spain and Switzerland, where she was most recently part of the faculty of Franklin University Switzerland. Pamela has been a Member of the Board of the Illy Coffee company, and has been on the executive team of two startups. She has held management positions in Italy's largest bank and has been a management consultant for several Italian companies. She recently moved back to the United States and is currently Associate Professor of Management at the Stillman School of Business at Seton Hall University. Her research interests include the management of innovation, entrepreneurship, industry analyses and strategic marketing. Her research has been published in Organization Science, The Strategic Entrepreneurship Journal, Research Policy, Industry and Innovation, and the Oxford Handbook of Innovation Management. She has also published teaching cases in the Harvard Business School case collection and in strategic marketing textbooks. https://www.linkedin.com/in/pamela-adams-7a4a9b5/

Vishal Agrawal (MS ’96, Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry and MD’02, Yale Medical School) (He/Him)

Vishal Agrawal, M.D. joined Humana in 2018 as the company’s Chief Strategy and Corporate Development Officer. Dr. Agrawal has over 20 years of healthcare services technology, business development, acquisition leadership, and enterprise strategy experience. Prior to Humana, Dr. Agrawal was at the Carlyle Group, McKinsey and Company, and business unit leadership roles in healthcare technology organizations. Yale helped nurture his curiosity and critical thinking for creating a better health system in the United States. https://www.linkedin.com/in/vishal-agrawal-212179/

Kaeli Andersen (PhD’15, Political Science) (She/Her)

Kaeli Andersen advises founders, executives, significant families and foundations on all aspects of wealth management. She earned her PhD from Yale University where she studied US military alliances. Prior to joining Goldman, Kaeli worked for Project Air Force at the Rand Corporation and for the House Foreign Affairs Committee in the U.S. Congress. She graduated from Brigham Young University magna cum laude and with University Honors with a joint degree in Economics and Political Science. https://www.linkedin.com/in/kaeliandersen
Omotooke Arojo (PhD ’17, Immunobiology) (She/Her)

Omotooke started her journey with a degree in Veterinary Medicine from her home country Nigeria. She has since transitioned into the field of biomedical research, having subsequently trained in the field of immunology and infectious disease. She held an academic position shortly after her graduate training and is currently in an industry position, actively investigating innovative medicines for the treatment of cancer.

www.linkedin.com/in/omotooke-arojo

Alissa Ardito Ashcroft (PhD ’04, Political Science)

Alissa Ardito Ashcroft served as acting General Counsel for the Congressional Budget Office, overseeing non-partisan legal interpretations of U.S. Congressional legislative proposals. In addition to her experience in government service, she has been a lecturer and visiting fellow at Yale University and a visiting professor and post-doctoral fellow at Duke University and currently is an adjunct professor at Georgetown Law. Her book, *Machiavelli* and the Modern State, was published by Cambridge University Press. Her work has appeared in publications ranging from the *Administrative Law Review*, to *The Washington Post*, and *Renaissance Quarterly*. https://www.linkedin.com/in/alissa-ardito-ashcroft-56963914/

Todd Arnold (PhD ’92, Molecular Biology and Genetics, University of Georgia)

Todd Arnold is a Bioscience Consultant. Earning the PhD degree was an enabler: a rigorous course of study that prepared him for success in a variety of roles at multiple companies. A key lesson learned is to be flexible and the career path evolves. Outside of the workplace, he pursued opportunities to build STEM curricula and support STEM programs that would not only benefit students and universities, but also companies seeking qualified candidates. https://www.linkedin.com/in/todd-arnold-8898063/

Akwasi Asabere (PhD ’13, Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology) (He/Him)

Dr. Asabere is a member of the founding commercial team at Helix and currently leads strategic partnerships with health systems to establish population genomics programs. Prior to Helix, he worked as a healthcare strategy consultant focused on market access and reimbursement strategic for life science clients. During his graduate student days, Dr. Asabere held a visiting researcher position at the Stanford University School of Medicine Genetics Department conducting graduate research and also completing a certificate program at the Stanford Graduate School of Business. https://www.linkedin.com/in/akwasiasaberephd/
Ellen Babby (PhD ’80, French Literature) (She/Her)

Ellen Babby is a Senior Fellow at the Center for the Future of Arizona and a nonprofit management consultant. She received her PhD in French at Yale and then pursued a career path in the nonprofit sector. Residing in Washington DC, she was exposed to a broad array of opportunities and opted to focus on higher education. Her first post PhD position was Executive Director of a nonprofit higher education start-up which she led for ten years. Subsequent positions in the areas of national foreign language policy, international education and communications led to her work with the American Council on Education, where she served as Vice President, Advancement & Planning for several years. She is keenly interested in the issue of career diversity for graduate students.

https://www.linkedin.com/in/ellen-r-babby-ph-d-28958815/

Veronica Baker (MA ’20, Global Affairs) (She/Her)

Four months before beginning her graduate program at Yale, on a flight home from a rock climbing trip to Cuba, Veronica had her lightbulb moment: she realized that there was no organization dedicated to studying the growth of climbing and its economic, social, and environmental impacts worldwide. She spent her time at Yale learning from practitioners at Jackson, SOM, and YSE, conducting case studies, and founding her nonprofit. Today, two years after graduating, The Climbing Initiative is a global organization empowering climbing leaders and shifting power imbalances in the outdoor industry. Veronica enjoys mentoring others taking innovative approaches to solving complex challenges.

climbinginitiative.org

Yana Bebieva (PhD ’18, Geology and Geophysics) (She/Her)

Yana is currently a postdoctoral fellow at Georgia Tech, working on a range of fluid dynamics and climate questions in the fields of physical oceanography and the physics of wildfires. She is also helping a young start-up company in developing modern observing systems to monitor wildfire propagation.

https://www.linkedin.com/in/yana-bebieva-phd-628929b8/;
https://www.yanabebieva.com/

Marco Bonett-Matiz (PhD ’17, Physics) (He/Him)

A passionate educator determined to impact developing communities, it was easy for Marco to forgo well-paying jobs in the industry. He decided instead for the laborious—yet very rewarding—responsibility of educating the youth at a small institution. Five years later, he has earned ample creative freedom and has created a space that positively influences his students' growth.

http://www.linkedin.com/in/marcobonett/
Da’Von Boyd (PhD Candidate, Political Science) (He/Him)

Da’Von Boyd is a doctoral candidate in the Departments of Political Science and African American Studies at Yale University. He is a Summa Cum Laude graduate of Morehouse College, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science. His dissertation investigates the political significance Black religious traditions in shaping the political ideologies, practices, narratives, aims, tropes, and structures of Black-led social movements in the mid-twentieth century in the United States. Da’Von also proudly serves as Chair of the Graduate Student Assembly. https://politicalscience.yale.edu/people/davon-boyd

Nina Brahme (PhD ’14, Cell Biology and MPH ’15, Quantitative Methods, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health) (She/Her)

Nina Brahme is part of FDA’s Office of Therapeutic Biologics and Biosimilars (OTBB), supporting the development and approval of high quality, safe, and effective biosimilar and interchangeable biologic products. Prior to joining OTBB, Nina was a product quality reviewer in FDA’s Office of Biotechnology Products. Her previous internship experiences in small molecule drug discovery, PhD experience in protein biochemistry, and postdoctoral MPH coursework all shaped Nina’s interest in science policy and career opportunities at the FDA. https://www.linkedin.com/in/nbrahme/

Laura Brown (PhD ’20, Music) (She/Her)

Laura graduated from Yale in 2020 with her PhD in Music History. Her research at Yale explored how music software has reshaped the way composers create music for film, TV, and other media. After her PhD, Laura pursued a career as a user experience researcher, moving into the e-commerce space with a role at Wayfair. Currently, as a senior user researcher, Laura leads UX benchmarking research across Wayfair’s end-user experiences and platforms. https://www.linkedin.com/in/laura-brown-ph-d-a3aa9581/

Erin Burke (PhD ’17, Biological Anthropology) (She/Her)

Erin Burke is the Associate Director of Partnerships at Variant Bio where she designs international genomics projects. Erin received her bachelor's degree in Anthropology from the University of Michigan and went on to work for National Geographic’s Genographic Project before returning to academia at Yale University, where she was the primary investigator of the Gay Fathers Project. She received her Doctorate in Anthropology from Yale. She was formerly the Head of Research and Clinical Operations at Modern Fertility, a San Francisco-based fertility hormone testing company. In addition to peer-reviewed publications, her work has been featured in the San Francisco Chronicle, The Today Show, and the New England Journal of Medicine. https://www.linkedin.com/in/erin-burke-24348b9a/
K. Mahala Burn (PhD ’13, Cell Biology) (Xe/Xem/Xyr)

Mahala Burn's work is to empower cutting-edge, life-saving healthcare technologies worldwide. Xe serves as a Director of Corporate Development and Strategic Financing at bioMérieux, where xe is responsible for healthcare diagnostic technology scouting, investing, and M&A. Mahala previously worked in strategy consulting, leading operations as Practice Director of EY-Parthenon's Life Sciences business and advising life sciences and private equity clients at L.E.K. Consulting. Mahala earned xyr Cell Biology PhD in the lab of Yale GSAS Dean Lynn Cooley, and earned xyr BS at age 17 from The Program for the Exceptionally Gifted at Mary Baldwin College. When not at work, Mahala can be found updating xyr photography portfolio (www.cicatriximages.com(link is external)), watching documentaries, reading, travelling, spending time outdoors, video gaming, playing music, studying Buddhist philosophy, attending cultural performances / classes, and playing with xyr dog Adenine. Additionally, xe enjoys using xyr skills to mentor, serve on industry and leadership panels, and foster diverse and inclusive work environments. https://www.linkedin.com/in/mahala-burn-phd/

Daylian Cain (PhD ’07, Organizational Behavior and Theory, Tepper School of Business, Carnegie Mellon University) (He/Him)

Daylian M. Cain is a Senior Lecturer of Negotiations & Leadership at the Yale School of Management. Hailing from Nova Scotia, Cain is a former Canada science scholar. He has a Ph.D. in Business from Carnegie Mellon as well as three master’s degrees. Prior to joining Yale, Cain was the Russell Sage Fellow of Behavioral Economics at Harvard. He likes to say that he focuses on “why smart people do dumb things.” https://www.linkedin.com/in/daylian

Jia Chen (PhD ’00, Physics) (She/Her)

Dr. Jia Chen is a Product Leader of Blockchain solutions for Healthcare and Life Sciences at IBM’s Innovation and Solution Incubation team. She serves on the IBM Academy of Technology Leadership team. She previously led technical strategy at IBM Watson Health Innovation, with a focus on data and AI. Prior to that, Dr. Chen was the global leader of Watson Experience Centers at IBM, responsible for Watson AI client experiences across all Watson group. She held leadership positions for Innovation and client engagement at IBM Corporate Headquarters as well as emerging markets. She was formerly the Director of Health Solutions for Smarter Cities at IBM, and the Director of Technical Sales & Innovation for IBM’s Growth Market Units. She led the identification, structuring and execution of first of a kind technology and business initiatives that provide innovative and sustainable differentiation for IBM’s clients. https://www.linkedin.com/in/jia-chen-nyc/
**Esther Chihye Kim (PhD ’13, Sociology) (She/Her)**

Since graduating in 2013, Esther taught as a visiting professor in Beijing, completed a 2-year post-doctoral program at UW-Madison, and taught as a part-time instructor at USC. Esther is currently a full-time teaching-track professor at USC’s Rossier School of Education. Although her initial studies did not include an education focus, she highlighted her expertise in research methodology to teach methods courses in the School of Education.

[www.linkedin.com/in/estherckimprofile/](http://www.linkedin.com/in/estherckimprofile/)

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**Lynn Cooley (PhD ’84, Chemistry, University of Texas Austin) (She/Her)**

Lynn Cooley has served as the Dean of the Graduate School since 2014. She is the C.N.H. Long Professor of Genetics and Professor of Cell Biology and Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology and was appointed Vice Provost for Postdoctoral Affairs in 2021. Cooley received a Ph.D. in Chemistry from UT Austin in 1984 for dissertation research on tRNA transcription and processing conducted in the laboratory of Dieter Söll at Yale University. After postdoctoral training at the Carnegie Institution for Science, she joined the faculty of the Genetics Department at Yale School of Medicine in 1989. Cooley’s current research is focused on understanding the function of intercellular bridges that connect germline cells during their development into eggs or sperm and on the regulated production of unexpectedly long proteins in specific tissues. Cooley directed Yale’s Combined Program in Biological and Biomedical Sciences (BBS) from 2001–2014. [https://www.linkedin.com/in/lynn-cooley-64214b/](http://www.linkedin.com/in/lynn-cooley-64214b/)

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**Stefan Elrington (PhD ’17, Physics) (He/Him)**

Stefan is the Global Lead for IBM’s partnerships with quantum computing startups. Prior to IBM Quantum, Stefan was a consultant at the Boston Consulting Group where he developed go-to-market and growth strategies for clients. [https://www.linkedin.com/in/stefanelrington/](http://www.linkedin.com/in/stefanelrington/)

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**Tarek Fadel (PhD ’11, Chemical Engineering) (He/Him)**

Tarek received his Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from Yale University in 2011. He now manages a research center at MIT focusing on the development of emerging technologies for the early detection and treatment of cancer. Before joining MIT, Tarek served as the Executive Secretary for the Nanoscale Science, Engineering, and Technology, a Subcommittee within the White House’s National Science and Technology Council, and was a staff scientist at the National Nanotechnology Coordination Office, the coordinating body for the U.S. National Nanotechnology Initiative (NNI). He also held positions as Vice President for Research at the International Technology Research Institute and in product quality and engineering at Hewlett Packard. [https://www.linkedin.com/in/drtarekfadel/](http://www.linkedin.com/in/drtarekfadel/)
Federico Galizia (PhD ’98, Economics)

Federico received his Ph.D. in Economics from Yale in 1998, and moved back to Italy with McKinsey & Co. to work on banking clients. Subsequently joined the European Investment Bank, developing risk solutions for infrastructure finance, and serving as the Adviser to the President. The Global Financial Crisis saw Federico in Washington, D.C., at the International Monetary Fund, founding the team responsible for monitoring systemically important financial institutions, an experience detailed in the 2013 edited book: "Managing System Exposure". Since 2009, Federico has been the Chief Risk Officer of triple-A rated development institutions, first the European Investment Fund and currently the Inter-American Development Bank. https://www.linkedin.com/in/federico-galizia-813b089/

Scott Gigante (PhD ’21, Computational Biology and Bioinformatics) (He/Him)

Scott Gigante earned his PhD in Computational Biology & Bioinformatics in 2021 under the supervision of Smita Krishnaswamy and Ronald Coifman, working on unsupervised machine learning for single-cell genomic analysis. Since graduating, Scott has been working as a machine learning scientist at Immunai, applying his expertise in single-cell genomics to immunotherapy drug development. http://linkedin.com/in/scottgigante

Allison Gilder (PhD ’14, Cell Biology) (She/Her)

Allison Gilder graduated with a PhD in Cell Biology and joined Foley Hoag as a Technology Specialist. Allison then attended law school while continuing to work as a Technology Specialist. After graduating, Allison became an Associate at Foley. https://www.linkedin.com/in/allison-gilder-34903b56/

Jacob Gonzalez (PhD ’14, Cell Biology) (He/Him)

Jacob Gonzalez joined Yale’s Office of Career Strategy in the fall of 2021 to help graduate students and postdoctoral fellows leverage their degrees and training to find fulfilling careers outside of academia. Prior to joining Yale, Jacob served as the Associate Director for Career Advising (Sciences and Mathematics) at Wesleyan University supporting undergraduates, graduate students and alumni to explore and prepare for careers in STEM and healthcare-related fields. He was involved in biomedical research for ten years (he holds a Ph.D. in Cell Biology from Yale), participated in numerous professional development programs in the life sciences industry, then later transitioned to career services. https://www.linkedin.com/in/jacobmgonzalez/
Pianpian Guthrie (M.Phil ’13, Sociology, and MS ’10, Social Science, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology) (She/Her)

Pianpian is the founder and CEO of Amotions (https://amotionsinc.com/), a platform to help individuals and team improve effectiveness, relationships, and emotional wellbeing with content and practices by world-class experts and AI insights. After graduating from Yale, she led product management and growth teams at tech companies such as TicketNetwork, Priceline, Ticketmaster, GoDaddy and Winnie, before founding Amotions. She is from rural China originally and studied and lived in China, Japan and Hong Kong. 


Craig Harwood (PhD ’02, Music Theory) (He/Him)

Craig Harwood joined the Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowships for New Americans as the Director in 2013. Prior to his work with PD Soros, Craig served as the Director of the Macaulay Honors College at Hunter College, CUNY, and he was Dean of Davenport College at Yale University. He is a musicologist, musician, educator, and administrator with extensive experience in student and academic affairs. He earned his PhD in Music Theory from Yale.

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Dawn Hocevar (BS, Biology and Chemistry, San Jose State University)

Dawn Hocevar is the President & CEO of BioCT, dedicated to the growth of Connecticut’s bioscience industry. In this role, Dawn focuses on building collaboration with industry, academia and the government. Dawn serves on the Connecticut Economic Advisory committee encouraging the state to include bioscience as an anchor industry with tremendous economic potential. She also serves on the Southern Connecticut State BioPath Advisory Board and is collaborating with the Governors Workforce Development plans for job recovery post COVID. Recently, Dawn joined the Cellular and Molecular Biology Graduate Program Advisory Board at the University of New Haven. In 2017, Dawn was elected as President and Board Chair of Women in Bio (WIB). During her six years with this organization, she held various roles including fundraising and national program chair. She also helped establish the organization’s Boardroom Ready program. https://www.linkedin.com/in/dawn-hocevar-45a8b013/

Sara Hudson (PhD ‘11, American Studies) (She/Her)

Sara is a writer and chief of staff. She partners with visionary organizations and leaders, particularly women and people of color, to solve the world’s hardest problems. After Yale, she made a life-changing (unplanned!) decision: become a post-Katrina emergency responder, build New Orleans’ crisis communications systems, and lead public response during hurricanes, disasters, public safety events, and Queen Bey’s Super Bowl halftime show.
and the following blackout. She has since worked across government, nonprofits, technology, and philanthropy to create systemic change with historically vulnerable communities. This includes survivors of natural disasters, children with cancer and blood diseases, formerly incarcerated persons, Native American women, immigrants, and economically-vulnerable communities.
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Emma Ideal (PhD ’15, Physics) (She/Her)

Emma earned a PhD in Physics in 2015 on her research focused on the Higgs search at CERN. She completed the Insight Data Science postdoctoral fellowship in 2016 after which she began her career in the tech industry at Facebook in the San Francisco Bay Area. After 3 years at Facebook on both the People Analytics and Core Data Science teams, she moved over to Netflix in Hollywood where she is currently a senior analytics engineer on the Studio Production Data Science & Engineering team. linkedIn.com/in/emmaideal

Tammy Ingram (PhD ’07, History) (She/Her)

Since graduating from Yale Professor Ingram has held positions as the Kirk Visiting Assistant Professor at Agnes Scott College and is now an associate professor of History at the College of Charleston, where she teaches courses in Modern U.S. History, Crime and Punishment, and the history of the modern South. Her first book was published with the University of North Carolina Press in 2014, and her new book on organized crime in the Jim Crow South is under contract with Harvard University Press. https://www.linkedin.com/in/tammy-ingram-3b57a742/

Javed Jaghai (PhD ’19, Sociology) (He/Him)

Javed is a data scientist who specializes in big data and geospatial analytics. After completing his Ph.D. at Yale, he conducted research for a business intelligence firm before transitioning fully to a career in data science at Fraym. At Premise, he evaluates and develops machine learning models to solve mission-critical problems for a rapidly scaling startup. https://www.linkedin.com/in/javed-jaghai/

Khalil Johnson (PhD ’15, African American Studies and American Studies) (He/Him)

Khalil Anthony Johnson, Jr., is an Assistant Professor of African American Studies at Wesleyan University. He is currently at work on a book manuscript titled Schooled: An Unsettling History of American Education for UNC Press that considers how imperial powers attempted to remake and colonize the world through schooling.
https://www.wesleyan.edu/academics/faculty/kajohnson01/profile.html
Shah Karim (MPhil ’87, Economics) (He/Him)

Shah Karim is CEO of SafeRock and has served in the role since 2005. He is an expert on strategic advisory, growth, and industry challenges. Shah is committed to utilizing Big Data, ML, AI, and algorithms to support his clients’ needs. www.saferock.com

Tom Kimberly (MA ’08, International Relations and MBA ’08, Yale School of Management) (He/Him)

Tom is Chief Product Officer and Chief Technology Officer at Edelman Financial Engines, where he is responsible for product, design, and engineering as well as Enterprise IT, infrastructure, and cybersecurity. He was previously an SVP in the innovation unit of Fidelity Investments and was the General Manager of Betterment’s consumer and advisor businesses. Prior to Betterment, Tom was co-founder and CEO of Upside, a robo-advisor that was acquired by Envestnet (NYSE: ENV) in 2015. He has also been VP of Strategy and M&A at Barclays and a management consultant at McKinsey & Company. https://www.linkedin.com/in/tomkimberly/

Elizabeth King (PhD ’82, Economics) (She/Her)

Elizabeth M. King is Non-resident Senior Fellow of the Brookings Institution, Managing Editor of the Journal of Development Effectiveness, and Adjunct Professor of Georgetown University’s Walsh School of Foreign Service. She serves on the board of the International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie), Room to Read, and Education Commission-Asia; is technical adviser to Echidna Giving and the World Bank’s Africa Gender Innovation Lab, and a judge for the Yidan Prize Foundation. She was the World Bank’s senior spokesperson and professional head for global policy and strategic issues in education and acting vice-president for human development sectors. She has published on topics related to human capital, the care economy, and gender issues in development. She engaged in operations and advisory work on economic and education issues in several developing countries She received her Ph.D. in Economics from Yale University. https://www.linkedin.com/in/beth-king-65a9a5104/
Heidi Knoblauch (PhD ’15, History of Science and Medicine) (She/Her)

Heidi Knoblauch is the Entrepreneur-in-Residence at the University at Albany. Prior to joining the University at Albany she was the Venture and Growth Banking Relationship Manager at Pioneer Bank where she worked with early stage companies to secure financing. She runs an incubator program for incorporated teams commercializing academic research who, typically, have received non-dilutive funding from the federal government through an SBIR or STTR. https://www.linkedin.com/in/heidi-knoblauch/

Rachel Laryea (Ph.D. ‘22, Anthropology and African American Studies) (She/Her)

Rachel is a doctoral candidate in the dual Anthropology and African American Studies program at Yale. She is also the founder of Kelewele, a Ghanaian food service reimagining plantains to create plant(ain) based products. https://www.linkedin.com/in/rachel-n-laryea-83a44aa1/

Han Li (PhD ’14, Mathematics) (He/Him)

Han Li received his PhD degree in Mathematics at Yale in 2014. After spending a year at the University of Texas at Austin and Mathematical Sciences Research Institute at Berkeley as a postdoc, he joined Wesleyan University as an Assistant Professor of Mathematics in 2015. Dr. Li’s research focuses on dynamics of group actions and its connection with number theory. https://www.wesleyan.edu/academics/faculty/hli03/profile.html

Natalie Ma (PhD ’16, Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology) (She/Her)

Natalie Ma is a serial entrepreneur and synthetic biologist focused on helping humanity thrive on and off-planet. She is currently cofounder and Head of Business Development at Felix Biotechnology, a Yale spinout where she leads deals and executes projects to develop phage therapy to treat infections and edit the microbiome. Dr. Ma was previously a Consultant at ClearView Healthcare Partners and Blavatnik Fellow with the Yale Office of Cooperative Research. She obtained her PhD in 2016 with Dr. Farren Isaacs. www.nataliejingma.com; https://www.linkedin.com/in/nataliejingma/
**Eugene Meng (MA ’16, East Asian Studies) (She/Her)**

Eugene received her master's degree in East Asian Arts from Yale in 2016. She decided to pursue the career as a product designer the second week when she was at Yale. Post graduation, she took an internship at a design agency, and studied in another one-year master's program in HCI+Design at University of Washington. She is now a designer at Google, as her first and only job so far.  
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**Zlatko Minev (PhD ’18, Applied Physics and Quantum Computing) (He/Him)**

Minev received his Ph.D., in experimental quantum computing, with distinction from Yale in 2018. His dissertation work on catching and reversing a quantum jump mid-flight was selected as the top Math/Physical Sciences discovery in Discover’s The Top 50 Stories of the Year. He continued research and tech at IBM Quantum, where he founded the world’s quantum processor design & analysis full-stack program, Qiskit Metal. Recently, MIT Technology Review named Minev one of their 35 Global Innovators Under 35.  
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**Marissa Moore (PhD ’18, Music) (She/Her)**

After receiving her PhD in Ethnomusicology – or the study of “people making music” – in 2018, Marissa Glynias Moore spent one year teaching undergraduate courses of her own design in the Yale Department of Music, in addition to writing about musical topics for both public and academic audiences. But Moore has always sought out ways to engage the public around the arts (even while in graduate school!), so she was excited to join the Piano Cleveland team in May 2019, where she has enjoyed bringing her commitment to building authentic relationships with individuals – something she honed as an ethnographic researcher - and love for musical performance to her work in development. Moore was named Executive Director in October 2020, where she works to strengthen ties between Piano Cleveland and the diversity of Cleveland communities through investing in all who love piano in all its forms.  
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**Madeleine Muzdakis (MA ’20, European and Russian Studies) (She/Her)**

Madeleine holds a BA in history and mathematics from Brown University. While pursuing her MA at Yale, Madeleine worked as a Wurtele Gallery Teacher, a graduate TA, a server at BAR, and a lead instructor at Yale Young Global Scholars. Her master's thesis focused on women's work in the food trades of early modern London. She is now a 1L at NYU School of Law where she is pursuing a career in public interest while continuing to write articles about art on the side. 
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Titilayo Omotade (PhD ’20, Microbial Pathogenesis) (She/Her)

Dr. Titilayo Omotade received her PhD in the Department of Microbial Pathogenesis at Yale School of Medicine. Her research focused on host-pathogen interactions and the mechanisms that underlie the ongoing molecular arms race between host and pathogen. As a PhD candidate, she created a new DEI model for all PhD programs in BBS. After graduating, she officially joined the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at YSM - as a Program Director and DEI project specialist. She continues to tackle intractable DEI issues by taking a systems approach to identify and topple barriers to educational equity. https://www.linkedin.com/in/titilayo-omotade-phd-87862518a/

Nripesh Parajuli (PhD ’18, Electrical Engineering) (He/Him)

Nripesh has been involved in making innovative AI products with Caption Health over the past few years, and would like to see some of that innovation have impact in resource constrained settings. He has a background in machine learning, biomedical imaging, computer science and electrical engineering. https://www.linkedin.com/in/nripesh-parajuli-b9a16325/

David Puleo (PhD ’18, Pharmacology)

David completed his PhD in the Yale Pharmacology Department, focusing on biochemical, biophysical, and structural characterization of the JAK2 pseudokinase. After completing his PhD in 2018, he was an early employee at Halda Therapeutics, a startup founded by Craig Crews in 2019 aimed at developing novel modalities for the treatment of disease. He is currently a Research Investigator at Halda. https://www.linkedin.com/in/david-puleo-760a4b102/

Pamela Puryear (MBA ’88 Harvard Business School, and PhD ‘08, Organizational Psychology, California School of Professional Psychology) (She/Her)

Since graduating from Yale College, Dr. Puryear has held a number of executive positions including Executive Vice President, Global Chief Human Resources Officer at Walgreens Boots Alliance, and Senior Vice President, Chief Talent Officer at Pfizer, Inc. Prior to her corporate roles, she led an independent external Organization Development consulting practice, and worked in financial services. Her professional passion is performance excellence, and from her diverse experiences, she has developed a unique perspective on what creates and sustains excellence. With an MBA and a Ph.D., she considers financial and human factors and how to manage both using sound organizational management thinking and focused business metrics. Dr. Puryear has received a number of honors and recognitions including 2021 “Elite 100” by Diversity Woman Magazine, 2017 Most Powerful Executives in Corporate America and Top 50
Most Powerful Women in Business by Black Enterprise Magazine, and is a member of the Executive Leadership Council. [linkedin.com/in/joindrpam](https://linkedin.com/in/joindrpam)

**Shari Rabin (PhD ’15, Religious Studies) (She/Her)**

Shari Rabin is associate professor of Jewish studies and religion at Oberlin College, where she has taught since 2019. After earning her PhD in 2015, she became assistant professor of Jewish studies at the College of Charleston, where she also served as director of the Pearlstine/Lipov Center for Southern Jewish Culture and co-director of the National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute, "Privilege and Prejudice: Jewish History in the American South." She is the author of the award-winning Jews on the Frontier: Religion and Mobility in Nineteenth-century America and is the recipient of an NEH Fellowship for her second book. [sharirabin.com](https://sharirabin.com)

**Ashley Schloss (PhD ’17, Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry) (She/Her)**

Ashley Schloss is a scientist turned strategist with a passion for the economic and educational mobility for underserved and underrepresented populations. After Yale, Ashley joined McKinsey & Company, where she was an Associate for two years focusing in Biopharma strategy and operations. Next, Ashley was the Tech Coalition Manager at Reboot Representation, a partnership of leading technology companies that have pledged almost $20M to invest in initiatives that aim to double the number of Black, Latina, and Native American women graduating with computing degrees by 2025, spun-out of Pivotal Ventures, an investment and incubation company created by Melinda Gates. Currently, Ashley is back at McKinsey as the Strategy and Operations Manager for the Black Senior Hiring and Retention Hub. In this role, she is responsible for setting and driving the strategy, aspirations and agenda for global Black hiring and retention at manager level and above. [https://www.linkedin.com/in/ashleyschloss/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/ashleyschloss/)

**Keerthi Shetty (PhD ’15, Immunobiology and MBA ’18, Quantic School of Business and Technology) (She/Her)**

Keerthi Shetty is currently Associate Director of Program Management at Intellia Therapeutics, a biotech company in Cambridge, MA, developing therapies using the CRISPR gene editing system. Before Intellia she was Senior Manager, Strategic Initiatives of the Center for Personal Cancer Vaccines as well as the Translational Immunogenomics Lab at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, where she also served as a Business Development Fellow. Right after obtaining her degree from Yale, she was a Hellman Fellow in Science and Technology Policy at the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in Cambridge, MA, where she worked with senior scientists and policy experts to better understand the public return on investment in scientific research. While at Yale, she served as co-President of the Yale Science Diplomats, a science policy club, and was part of the founding team of Science in the News, a public lecture series. [https://www.linkedin.com/in/keerthishettyphd/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/keerthishettyphd/)
Ning-Shiuan Snoeberger (PhD ’14, Computational Chemistry and MBA ’19 Boston University) (She/Her)

After receiving her PhD in Computational Chemistry from Yale, Nicole worked at MIT’s technology licensing office and managed software and physical science IP portfolios. She then obtained her MBA degree while working full time at MIT. Soon after receiving her MBA, she transitioned to Wayfair as a program manager. During the pandemic, Nicole decided to join Amazon and relocate to Seattle to be closer to family.

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James Shulman (PhD ’93, Renaissance Studies) (He/Him)

James Shulman became vice president and chief operating officer of the American Council of Learned Societies in July 2018. He has published on college admissions, institutional change, and high impact philanthropy; his most recent publication was "The Data We Need for Holistic Admissions" (in Change Magazine). Prior to joining ACLS, James was a Senior Fellow at The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, where he helped to design and lead the Mellon Research Forum on the Liberal Arts. From its founding in 2001 to 2016 he was president of Artstor. Working with his colleagues, he developed and implemented plans for creating an organization that now serves over 1,800 colleges, universities, schools, and museums around the world. From 1994-2001, he worked in a range of research, administrative, and investment capacities at the Mellon Foundation. Having overseen the creation of the College and Beyond database, he collaborated with William G. Bowen and Derek Bok on The Shape of the River: Long-term Consequences of Considering Race in College and University Admissions (Princeton UP, 1998) and wrote (with William G. Bowen), The Game of Life: College Sports and Educational Values (Princeton UP, 2001). His publications in literature and the history of ideas include The Pale Cast of Thought: Hesitation and Decision in the Renaissance Epic (U of Delaware P, 1998) and the introduction to Robert K. Merton's The Travels and Adventures of Serendipity: A Study in Historical Semantics and the Sociology of Science (Princeton UP, 2003). James received his BA and PhD from Yale in Renaissance Studies. He serves on the board of The Spence School, the Renaissance Society of America, and the Yale Graduate School Alumni Association. From 2006–2015 he served as a trustee of Smith College. https://www.linkedin.com/in/jamesshulman/

Laura Sima (PhD ’12, Chemical and Environmental Engineering) (She/Her)

Laura Sima is the US Department of Energy (DOE) Director and Attaché in Mexico. Prior to this role, she was a senior advisor in the office of international affairs, leading DOE’s engagement in COP26 and other multilateral climate platforms, and Senior Trade Advisor at the US Department of Agriculture focused on trade policy at the nexus of sustainability and nutrition. Laura joined government from academia on a AAAS fellowship from 2013–2015 and foreign affairs officer in the Office of Development Finance at the Department of State.

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Levi Smith (PhD '19 Cell Biology, and PharmD '15, Butler University) (He/Him)

Levi joined Samsara BioCapital in the fall of 2021. Prior to Samsara, Levi was a Research Investigator at Halda Therapeutics where he co-led the discovery of novel heterobifunctional small molecules for undisclosed oncology targets. Before joining Halda, Levi was a Venture Fellow for Canaan Partners. As a Ph.D. candidate at Yale, Levi worked with Dr. Stephen Strittmatter, co-founder of ReNetX Bio and Allyx Therapeutics, on the discovery of small molecules that demonstrated preclinical efficacy in Alzheimer’s disease. Projects and targets he worked on included repurposing near-drugs as well as the discovery of novel modulators of cellular prion protein, mGluR5, and Fyn kinase. In 2017, Levi received the Young Investigator award from the Alzheimer’s Drug Discovery Foundation for this research. Prior to Yale, Levi earned his Pharm.D. from Butler University.

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Jim Staros (PhD '74, Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry) (He/Him)

After receiving his Ph.D. from Yale and serving as a Helen Hay Whitney Postdoctoral Fellow in chemistry at Harvard, Staros began his tenure-track faculty career at Vanderbilt in 1978, serving as a department chair 1988-2002. In 2002, Staros was named Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences at Stony Brook University (SUNY). In 2009, he became Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs & Provost of the University of Massachusetts Amherst, with a faculty appointment as Professor in the Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, a position that he assumed full time in September 2014 when he stepped out of his administrative post and back into life as a faculty member until his retirement in September 2019. https://www.linkedin.com/in/james-v-staros-45a74231/

Ewa Syta (PhD '15, Computer Science) (She/Her)

Ewa Syta is an Assistant Professor of Computer Science at Trinity College in Hartford, CT. She received her Ph.D. in Computer Science from Yale University, and received her B.S. and M.S. in Computer Science with a specialization in Cryptology from Military University of Technology in Poland. Her research interests are in computer security and distributed systems, with a focus on applied and theoretical aspects of building secure and trustworthy infrastructures. Most recently, she has been working on scalable ledgers, provably secure public key infrastructure and asynchronous coordination and consensus.

Anne Toker (PhD ’98, Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry and JD ’91, Harvard Law School) (She/Her)

After Anne obtained her PhD in MB&B, she completed a postdoc in the laboratory of Nobel laureate Dr. Martin Chalfie at Columbia University as an American Cancer Society postdoctoral fellow. Having gotten her JD before she went to graduate school in MB&B, Anne then went on to practice patent litigation. Anne is a partner at Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP, where she focuses her practice on biotech and pharmaceutical patent litigation. https://www.linkedin.com/in/anne-toker-26a4b464/

Peter Umunay (PhD ’20, Forestry and Environmental Sciences)

Dr. Peter Umunay, native from the Democratic Republic of Congo, is a Research Scientist at Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies in the United States, and Regional Team Leader on Forest and Climate Change at UN Environment Programme. Dr. Umunay has 10+ years of work experience with international organizations, academic institutions and governments. His work is mostly interdisciplinary interested in Nature-based solutions to mitigate climate change. His areas of focus include the impacts of human induced deforestation and forest degradation on forest carbon and biodiversity conservation, conservation and forest valuation, community-based natural forest management, improving forest governance, forest landscape restoration, and zero-deforestation in commodity supply chain. Dr. Peter has several scientific publications and work in collaboration with scientists across the world (Umunay-google-scholar). likendin.com/Peter-m-umunay-45b32095

Max Walden (PhD ’18, History) (He/Him)

Since completing his doctorate in American history, Max has pursued a career in financial services. He has held internships at DE Shaw & Co and the Metropolitan Museum of Art Investments Office and spent a year working as a corporate historian at a bulge-bracket investment bank. After completing his MBA at the NYU Stern School of Business next month, he will join the New York office of Goldman Sachs as a private wealth advisor. https://www.linkedin.com/in/max-walden/

Katie Wang (PhD ’14, Psychology) (She/Her)

Dr. Katie Wang is an assistant professor in the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences at Yale School of Public Health. She received her Ph.D. in Social Psychology from Yale University and completed postdoctoral training at Yale’s Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS. Dr. Wang’s research focuses on the psychological and health consequences of stigma, with a specific emphasis on people with physical disabilities and mental health conditions. She also teaches a graduate-level course on stigma and health. https://www.linkedin.com/in/katie-wang-20290668/
Brandi Waters (PhD '21, Latin American History and African American Studies) (She/Her)

Brandi Waters obtained a PhD in Latin American History and African American Studies from Yale University in 2021. She is currently the Director of AP African American Studies at College Board. In this role, she leads the development, launch, and ongoing management of a new advanced placement course for high school students across the country in the field of African American Studies. She works closely with higher education and high school faculty and leads partnership outreach for the new course. https://www.linkedin.com/in/brandimwaters/

Jason White (MAR '01, Religion and Ethics, Yale Divinity School) (He/Him)

Jason White is a technology executive passionate about developing products and partnerships that drive innovation and growth. He came to Meta from the field of journalism, where he focused on special projects, new formats and distribution for CNN, NBC News and more. He studied theology and ethics at Yale Divinity School and has an undergraduate degree from Northwestern University. https://www.linkedin.com/in/jason-white-11999534/

Helen Willsey (PhD '15, Genetics) (She/Her)

Helen Willsey, PhD, is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at UCSF and a Chan Zuckerberg Biohub Investigator. She received a PhD in Genetics and the Carolyn Slayman Prize from Yale University in 2015. Following her degree, she conducted postdoctoral training with Dr. Richard Harland at UC Berkeley and with Dr. Matthew State at UCSF. She now leads a basic science research group studying the function of autism risk genes using frogs as a model organism. https://www.linkedin.com/in/helen-rankin-willsey-ba236343/

Chelsea Xu (PhD '23, Neuroscience) (She/Her)

Chelsea is a graduate student in Yale’s Interdepartmental Neuroscience Program. She received her B.S. in Neural Science from New York University, where she worked with Dr. Stefan Feske to examine the role of microglia in a mouse model of multiple sclerosis. Her interest in neuroimmunology and sex differences led her to join the late Dr. Ronald Duman's lab to study the immune response in a mouse chronic unpredictable stress model and later, synaptic changes associated with the antidepressant action of allopregnanolone. She read with Dr. Levy for her qualifying exam, and she is currently interested in the effects of nicotine on decision making.
**Alex Zhang** (PhD ’18, Classics and Philosophy, and J.D. ’21, Yale Law School) (He/Him)

Alex received his Ph.D. in Classics and Philosophy in 2018 from Yale, where he served as Secretary of the Graduate Student Assembly. He received his J.D. in 2021 from Yale Law School, where he served as Managing Editor of the Yale Law Journal. During law school, he worked for two large law firms in Washington, D.C., and New York. He currently clerks for a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in San Francisco, and will clerk on the Second Circuit before entering legal practice or academia. [https://www.linkedin.com/in/alextzhang](https://www.linkedin.com/in/alextzhang)

**Esther Zirbel** (PhD ’93, Astronomy)

After graduating with an award-winning Yale PhD in Astrophysics, Esther researched back holes in the distant universe. Her projects flew on the Hubble Space Telescope. In her first faculty positions, she discovered a passion for teaching and to date taught thousands of undergraduate students. To leave a larger impact in teaching students, she transitioned to teacher education and then to coaching professors in teaching and learning. While collaborating with businesses and government officials, she realized that universities did not adequately prepare students for 21st Century careers. So, to better train students for the ever-changing workforce, she left academe and launched her own nonprofit organization. The objective of Learning Ledgers is to create transformational curricula and programs for educators, so that they, in turn, can better prepare students for careers of the future. [https://www.linkedin.com/in/estherzirbel/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/estherzirbel/); [https://www.learningledgers.org](https://www.learningledgers.org)