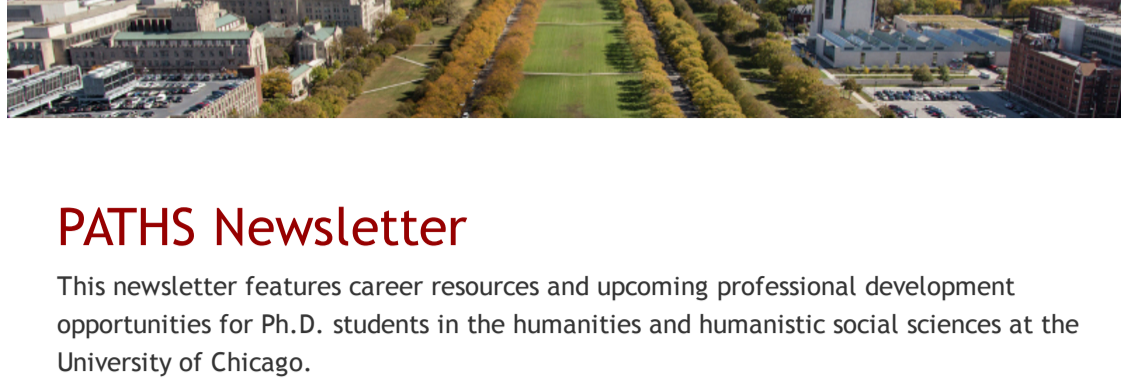


PATHS

PROFESSIONAL ADVANCEMENT AND TRAINING FOR HUMANITIES SCHOLARS



PATHS Newsletter

This newsletter features career resources and upcoming professional development opportunities for Ph.D. students in the humanities and humanistic social sciences at the University of Chicago.

Pathways to College Teaching Careers Mini-Conference

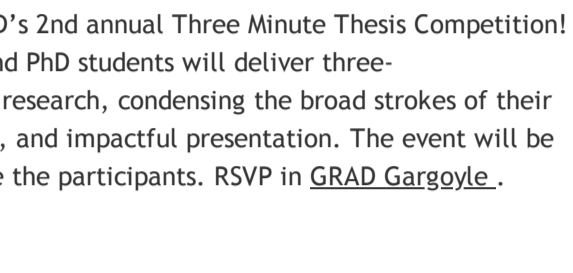


Friday, May 17, 2019, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Ida Noyes Library and Library Lounge

Navigating from a graduate program or postdoc into a teaching position can be both an exciting professional and intellectual experience as well as a challenging, uncertain transition. This event will provide graduate students and postdocs the opportunity to explore what it means to pursue a teaching career at a diverse group of institutions. In panels and small group lunch discussions, alumni from Chicago-area institutions and faculty from several liberal arts colleges will provide insight into the relevant skills and experiences that University of Chicago graduate students and postdocs might cultivate to prepare for successful teaching careers at a variety of institution types. They will also discuss how best to demonstrate and communicate these skills and experiences to hiring committees.

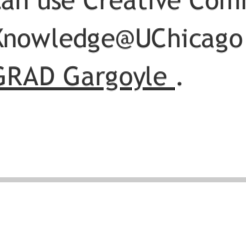
REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED via [GRAD Gargoyles](#).

UChicagoGRAD's 3-Minute Thesis Competition



Friday May 17th, 2:00-5:00 p.m., UChicagoGRAD (3rd floor, Bookstore Building)

Join the audience for UChicagoGRAD's 2nd annual Three Minute Thesis Competition! At this event, more than 20 Master's and PhD students will deliver three-minute presentations of their thesis research, condensing the broad strokes of their scholarship into a concise, engaging, and impactful presentation. The event will be followed by a reception to celebrate the participants. RSVP in [GRAD Gargoyles](#).



Understanding Your Rights as Authors

Tuesday, May 21, 12:30-1:30pm, UChicagoGRAD (3rd floor, Bookstore Building)

This session will introduce copyright basics in order to examine your rights as authors. We will review sample journal publishing agreements, reflect on their implications for your own use of your work, and discuss options for negotiating rights with a publisher. In this session, led by the UChicago Library's Nora Mattern, we'll also discuss how you can use Creative Commons licenses and the institutional repository [Knowledge@UChicago](#) to widen the access and reuse of your work by others. RSVP in [GRAD Gargoyles](#).

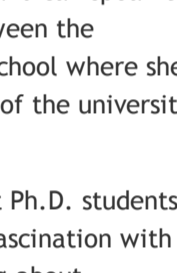
Careers in Higher Education: Perspectives from Alumni



Wednesday May 22nd, 12:30-1:30 p.m., at UChicagoGRAD (3rd floor, Bookstore Building)

Are you interested in a career in university administration? This event will feature a panel of alumni who are working in a variety of areas in the higher education administration space. They will speak about their academic work, how it prepared them for a career path in higher education, and how they have translated their academic experiences into meaningful careers on campus. RSVP in [GRAD Gargoyles](#).

Recap: Career Exploration Trek to Chicago Cultural Institutions



On Friday May 10, 2019, PATHS took a group of graduate students curious about career opportunities in museums and cultural institutions on a trek around the city.

The first stop on the PATHS Chicago Cultural Institutions trek was the headquarters of the **National Public Housing Museum** in River North. There, we met with **Executive Director Dr. Lisa Yun Lee** and learned about her diverse career activities—activities that demonstrate the far-reaching impact a Ph.D.-holder can have both inside and outside of the academy. Lee received her Ph.D. in German Studies from Duke University and has shaped a fulfilling career as a cultural activist, museum director, scholar, writer, and teacher. In addition to her directorship at the National Public Housing Museum and other Chicago-based activist and cultural projects, she is an Associate Professor of Public Culture and Museum Studies at UIC.

When discussing her work at the National Public Housing Museum (and prior museum projects), Lee emphasized the importance of critical theory (in particular, the Frankfurt School output) and other scholarly literature with which she engaged in grad school to her everyday professional life. She thinks deeply about the wider applications of critical theory, looking at the ways that these ideas are rooted in, and can speak to, publics well beyond the academy. Her desire to break boundaries between the academic and “outside” worlds was evident during her years in grad school where she sought out or created opportunities to “apply” scholarly ideas beyond of the university setting.

Creative museum work, she conveyed, engages many of the skills that Ph.D. students possess: an analytical mind; the ability to write and research; and a fascination with small-scale details as well as broader narratives and systems. Thinking about multivocality is another of Lee's key philosophies for museum work and another skill grad students practice on a regular basis. How, for example, can objects, things, people, and historical circumstances be understood from multiple perspectives. The philosophy of “letting the subjects speak for themselves” is at the heart of the National Public Housing Museum project. Rather than museum curators and programmers positioning themselves as “experts” on the phenomenon and complex histories of public housing, they engage heavily with their interlocutors—public housing residents to whom many of the featured experiences, stories, and objects belong—encouraging them to tell their stories in their own words.

The second stop, after lunch in the loop, was **The Art Institute of Chicago**, where we met with **Alison Davis Ricketts**, Assistant Director of Stewardship, who received her Ph.D. from UChicago's Divinity School in 2018. Ricketts was looking for work outside of the academy when she finished her degree and the research and writing emphasis of a position in stewardship caught her eye. In her current role, Ricketts is responsible for stewarding both donor funds and donor relationships. Unlike the frontliners in development who interact face-to-face with donors and potential donors, Ricketts's contact with donors is almost exclusively written. Through communications like acquisition reports, curatorship reports, and impact reports, Ricketts keeps donors up-to-date on how their funds are supporting the life of the museum. Organization and archiving are integral to the job and Ricketts says she enjoys figuring out most efficient processes and maximizing communication across departments. Though behind-the-scenes, Ricketts job is very collaborative and social. For instance, to put together curatorship reports, she meets regularly with curators and members of other Art Institute departments. There is always so much information coming in, she remarked, that it is a matter of knowing who to go to and what kinds of questions to ask.

Ricketts advised current graduate students who are interested in careers beyond academia to consider the institutions they admire and then see what jobs are available there or at similar places. There are many different ways to translate a skill, including, most concretely, a skills-focused resume. Although she misses being a specialist in nineteenth century American religious history, she also appreciates the opportunities her new work offers her to think in new ways and connect with broader audiences. The work-life balance isn't bad either. Gradually, too, she hopes to be able to integrate more pieces of what she misses about academic work into her unfolding career in stewardship.

After coffee in Lincoln Square, our last stop was **DANK Haus German American Cultural Center**, hosted by **Monica Felix**, DANK Haus's Director of Museum, Collections, and Development. Felix earned her Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from UChicago in 2017. DANK Haus is housed in a fascinating and quirky building erected in 1927--the Schlaraffia room (maintained by a secretive German-speaking society from Prague) on its own makes this museum worth a visit. Felix gave us a tour and explained as she went that her job has no typical day-to-day. Since she was hired in 2017 as Collections manager, she has taken on many hats and projects. Inventing as she goes, Felix has secured large grants for the Museum, put together exhibits for the gallery, received and catalogued thousands of donations, led on average a tour a day, helped with programming for German language classes, and worked to foster ties between DANK Haus and other cultural centers in Chicago. The memories of small institutions are short, Felix discovered, and a primary objective since she started at DANK Haus has been to implement systems to ensure that artifacts--like a rare gold-framed portrait of the Kaiser--stay treasured for years to come. Felix shared with graduate students that the pressure of the PhD process itself can make it hard to keep in mind what you initially set out to do. In her case, she wanted to do a PhD because she was passionate about literature and culture. Working at DANK Haus fulfills this desire as well, and like Ricketts, Felix is looking forward to continuing to find creative ways of integrating her PhD studies and skills into her museum career.

Save the Date: Academic Job Market Summer Camp

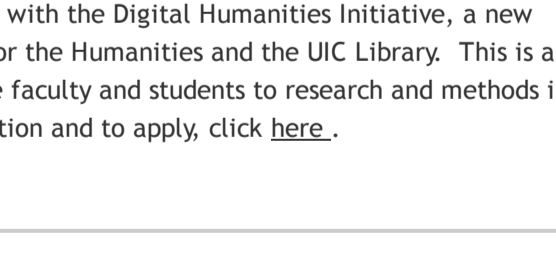


July 15-19, 2019, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00/1:30 p.m., UChicagoGRAD

Are you planning to apply for academic jobs this fall? Put your best foot forward by attending UChicagoGRAD's Academic Job Market Summer Camp. You'll receive advice from UChicagoGRAD and CCT advisors as well as faculty from UChicago and other area institutions. You'll also have opportunities to hone your documents and interview skills. RSVP for each session in [GRAD Gargoyles](#).

- Monday, July 15: Introduction, Hiring Committee Panel, CV Best Practices, International Academe
- Tuesday, July 16: Cover Letters, Research Statements (STEM and HUM/SS), Getting a Postdoc
- Wednesday, July 17: Teaching Statements and Portfolios, Diversity Statements, Navigating Identity
- Thursday, July 18: Interview Best Practices, Campus Visits, Creating a Scholarly Website
- Friday, July 19: Job Document Working Groups and Lunch Discussion

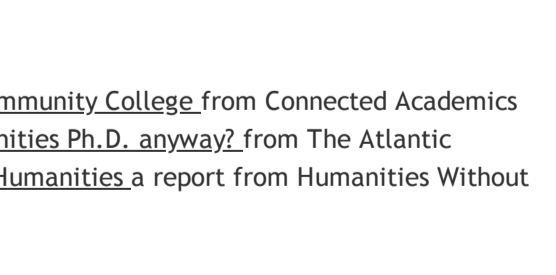
Library Fellowships Available



The University of Chicago Library is offering three summer fellowships for UChicago graduate students. Apply by **May 30** for the John

Crerar Foundation History of Science and Medicine Fellowship, the Library Instruction Support Services Fellowship, and the University Archives Fellowship. For more information, click [here](#).

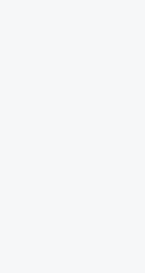
Digital Humanities Postdoc at UIC



Application Deadline extended to June 15, 2019! The TPostdoctoral Research Associate will be hired in conjunction with the Digital Humanities Initiative, a new collaboration between the Institute for the Humanities and the UIC Library. This is a one-year position, designed to expose faculty and students to research and methods in digital humanities. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

Did You Know...

that with your Ph.D. you could...



- become a director of stewardship at the Art Institute like this [UChicago PhD in Divinity](#)
- build a career as an academic, activist, and museum director like [this German Studies PhD](#)
- become the director of museum, collections, and development at a cultural center like [this Comparative Literature PhD](#)

Hosts from the PATHS Trek to UChicago Museums and Cultural Institutions

Reading List

- [Preparing for a Career at a Community College](#) from Connected Academics
- [What Can You Do with a Humanities Ph.D. anyway?](#) from The Atlantic
- [On Alternative Careers in the Humanities](#) a report from Humanities Without Walls

Submit to the PATHS Newsletter

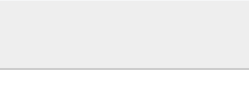
If you are hosting a relevant event that you would like featured in this newsletter, please send the event information to [paths@uchicago.edu](#).

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