**283.  Becoming a Historian? 3205 Dwinelle**

**Tuesday 2-5pm**

This class is not about the methods, theories or histories of the practices of historical research and writing.   It is instead a class about what is happening to the historical profession in the contemporary world, how the job market for historians is changing, and what may be required to secure future employment within and beyond the academy.  My aim is demystify the academy and the historical profession while encouraging deeper thinking about career diversity and development.  The mantra will be that everything you need to succeed in the academic job market will make you more employable beyond the academy.  As the focus of the 375 is on teaching this class will hardly discuss pedagogy.   There will be reading but not much. Most of our time will be spent addressing very practical questions like how you build a CV/Resume, attend conferences, publish reviews and articles, teach in different environments, use social media, write grant proposals, publish blogs and articles, build digital and quantitative skills, and translate the skills of a historian in to prospecting for work beyond the academy.  Some weeks there will be small assignments to produce that will then be workshopped in class. There will be no end of semester paper. We will be occasionally joined by panels of ABDs, Lecturers, and Alumni within and beyond the academy. It is an experimental class and I need your help in developing it.  Everything that is good in it came from Erica Lee, Paulina Hartono, Natalie Mendoza, Sarah Stoller, Brendan Mackie, the rest is mine.

**Online Resources**

[Connected Academics, Doctoral Student Career Planning](https://connect.mla.hcommons.org/doctoral-student-career-planning-faculty-toolkit/)

[AHA, Preparing for the Job Market](https://www.historians.org/jobs-and-professional-development/professional-life/resources-for-graduate-students/preparing-for-the-job-market)

[AHA, Career Diversity for Historians](https://www.historians.org/jobs-and-professional-development/career-diversity-for-historians)

[AHA, Career Resources](https://www.historians.org/jobs-and-professional-development/career-resources)

[Grad Div, Graduate Professional Development Overview](http://grad.berkeley.edu/professional-development/about-gpd/)

[UCB, Career Center](https://career.berkeley.edu/Phds/Phds)

[Beyond Academia](http://www.beyondacademia.org/)

[Alt-Ac/Beyond TT Alumni List](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1e4e8w5G2dKiBlGfLbLggPGATQa9D5cmPyVDS1BcLAGc/edit)

Facebook group ‘History Alumni’

LinkedIn ‘UC Berkeley History PhDs’

**29 August No class**

**5 September Higher Education’s Great Transformation**

Chris Newfield, The Great Mistake. How We Wrecked Public Universities and How We Can Fix Them (2016)

Sheila Slaughter and Gary Rhoades, ‘[The neo-liberal university](https://www.jstor.org/stable/40342886?seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents)’ New Labor Forum, 6 (2000), 73-79.

James Vernon, “The making of the neoliberal university in Britain” (bcourses)

Alison Mountz et al, “For slow scholarship: A feminist politics of resistance through collective action in the neoliberal university” (bcourses)

Angela McRobbie, “[Women’s working lives in the managerial university](http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/impactofsocialsciences/2015/09/03/womens-working-lives-in-the-managerial-university/)”

**12 September The Graduate School Mess**

Leonard Cassuto, The Graduate School Mess; What Caused It and How We Can Fix It (2015)

Thomas Bender et al, The Education of Historians for the Twenty-First Century (2004), part 1.

Patrick Iber, “[Should I just quit academia?](http://www.slate.com/articles/life/inside_higher_ed/2014/03/quitting_the_academic_job_market_should_i_give_up_on_trying_to_be_a_professor.html)” Slate

**19 September The Job Market: Globally and locally**

Karen Kelsky, The Professor Is In: The Essential Guide to Turning your PhD into a Job (2015), part 1 & 2

L.Maren Wood and Robert B.Townsend, [The Many Careers of History PhDs, Report to the AHA](https://www.historians.org/jobs-and-professional-development/career-diversity-for-historians/career-diversity-resources/the-many-careers-of-history-phds)

[Where Historians Work: The AHA Database of PhD Career Outcomes](https://www.historians.org/jobs-and-professional-development/career-diversity-for-historians/career-diversity-resources/where-historians-work-an-interactive-database-of-history-phd-career-outcomes)

**26 September What is a PhD good for? Or thinking about career diversity**

Sharon Marcus, [“Scenes from the life of a graduate adviser”](https://chroniclevitae.com/news/1120-scenes-from-the-life-of-a-graduate-adviser.) Chronicle Vitae, 11 Sept 2015

Humanists@Work, “[A call for community; a survey of humanities PhD students on professionalization and support](https://humwork.uchri.org/blog/2017/03/call-community-survey-humanities-phd-students-professionalization-support/).”

AHA, [The Career Diversity Five Skills](https://www.historians.org/jobs-and-professional-development/career-diversity-for-historians/career-diversity-resources/five-skills)

Grad Div, [Graduate Student Professional Development Guide](http://grad.berkeley.edu/professional-development/guide/)

*Assignment I: Use the* [*MLA Career Exploration Activity Packet*](https://connect.mla.hcommons.org/mla-career-exploration-activity-packet-skills-self-assessment-job-ad-analysis-and-next-steps/) *to identify your skills in 10 bullet points and match them to at least 3 types of jobs both within and beyond the academy*

**3 October Building a CV and a Resume**

Kelsky, The Professor Is In, Part 3 & 4

Laura York, “[Some dos and don’ts for an effective CV and cover letter](https://www.historians.org/publications-and-directories/perspectives-on-history/march-2006/going-on-the-job-market-some-dos-and-donts-for-an-effective-cv-and-cover-letter)” 2006

Beyond Academe, “[From CV to Resume](http://www.beyondacademe.com/resume-tips.html)”

Panel: Christine Philliou, Julian Saltman (Senior Historian, VP Wells Fargo Family and Business History), Andrew Green (PhD., PhD Counselor at UCB Career Center)

*Assignment 2: Come to class with a 2 page CV and a 1 page resume tailored to the academic and alt-ac jobs you most desire*

**10 October Teaching as a historian and the skills it gives you**

Allen Mikaelian, “[Another Big Drop in History Majors: Yes, This is Still Happening](http://historynewsnetwork.org/article/164811)” History News Network, 2016

Peter Mandler, “[Rise of the humanities](https://aeon.co/essays/the-humanities-are-booming-only-the-professors-can-t-see-it)” aeon, 17 December 2015

Jim Grossman, “[To be a historian is to be a teacher](https://www.historians.org/publications-and-directories/perspectives-on-history/november-2015/to-be-a-historian-is-to-be-a-teacher)” Perspectives (November, 2015)

Panel: Julia Shatz (ABD), Sarah Gold McBride (PhD 2017, Lecturer, UCB), Rachel Reinhard (PhD 2005, Director, UCB History Social Science Project**)**

*Assignment 3: Prepare 5 powerpoint slides that outline how 5 skills you get from being a teacher are transferable in alt-ac jobs.*

**17 October Conferences and papers**

Kelsky, The Professor Is In, chs. 19 & 20.

Linda Kerber, ‘[Conference Rules: Everything you need to know about presenting a scholarly paper in public](https://www.historians.org/publications-and-directories/perspectives-on-history/may-2008/conference-rules-everything-you-need-to-know-about-presenting-a-scholarly-paper-in-public)” Perspectives, May 2008.

Panel: Anthony Gregory (ABD), Rebecca Herman (PhD 2014), Mackenzie Moore (PhD 2012, Undergraduate Adviser, Cognitive Science, UCB)

*Assignment 4: Identify 4 conferences, 2 annual events in your field, and 2 in response to specific CFPs, and write one abstract for a paper or panel.*

**24 October When and how to get published**

Wendy Laura Belcher, Writing Your Journal Article in 12 Weeks, chs.2-4 (bcourses)

Y.Yvon Wang, “[Publish to Flourish? Grad School Publishing Perils](http://dissertationreviews.org/archives/13958)”

[“Publishing En Route to a Tenure Track Job”](http://dissertationreviews.org/archives/14000)

Panel: Ethan Shagan, Sarah Stoller (ABD), Jacqui Shine (PhD 2017, Freelance writer)

**31 October Your profile, network and social media**

Mark Carrigan, Social Media for Academics (2016), chs.1-6. Podcast interview [here](http://newbooksnetwork.com/mark-carrigan-social-media-for-academics-sage-2016/)

Vanessa Varin, “[Managing your digital self](https://www.historians.org/publications-and-directories/perspectives-on-history/january-2014/managing-your-digital-self)” Perspectives (January 2014)

Panel: Massimo Mazzotti, Andrea Horbinski (Phd, 2017), John Handel

*Assignment 5: Create a 1 page pitch for a social media presence – a blog, twitter, LinkedIn, academia.edu – outlining its preoccupations, their relationship or distance from your academic profile, and its intended audience. Or, find a social media presence that you admire, explain why and share with the group.*

**7 November Grant writing**

Kelsky, The Professor Is In, chs. 17, 51 & 52

[The Department’s Grant Database](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B8AnCkctRw7aVDFGVWhnT28yTFE)

*Assignment 6: Identify at least 10 grants, with their deadlines and requirements, that you could apply for conference travel, summer fellowships, research years and write-up opportunities.*

**14 November Digital and Quantitative Skills**

Caitlin Rosenthall, “Seeking a quantitative middle ground: reflections on methods and opportunities in economic history” Journal of the Early Republic, 36, 4 (2016) (bcourses)

Tom Perrault, “[Digital companies need more liberal arts majors](https://hbr.org/2016/01/digital-companies-need-more-liberal-arts-majors)” Harvard Business Review, 29 Jan 2016

Isabel Cardenas-Navia and Brian K.Fitzgerald, “The Broad Application of Data Science and Analytics: Essential Tools for the Liberal Arts Graduate” BHEF Change, July/August 2015 (Bcourses)

Panel: Caitlin Rosenthall, Cathryn Carson, Andrew Keating (PhD 2012, Managing Director at Box)

*Assignment 7:* Find the AHA job postings for AY 2017/8 [here](http://careers.historians.org/jobs). Start an Excel database (available for free at [software.berkeley.edu](http://software.berkeley.edu/).) Think of a number of categories you want to track. (These could be subjective "Looks interesting" or objective e.g. "Geographic Area", "tenure track", “Postdoc”).  For each job listing, fill out the categories you've selected. In addition, fill out these questions:

*Could I apply for this job when I get a PhD?  
Is this a digital humanities job?*

Here's an example of what it should look like

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Geographic Area | Tenure Track? | Am I qualified? | Digital? |
| UC Berkeley | California | 1 | 0 | 0 |

THIS WILL TAKE AN HOUR OR TWO. When you're done, find the percentage of a) jobs you can apply to  
and b) jobs that are digital humanties jobs. Come to class with ideas of skills you could develop to make yourself more competitive in this job market?

**21 November Classes, collaborative work, internships, getting and writing references**

Humanists @ Work, “[Broaden your search and learn more … without working for free](https://humwork.uchri.org/blog/2017/06/broaden-search-learn-without-working-free/)”

*Assignment 8: Identify classes at Berkeley, or potential volunteer, intern or employment opportunities that you could participate in to enhance your CV and resume.*

**28 November What is a dissertation? Course Review**