Alternative Academic Career Summer Workshops for Pre-doctoral Students in the Humanities

Participants
In **Week One**, you will begin to expand your imagination about what is possible with a PhD in the humanities and explore career paths outside of the traditional tenure-track university system, such as consulting and university presses. You will also learn practical skills such as professional networking and how to create and maintain a coherent social media presence.

### 7/18: Welcome

You know how a PhD in the humanities works as a step towards a tenure-track position. But how do you start to think about its value beyond the academy? Day One starts with a set of first steps—and resources—for taking your intellectual interests, problem solving skills, and values from the academy into the world. Then, we drive into the art of networking.

1. Introduction by Chicago Humanities Festival staff
2. Mearah Quinn-Brauner, Graduate Student Career Advisor, Northwestern University
3. Informational Interview Prep with Mearah Quinn-Brauner
4. Lunch at Gratz
5. Speed Networking Group Exercise with Megan Stielstra, storyteller, essayist and contributing opinion writer for *The New York Times*
6. Welcome Dinner at Osteria La Madia

### 7/19: Alternatives Within Academia

Today, you will discover options a little closer to home by focusing on intellectual careers that still have one foot (or more) in the university system. University advisors, archivists, and research center directors will help you explore different ways to structure a professional life of the mind.

1. **All Day Field Trip: University of Chicago and Stony Island Arts Bank**
2. Gina DiSalvo, Advisor and Lecturer, Department of Theatre, Northwestern University
7/19: Alternatives Within Academia (Continued)

3. Daniel Meyer, Director of Special Collections, University of Chicago Libraries, and Linda Vavra, Associate Director, Institute for the Humanities, University of Illinois at Chicago

4. Lunch

5. Tour of Mansueto Library

6. Tour of Stony Island Arts Bank/Rebuild Foundation

7. Reflective Session: “Exploring Values and Work.” Facilitator: Hilary Strang, Deputy Director of Master of Arts Program in the Humanities, University of Chicago

7/20: Alternatives Without Academia

Today, you will begin the exciting work of imagining yourself and your work in different contexts. You’ll spend the morning reframing yourself and your interests in terms of creative projects outside of the standard disciplinary categories. In the afternoon, you will have the opportunity to learn the LinkedIn tool with experts in professional networking. Plus, time for informational interviews!

1. Introduction: How to Solve “Wicked Problems,” with Andrew Benedict-Nelson, Greenhouse

2. Lunch

3. Field Trip: LinkedIn

4. Informational Interviews

7/21: Humanities in Consulting and Design

This session will be an introduction to the world of consulting for cultural institutions and beyond and how your research and analytical skills might translate to that field. Consultants will come together with students to explain and explore their process through case studies and a hands-on session.

1. Tanya Treptow, Associate, and Jen Benoit-Bryan, Research Analyst, Slover Linett Audience Research

2. Kristen Gwinn-Becker, CEO, HistoryIT

3. Lunch
**7/21: Humanities in Consulting and Design (Continued)**

4. Field Trip: IDEO

5. How to Solve Wicked Problems #1: “Citizenship” with IDEO

**7/22: Media and Publishing**

We know that a social media presence is critical to establishing a professional identity but how do you go about actually creating one? One of Chicago’s top journalists and social media experts offers you a crash course in how to master your social media profile. In the afternoon, a panel of experts will share their experiences working for academic presses. Then, learn about Chicago through a history of beer with Liz Garibay.

1. Amy Guth, General Manager/Publisher, RedEye/Metronomix, Tribune Publishing Co.
2. Lunch
3. Levi Stahl, Promotions Director; Christie Henry, Editorial Director, University of Chicago Press; and Parneshia Jones, Sales and Subsidiary Rights Manager and Poetry Editor, Northwestern University Press

4. **Field Trip: Clark Street Ale House, Liz Garibay, History on Tap**
In **Week Two**, you will continue to explore careers in a variety of industries, including advertising, the government sector, and museums. You will also learn practical skills to help you target and pursue a variety of career opportunities, such as resume-building and pitching project ideas.

### 7/25: Resumes and Cover Letters
Karen Kelsky, author of *The Professor Is In*, will give you practical, hands-on guidance on crafting a compelling, persuasive resume and cover letter. In the afternoon, you’ll benefit from insider knowledge that can help you learn how to apply the art of brand development to your own career.

1. “The Non-Academic Job Search” resume and cover letter workshop with Karen Kelsky, author of *The Professor Is In*
2. Lunch
3. **Field Trip: Burrell Communications Group**

### 7/26: Freelancing and Project-based Work
Freelancing can be a compelling way to structure your career, allowing you to embark on a variety of projects and manage your own time. But there are risks, as well. Today, you will hear from a number of presenters about how they organize their project-based careers, balance financial security with creative development, and pitch projects to funders and clients.

1. Panel: Jenn Brandel, Hearken; Ellen McSweeney, Chicago-based performer; and, Ben Austen, contributing editor at *Harper’s Magazine*
2. Lunch
3. “The Art of the Pitch” workshop with Adrienne Samuels Gibbs, Interim Senior Editor, *Newcity*
4. Informational Interviews
7/27: Humanities in the Government Sector

The government sector may not be the first place you think of for a fulfilling career, but today you will hear from presenters about ways they contribute their expertise to guide the federal and local governments in spending cultural affairs dollars. In the afternoon, network with Chicago professionals.

1. Laurel Seely Voloder, Program Analyst, Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State
2. Lee Kelley, project consultant for art, Chicago Transit Authority
3. Lunch
4. **Field Trip: Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE), City of Chicago**

7/28: Humanities in the Museum, Part 1

Today, you get to meet a curator at one of the best art museums in the world, learn about their practice, their intellectual work, and new directions in the field. In the afternoon, we tackle the issue of driverless cars.

1. Field Trip: Art Institute of Chicago, conversation with Gloria Groom, chair of European Painting and Sculpture Department at the Art Institute
2. Lunch
3. How to Solve Wicked Problems #2: “Driverless Cars” with Greenhouse and Illinois Institute of Technology
4. Informational Interviews

7/29: Humanities in the Museum, Part 2

A panel of HWW alumni will talk about what the workshop meant to them and where they are now, followed by a reflection session about questions students have as they consider transitioning to the non-academic job market. In the afternoon, we will visit the Museum of Contemporary Art and finish the day at a reception with the HWW consortium.

1. Alumni Panel: Kantara Souffrant, Manager Schools and Teachers Program, Milwaukee Art Museum; Robert Smith III, Assistant Curator of Education, Learning and Interpretation, The Art Institute of Chicago; Tyler Miller, History high school teacher
7/29: Humanities in the Museum, Part 2 (Continued)

2. Reflective Session: “Pressures and Priorities around Career Transitions.”

3. Lunch


5. Reception with HWW Consortium at Jake Melnick’s Corner Tap
In **Week Three**, you will get an insider’s look at various careers from the viewpoint of nonprofit, philanthropy, and technology professionals who work closely with the communities in which they are based. You will also learn practical skills to help you communicate your knowledge and skills more effectively.

**8/1: Humanities and Storytelling**

Today is all about storytelling—a skill increasingly in demand across different careers and professions. You will work with a professional storyteller to learn how to explain your research in a compelling way to non-academics and hear from a panel of presenters who have built careers and spaces with storytelling at their heart.

1. Informational Interviews
2. Lunch
3. “Storytelling Your Dissertation” Workshop with Scott Whitehair, Story Lab
4. Panel: Paul Durica, founder of Pocket Guide to Hell Tours and Reenactments, and Eric Williams, founder of the Silver Room and Grown Folks Stories

**8/2: Humanities in the Neighborhood**

We will spend the day in the Pilsen neighborhood of Chicago exploring organizations that have the neighborhood and its residents as the focus of their mission. Presenters will share how their work impacts their community, how the community drives their activities, and the kinds of skills they look for when hiring new employees.

1. **All Day Field Trip: Pilsen Neighborhood**
2. National Museum of Mexican Art, conversation with Carlos Tortolero, President and Founder; Cesareo Moreno, Visual Arts Director and Curator; and Vanessa Sanchez, Yollocalli Arts Reach Directory
3. Lunch
4. Instituto del Progreso Latino
5. Blue1647
8/3: Humanities and Foundations

From grant-making to public programming, foundations play an important role in civic life. You’ll learn more about the mission and day-to-day operations of several foundations in Chicago and meet with humanities PhDs who have transitioned to professional roles in those foundations.

1. Panel: Cheryl Hughes, Chicago Community Trust, Elspeth Revere, formerly at MacArthur Foundation, and K. Sujata, Chicago Foundation for Women
2. Lunch
3. **Field Trip: Joyce Foundation**
4. How to Solve Wicked Problems #3: “The Role of Judicial Independence” with Joyce Foundation
5. Informational interviews

8/4: Humanities and the Nonprofit Sector

You will gain valuable insights from people who work in social justice and other kinds of non-profit organizations. This seminar exposes you to the wide variety of contributions that humanities PhDs can make in those organizations, including research and programming. In the afternoon, you will visit a world-renowned independent research library in Chicago.

1. Amy Rynell, Senior Director of Research & Policy, Heartland Alliance
2. Toni Irving, Executive Director, Get IN Chicago
3. Lunch
4. **Field Trip: Newberry Library**
5. Informational interviews

8/5: Wrap Up and Reflection

Our final day of the seminar! You’ll reflect on your experience and forge your next steps toward innovative paths within and beyond academia.

1. Course closing with Greenhouse
2. Lunch
3. Reflective Session: “What’s Next?” Facilitator: Mearah Quinn-Brauner
4. Farewell Dinner: Tanta