

## Navigating a Career in Classics

Younger scholars and graduate students often have concerns about the state of the academic job market<sup>1</sup> and the ways in which the nature of academic employment will impact their lives, especially during their early careers. Frequently, however, they are not comfortable voicing those concerns to their advisers or do not have an adviser who can address their specific concerns. As a result, many larger institutions are offering more resources in terms of professional development and alt-ac opportunities to help graduate students and recent PhDs make the transition into a career, whether as a tenured professor or another sort of position. At smaller institutions, however, these resources are not as readily available and many graduate students do not have access to advice about how to navigate an academic career effectively.

This panel will seek to address several of the more common concerns among graduate students about pursuing Classics as a profession. Topics range from academic culture and workplace environment to considerations about pregnancy and child-raising to the so-called “two body problem.” The panelists will draw on their personal experience and recent scholarship to offer a range of perspectives on these concerns.

The first paper examines bullying and incivility in the academic workplace. It looks at the prevalence of academic bullying and how it is often sheltered under the umbrella of “academic freedom.” It also suggests strategies for challenging these harmful practices. The second paper will look at one scholar’s own path to tenure and experiences in department administration and will suggest strategies for younger scholars in similar positions. It will also discuss the author’s expectations about employment and tenure and the ways in which those expectations were not

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<sup>1</sup> *The Chronicle of Higher Education* highlighted this in their coverage of alt-ac careers at the MLA (Howard 2009) and opened up discussion of the gap between graduate training and professional requirements (Cordell 2014). At the 2014 APA/SCS meeting, a panel also focused on the changing nature of employment in Classics, entitled “Contingent Labor in Classics: The New Faculty Majority?”

entirely accurate. The third paper will focus on the ways in which the recent explosion of interest and debate about “opting out,” “leaning in,” and “having it all” relate specifically to Classics. It will explore the unique challenges presented by childrearing in the early stages of an academic career and suggest ways for scholars to pursue tenure and parenthood at the same time. The fourth paper will approach the parenting issue from the contrasting perspective of someone who was already tenured before adopting children. It will also draw on the author’s personal experience as a department chair to look at issues beyond their own experience, such as pregnancy, paternity leave, caretaking *in loco parentis*, and the situations of non-tenure-track instructors. The final paper will take another look at the two body problem from the perspective of the “second body,” so to speak, and explore the compromises that the partner of an academic is often required to make. It will also provide an ideological framework for thinking about work-life balance issues in terms of socially just practices with significant implications for race and gender representation.

Overall, this panel will seek to provide graduate students with a range of experiences and strategies as they approach the job market and their careers in Classics.

#### Bibliography

Cordell, Ryan. (2014). “Mind the Gap (Between Graduate Training and Professional Requirements).” Retrieved from: <http://chronicle.com/blogs/profhacker/mind-the-gap-between-graduate-training-and-professional-requirements/55701>.

Howard, Jennifer. (2013). “The 'Alt-Ac' Track: MLA Discussions Reflect the Reality of Careers Without Tenure.” Retrieved from: <http://chronicle.com/article/The-Alt-Ac-Track-Careers/136505/>.