

Parallel Lives: Alternative Careers in Classics, Humanities, and Academia

As the final paper for a panel concerning the job market for aspiring classicists, this presentation will provide an overview of alternative options for participants, who will be seeking employment but still wish to remain within or alongside academia as a whole. After years of dedication to literature, history, art, and archaeology, many students understandably wish to contribute to their field directly or at least tangentially. However, planning for the future requires students to embrace the reality that is the intense battle for tenure (and non-tenure) track positions, which are extremely elusive to secure, if that even is the goal for that student. Other students may wish to avoid that craziness and are looking forward to other options. This presenter, from the perspective of a current graduate student who is embracing that upcoming reality, will share his findings on alternative academic careers with compiled recommendations from professionals that embraced their path after graduate school.

This presentation will be divided into three parts, spanning two interviews with professionals and overarching advice for all participants. The two professionals, who will be interviewed, interact daily with Classics in a variety of ways. These interviewees will be an academic librarian and a college instructor, respectively. The presenter will share with participants the interviewees' own career paths, the decisions they had to make as graduate students, how they responded to the job market, and their reflections on their current position. Finally, the presenter will share the interviewees' collective advice for current grads soon to put themselves on the market. The purpose of this paper is to provide students with a number of resources and suggestions for future academic employment.