

## Leveraging Your PhD: Why Employers Value Your Skills

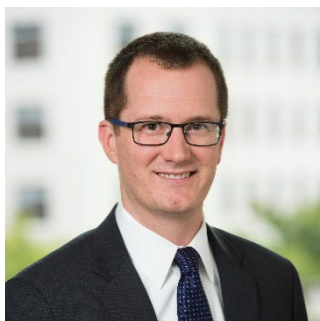
Thursday, February 23, 5:00 – 6:30pm ET

Hear about the career transition experiences of GSAS alumni working in a variety of jobs outside academia. Alumni from the humanities, social sciences, and STEM fields will discuss their own career decision making, how they adapted to jobs outside academia, and how the skills and knowledge they developed during their graduate programs influenced their success.



Keynote: **Richard Ekman**, PhD '72,  
History of American Civilization

Richard Ekman is president emeritus and senior advisor of the Council of Independent Colleges and past chair of the GSAS Alumni Association Council. He is currently a fellow of the TIAA Institute, of counsel to Academic Search, and lecturer in the University of Pennsylvania's graduate school of education. Previously, he served as vice president for programs of Atlantic Philanthropies, as secretary and senior program officer of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and as director of the Divisions of Research Programs and Education Programs at the National Endowment for the Humanities. He has been a member of the Harvard University Board of Overseers Committee to Visit the University Library and the advisory boards for the university presses of Johns Hopkins and Louisiana State Universities. He is also past chair of the board of Project Pericles and a member of the boards of the American Academic Leadership Institute and Emeriti Retirement Health and of advisory boards to the Yale-New Haven Teachers Institute and the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History.



**Matthew Chingos**, PhD '10,  
Government

Matthew M. Chingos directs the Center on Education Data and Policy at the Urban Institute. He leads a team of scholars who undertake policy-relevant research on issues from prekindergarten through postsecondary education and create tools such as Urban's Education Data Portal. Chingos is coauthor of *Game of Loans: The Rhetoric and Reality of Student Debt* and *Crossing the Finish Line: Completing College at America's Public Universities*. He has testified before Congress, and his work has been featured in media outlets such as *the New York Times*, *the Washington Post*, and NPR. Before joining Urban, Chingos was a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution.



**Ernesto Martinez**, PhD '08,  
Anthropology

Ernesto Martinez currently leads the primary market research and insights for the Institutional Retirement (\$1.1T AUM) at Capital Group. In this role, he helps marketing and sales achieve their sales goals. Previously, he landed his first job (After over eight interviews, 20 informational interviews, and countless online applications) at IBM Corporation in New York City doing primary market research in the Chief Information Officer's department. His favorite job was at Medtronic, but after three years there was recruited to work at Amgen. After five years at Amgen doing market research and early clinical development supply chain, he was recruited to work at Capital Group.



**Christalyn Rhodes** PhD '18,  
Biological Sciences in Public Health

Christalyn Rhodes is the Associate Vice President of Academic Collaborations and External Partnerships for Eli Lilly's Institute for Genetic Medicines. There, she works at the intersection of science and business to transform medicine discovery, development, and delivery by identifying pivotal breakthrough technologies. Previously, as a biotech venture capital associate at Flagship Pioneering then tech entrepreneur, Christalyn originated novel platforms and companies that design therapeutics to address diseases that carry a high economic burden. Christalyn currently serves as expert-in-residence for Harvard Innovation Lab where she advises students and alumni on pitch preparation, idea generation and commercial potential of projects. She also serves on the external advisory board for the University of Massachusetts Bridge Fund, bridging funding gaps for academics with commercializable technology.

---



**Shan Shan Wang**, PhD '19,  
Neurobiology

Shan Shan Wang is an Associate Director within the TechAtlas division at RA Capital Management. Shan Shan's primary responsibilities are to drive internal and external strategic and diligence initiatives and oversee the workflow and professional development of TechAtlas Associates. Previously, Shan Shan covered Orphan Heme, Orphan GOF, Vaccines, and various Gene Therapies as a Senior Associate.

---



**Lusía Zaitseva**, PhD '18,  
Comparative Literature

Lusía Zaitseva has served as the manager of Technical Services at Interfolio since June 2022. She taught in the Harvard College Writing Program between 2018 and 2022. Her writing has appeared in journals such as *PMLA*, *Comparative Literature*, and *Slavic Review*, and a portion of her translation of Pakistani poet Faiz Ahmed Faiz's travelogue about his time in the Soviet Union is slated for publication in an edited volume with Palgrave Macmillan.

---



**Stephen Zoegall**, PhD '06, English

Steve Zoegall is Global Industry Lead for Accenture's Cities, Transportation & Infrastructure practice, focusing on strategic transformation across those convergent domains for clients in more than 80 cities around the world. Steve also leads the firm's Critical Public Infrastructure Services campaign, which focuses the firm's total enterprise transformation capabilities on cities' most pressing priorities related to citizen services, safety, operations, mobility, resilience, and sustainability. As a World Economic Forum Fellow, Steve shapes and drives development of new joint digital offerings to accelerate urban transformation.