

Session 1: 9:20-10:50 AM

PhDs in the NonProfit World

The DC metro region has hundreds of “non-profits” focused on the arts and social issues. In addition, DC is the location of a plethora of national associations and “think tanks.” Are there some issues that you would love to apply your research, leadership and communication skills to for change? Learn more about what is like to work in the non-profit sector as compared to other industries.

Anya Fink



Anya Loukianova Fink is a research analyst with CAN's Adversary Analytics team, where she is a member of the Russia Studies Program. Her research focuses on Russian strategy and approaches to deterrence, Russian military thought, and nuclear weapons issues. Prior to joining CNA, Fink spent a year as a fellow focused on national security and nuclear policy in the U.S. Senate. She was also a postdoc at the RAND Corporation, where her research focused on Russian military writings about conflict escalation. She also previously worked as a program officer in nuclear materials security at the Stanley Foundation and as a research associate focused on nuclear and missile proliferation issues in Russia and Eurasia at the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies. Fink holds a PhD in international security and economic policy from the School of Public Policy at the University of Maryland, College Park and an MPA from the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Pittsburgh. She has native fluency in Russian.

Jessica Bennett



Jessica Bennett, PhD, serves as Project Manager for the Aspire Alliance's IChange Network, an NSF-funded program enhancing institutional capacity to recruit, retain, and develop a more diverse and inclusive STEM faculty. Prior to APLU, Dr. Bennett worked in a variety of campus roles managing programs aimed at preventing campus sexual harassment and assault, enhancing the graduate student academic and research experience, and facilitating vibrant living-learning communities through faculty-in-residence programs. Most recently, she worked at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services helping senior executives engage in data-driven decision-making and organizational change.

Katie White



Katie M. White, PhD is the Director of Social Action and English faculty member at Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart in Bethesda, MD. She received her PhD in Women's Studies from the University of Maryland, College Park in 2015 upon the successful defense of her dissertation titled, Food on the Move: Gendered Representation, Cultural Sustainability and Culinary Practices of Gullah Women. Her work has been published in Digest: A Journal of Food and Culture, A Multimedia Encyclopedia of Women in Today's World, and the Journal of International Women's Studies. She has a book chapter in We Carry these Memories inside of We: Daughters of the Dust and the Black Arts Aesthetic of Julie Dash by Peter Lang Press (forthcoming). Her research interests include Gullah history and culture, feminist food studies, and social justice pedagogy.

Kayla Valdes



Kayla is Associate Director of Scientific Programs at the Drug Information Association (DIA) where she works with U.S. and global partners to assess the implications of global regulatory and health policy changes and provide strategic direction to global and regional content teams for DIA educational offerings and research projects. She has a strong background in project management and experience working with cross-functional teams. She previously worked at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), where she was a program manager for multiple trans-NIH initiatives. She earned her Ph.D. in Biological Sciences from the University of Maryland, and her B.S. in Biological Sciences from Cornell University.

Robin Bloodworth



Dr. Robin Bloodworth is a Data Analyst in Evaluation & Analysis at the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI), which funds healthcare research focused on ensuring patients and caregivers have the information that they need to make important healthcare decisions. Dr. Bloodworth has also conducted research in academia, the federal government, and the private sector. She received a BA and an MPH from the University of Memphis, and a PhD in Health Services from the University of Maryland, where her doctoral research examined how delivery of and access to preventive care affects disparities in healthcare utilization among vulnerable populations.

Session 2: 11:00 AM-12:30 PM

Research Careers Outside of Academia

PhDs in all disciplines have honed strong research analytical and other transferable skills. But how are these used in the biotech, aerospace, technology, healthcare and education arenas? Learn more about how the skills developed during the doctoral experience translate to challenging careers outside of the academy.

Chandria Jones



Dr. Chandria D. Jones has over 15 years of research and evaluation experience in public health focusing on areas such as behavioral health, homelessness, obesity, health disparities, and health communication. Trained in epidemiology and behavioral and community health, her research focuses on social and environmental determinants of health for vulnerable populations such as racial and ethnic minorities, low-income youth and families, and individuals with mental health and substance use disorders. She brings a lens of equity, diversity, and inclusion to her research and evaluation work with a particular commitment to use-oriented approaches leading to social justice and health equity.

Haiqu Huang



Haiqu Huang received his undergraduate degree in Biology and Biotechnology from Fudan University and got his Ph.D. in Nutrition and Food Science from UMD. After grad school, he did a two-year post-doc as the John Milner Fellow in a joint program at the Belleville Human Nutrition Research Center, USDA, and Office of Dietary Supplements, NIH. When he decided that his future lies in the pharmaceutical industry, he left the academic track and joined a start-up biopharmaceutical company as a process development scientist. His company researches and develops innovative therapeutic biologics for a broad range of diseases and cancer treatment.

Jennifer Guida



Jennifer Guida, Ph.D., M.P.H., is a postdoctoral fellow in the Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences at the National Cancer Institute. Dr. Guida studies how cancer and its treatments impact age-related outcomes in cancer survivors. Dr. Guida received her undergraduate degree in Anthropology, a Master's in Public Health from the University of Colorado, and doctorate in Epidemiology from the University of Maryland, College Park. She can speak to her experience conducting research outside of academia, working in a federal agency, and teaching as an instructor in an academic setting.

Shayandev Sinha



Following a PhD in Mechanical Engineering at UMD, Shayandev Sinha moved to Harvard University at the Rowland Institute as a research fellow. At Harvard, designing liquid handling technologies was the main focus of the work. Subsequently, he joined Intel Corporation as an Yield Engineer working on development of future generations of semiconductor.

Sidra Montgomery



Sidra Montgomery is a Senior Researcher at Insight Policy Research where she conducts research on federal policies and programs, including food and nutrition assistance programs, healthcare initiatives, and military personnel issues. She specializes in designing and executing studies that utilize qualitative methods, including in-depth interviews, focus groups, and content analysis. Sidra earned her PhD in Sociology from the University of Maryland in 2017; her dissertation examined the significance of the “wounded warrior” construct in the lives of Iraq and Afghanistan wounded veterans.