HUMANITIES IN ACTION
CAREER WORKSHOPS

“Humanities Major?”
“What can you do with THAT?”
Listen to HUMS alumni talk about careers.
Followed by workshops and networking.
Register for our 6th annual Humanities in Action workshop!
Artist-scholar RASHAYLA MARIE BROWN ’04 majored in African American studies and sociology and now manages an “undisciplinary” studio practice through photography, performance, writing, installation, and video. A lifelong nomad who moved 24 times, she began her practice as a poet in London. RMB has presented work internationally at Tate Modern, London; Krabbesholm Højskole, Copenhagen; Turbine Hall, Johannesburg; and in commissions at Bemis Contemporary, Omaha; Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; Museum of the African Diaspora, San Francisco; Rhodes College, Memphis; among others. She holds degrees from Northwestern, the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and Yale; and was the first director of diversity in the history of the Art Institute of Chicago.

ISADORA ITALIA ’14 double majored in history of art and Italian. While at Yale, she studied in Italy twice and interned at both the Yale Center for British Art and the Smithsonian American Art Museum’s education departments. After graduation, she worked at the Yale Office of International Affairs as part of the one-year Woodbridge Fellowship program. In summer 2015, she returned to the Smithsonian for a short-term position and was then recruited to work at IVY, a membership-based network for young professionals, as a community manager in their DC office. Two promotions and almost three years later, she decided to head back to the museum world, accepting the newly created position of campus engagement coordinator at Dartmouth’s Hood Museum of Art.
BEA KOCH ’12 is the co-owner of The Ripped Bodice, a romance-only bookstore in Los Angeles. Her time at Yale as the last undergraduate in Renaissance studies taught her to embrace the niche. From Yale she went to NYU Steinhardt for an MA in costume studies. There she merged her love of romance novels and history, writing a thesis titled “Mending the Ripped Bodice.” This led to opening the then only romance-focused bookstore in the country in 2016, with her sister Leah, after raising $90,000 on Kickstarter. In 2018 Bea and Leah signed a first-look deal with Sony TV, tapping into their unique place between Hollywood and the publishing world, to develop TV shows based on some of their favorite romance novels. After several years growing the business, Bea took a step back to work on her first book, Mad and Bad: Real Heroines of the Regency, to be published by Grand Central in May 2020.

PHIL KAPLAN ’12 is a third-year law student at Yale. As an undergraduate, he was a political science and humanities double major and studied Arabic and Farsi. After graduation, he worked for (retired) General Stanley McChrystal as a research assistant on his memoir. Phil then joined the US Army, where he served as a ranger-qualified airborne infantry officer in the 82nd Airborne Division. During summer 2018, he deployed to Iraq and Syria in support of a Special Operations Joint Task Force. During law school, Phil has interned at Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP and the New Haven US Attorney’s Office. After law school, Phil will return to Cravath as a litigation associate and, in 2021, will serve as a law clerk for the Hon. José A. Cabranes of the US Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.
LYDIA MARTIN ’12 lives in New York City. She majored in American studies at Yale and has worked in tech for the last five years. Lydia has spoken at the CocoaLove iOS conference, AnitaB.org’s 28 Days of Tech Careers, and the People at Work Summit. Currently, as a lecturer and associate fellow at Grace Hopper College, Lydia teaches a new undergraduate residential college seminar titled Privacy, Health, and Power in the Age of Digital Over-Consumption. Passionate about the history of the internet, data privacy regulation, and digital wellness, she is working on a book called *Big Bytes: Maintaining Your Health and Privacy in the Age of Digital Obesity*. Lydia volunteers as a Yale undergraduate mentor and alumni admissions interviewer.

MICHAEL PROTACIO ’13+1 is a professional singer and actor in NYC. An English major at Yale, Michael sang with the Alley Cats, Whiffenpoofs, and Glee Club, worked as a FroCo and as lead recruitment coordinator at the Office of Undergraduate Admissions, and performed in over a dozen operas, musicals, and student films. He went on to earn a master’s in vocal performance from Carnegie Mellon in 2017. Recent professional credits include Off- and Off-Off-Broadway musicals, frequent concert work, and performances as a member of the jazz ensemble Brooklyn Harmonics. Michael also works as a college test prep tutor and as a research associate for an executive search firm. He serves as chair of arts@yaleNYC (yale.NYC’s arts committee), through which Yale alumni gather to explore the boundaries of genre and form, promote collaboration, and emphasize diversity, equity, and inclusion across the arts.
ELLEN SU ’13 is the co-founder and CEO of Wellinks, a wearable medical device company. She is a product-oriented and passionate human-centered designer focusing on improving patient experiences and outcomes in healthcare. As CEO of Wellinks, she has led fundraising, product design, UI/UX, operations, user research, and partnerships. She came to entrepreneurship and medical devices through a circuitous route, starting off at Yale intending to become a fine artist and painter, eventually developing an interest in product design, and graduating with a BFA supported by coursework in graphic design and mechanical engineering. She founded Wellinks alongside classmates she had met in engineering courses, and found support through Yale to launch the venture and continue forward. She now gives back by helping out as a mentor-in-residence at the Tsai Center for Innovative Thinking at Yale.

ASHER YOUNG ’17 majored in computing and the arts at Yale. He is a lighting, projection, and experience designer based in NYC. Asher creates for all areas of performance and visual art— theater, concerts, events, architecture, and art installations—and has had the opportunity to collaborate with Remarkable Entertainment, Weiner Entertainment Group, Variety WW, Arc3 Design, ESI Designs, Dan Scully Design, and Melchior productions. He finds inspiration for his designs in various other fields and applies that knowledge to push the boundaries of his work in order to achieve a story that fits the narrative of a specific project. Whether it is writing and directing immersive theater or lighting and projection design, crafting a memorable experience for the audience is at the core of Asher’s design and creative development process.
**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

**12:45 PM–1:00 PM**  
**Check-in [2ND FLOOR FOYER]**

**1:00 PM–1:10 PM**  
**Opening Remarks [ROOM 208]**

Prof. Tamar Gendler, *Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Professor of Philosophy and Professor of Psychology and Cognitive Science*

**1:10 PM–2:00 PM**  
**Panel: Unexpected Paths [ROOM 208]**

MODERATOR:  
Prof. Bryan Garsten, *Chair of the Humanities Program, Professor of Political Science*

PANELISTS: Rashayla Marie Brown; Bea Koch; Michael Protacio; Ellen Su

**2:00 PM–2:15 PM**  
**Refreshment Break [ROOM 108]**

**2:15 PM–3:00 PM**  
**Simultaneous Breakout Sessions**

ROOM 208: Isadora Italia; Asher Young; Michael Protacio

ROOM 116: Lydia Martin; Phillip Kaplan; Ellen Su

ROOM B-04: Bea Koch; Rashayla Marie Brown

**3:00 PM–4:00 PM**  
**Networking Reception [ROOM 108]**
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