

HUMANITIES IN ACTION

CAREER WORKSHOPS

SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 11

2:00-5:00 PM

WHITNEY
HUMANITIES
CENTER

MARISSA F. AIN '04, founder and CEO of Plate + Decanter, has planned and managed some of the nation's most exclusive private and public events. From visiting chef dinners to wine tastings, lectures to concerts, museum tours to food and wine festivals, her experience and attention to detail have left thousands of guests with unique and unforgettable experiences. Marissa collaborates closely with the food and wine industry's top talent. As a result, Plate + Decanter was selected to produce the Newport Mansions Wine & Food Festival for four years. She has partnered with the country's most storied culinary and wine institutions, including the James Beard Foundation, the New York Wine & Grape Foundation, NYC Wine & Food Festival, Hot Bread Kitchen, and the Jacques Pépin Foundation. On a Yale note, Marissa produced the Mory's Centennial Benefit at the Yale Club a few years ago. Marissa graduated with a BA in the history of art and holds an Advanced Level Certificate from the Wine & Spirits Education Trust (WSET). Plate + Decanter is a NYS-certified Woman-Owned Business Enterprise (WBE). Marissa also volunteers her time as a House Committee and Council Member of the Yale Club of New York City.

ALUMNI

CHRIS BAKES '14 has been building a career in international recruitment after earning his BA in French literature. He recruits artificial intelligence PhDs for Facebook's academic research lab, FAIR. Before joining Facebook, Chris worked as an assistant director of admissions for Yale College, and as an admissions officer at Columbia. Work has taken him across the globe in search for the brightest students: from Mumbai and São Paulo to London and Paris, and in one case, three separate trips to Iowa in a 12-month period. Chris is convinced that his humanities-based education was the best preparation for his career. A humanities-focused education teaches empathy for differing perspectives through character study in literature and art. Empathy, active listening, and ability to relate to others are essential skills in recruiting cohesive, healthy communities. While at Yale, Chris directed his sketch comedy group, dabbled in undergraduate theater, and worked a few student jobs. He lives in Park Slope, Brooklyn, with his 13-year-old dachshund, Zoey.

BIOS

ZACK O'MALLEY GREENBURG '07 is the senior editor of media & entertainment at Forbes and author of three books: *3 Kings: Diddy, Dr. Dre, Jay-Z and Hip-Hop's Multibillion-Dollar Rise* (Little, Brown, 2018); *Michael Jackson, Inc.* (Simon & Schuster / Atria, 2014); and the Jay-Z biography *Empire State of Mind* (Penguin / Portfolio, 2011). In a decade at Forbes, Zack has investigated topics from pension fund scandals to Katy Perry's touring business to the Wu-Tang Clan's secret album. His work has also appeared in the *Washington Post*, *Sports Illustrated*, *Billboard*, *Complex*, *Vibe*, and *McSweeney's*. He has served as an expert source for BBC, NPR, MTV, *NY Times*, and *60 Minutes*, and as a speaker at SXSW, TEDx, CES, Georgetown, and Harvard. Zack graduated with a degree in American Studies. A recovering child actor, he played the title role in the film *Lorenzo's Oil* (1992). He lives in New York with his wife and cats.


ASHLEY LAGRASSA '12 vividly remembers sitting in a sophomore seminar on the Bible as literature and realizing: "That thought I just had, I was incapable of thinking two years ago." Eager to replicate this transformative and expansive experience for students, she entered the education sector immediately after graduation. She spent six years as an eighth-grade English Language Arts (ELA) teacher in high-needs schools, first in the Mississippi Delta with Teach for America and then in Rochester with Uncommon Schools. These years taught her much about the systems that limit, as well as the systems that improve, educational opportunities for marginalized students, while always reminding her how brilliant and surprising students are. She wore several hats in these years as she worked on developing curriculum, codifying best practices, training new teachers, and obtaining her master's of literacy from the University of Rochester. Ashley is currently the manager of ELA Program Design at the National Math and Science Initiative (NMSI). NMSI partners with schools to increase access to rigorous STEM education and AP coursework, focusing on students furthest from opportunity. In addition to leading design choices for ELA programs, Ashley spearheads the redesign of the pre-AP program and the initiative to embed the principles and ethos of culturally responsive teaching into all programming and products. She lives in Chicago with her husband Nick and their two beloved cats.

ANDREW LIPKA MD '78 drives many of Yale's efforts to bring the wonders of the humanities to alumni. Andrew leads the Yale for Life program, now in its ninth year, wherein alumni, spouses, and parents return to campus for a week of humanities immersion with a depth and intensity found nowhere else; he joined Professor Bryan Garsten in conceiving and organizing 2017's acclaimed Directed Studies 70th Reunion weekend. He serves on the board of Yale Alumni College; he founded and leads the Princeton campus of YACOL. He worked with Professor Diana Kleiner as lead community moderator for her initial Coursera course on Roman architecture, and served as a member of a Yale delegation that traveled to the Balkans as ambassadors for the liberal arts, speaking to over 1,000 students on the virtues of a liberal arts education. He is a fellow of Jonathan Edwards College, director of the Princeton-area Yale Alumni Schools Committee, and president of the Yale Club of Princeton. His medical career has seen him in private practice, as ophthalmology chief at University Medical Center of Princeton, on its Biomedical Ethics Committee, on the clinical faculty at Rutgers Medical School, and in Clinical Research. This year he was named a member of the Yale Ophthalmology Society. His passion is for a Yale that recognizes "Commencement" in its literal meaning. The learning and the belonging to Yale, and to the community of scholars, grows throughout life in his view, and its home is in the humanities.

ITAMAR MOSES '99 is the Tony award-winning author of the full-length plays *Outrage*, *Bach at Leipzig*, *Celebrity Row*, *The Four of Us*, *Yellowjackets*, *Back Back Back*, *Completeness*, and *The Whistleblower*; the musicals *Nobody Loves You*, *Fortress of Solitude*, and *The Band's Visit*; and the evening of short plays *Love/Stories (Or But You Will Get Used to It)*. His work has appeared Off-Broadway and elsewhere in New York, at regional theaters across the country and in Canada, Hong Kong, Israel, Venezuela, Turkey, and Chile, and is published by Faber & Faber and Samuel French. Other awards for his work include Lucille Lortel, New York Drama Critics Circle, Outer Critics Circle, and Obie awards in New York, as well as awards from the Portland, San Diego, Dallas, and Bay Area Theatre Critics Circles. He's received new play commissions from McCarter, Playwrights Horizons, Berkeley Rep, the Wilma Theater, South Coast Rep, Manhattan Theatre Club, Lincoln Center, and the Goodman. On television, Itamar has written for TNT's *Men of a Certain Age*, HBO's *Boardwalk Empire*, WGN's *Outsiders*, Showtime's *The Affair*, and TNT's *The Alienist*. He holds an MFA in dramatic writing from NYU and has taught playwriting at Yale and NYU. He is a member of the Dramatists Guild and is a New York Theatre Workshop Usual Suspect. Born in Berkeley, California, he now lives in Brooklyn.

ANGIE RAMIREZ '12 double majored in political science and international studies. While at Yale, she wrote for the *Yale Globalist*, took in student government, and traveled to ten different countries for various academic projects. After graduation, for two years each, she taught sixth-grade world history through Teach for America and worked for a NYC nonprofit merchant bank. Angie then decided to pursue a career in engineering. She completed a three-month coding boot camp, worked at a small startup for three months, and followed that with a two-year stint at BuzzFeed as a backend video engineer. She is now a video engineer at Livepeer, a decentralized live-streaming video company built on the Ethereum blockchain.

ETHAN RODRIGUEZ-TORRENT '13 is a minor escape-room mogul based in fair New Haven. He spends some of his time managing staff and operations, and when there's time left over he works on the fun stuff: designing and building escape rooms and other puzzle-based team games. Before Escape, Ethan shelved library books, taught English, translated Chinese provincial economic data, made sandwiches, bused tables, mixed cocktails, sold ads, and managed a small art gallery. His "career trajectory" is in many ways a product of his time at Yale: Chinese class, a secret society, Yale Catering, a residential college seminar, and the informal alumni network in New Haven.



ALEX TROY '81 is a teacher and writer. He graduated with a master's in liberal arts from St. John's College in 2015. His thesis explored the difference between Moses and other Biblical and classical heroes. He has written two novels, one of which is set in the Exodus. Prior to completing his master's, Alex worked as a lawyer and an investor for thirty years. He started his career practicing merger and acquisition law at Skadden Arps and then moved to the investment world, where he worked in hedge funds and ran a family office. From 2002 through 2013, Alex was a member of the board of directors of Amistad Academy, a New Haven K-12 charter school. He chaired Amistad's board for seven years. Alex is a member of the board of Yale for Life, which offers on-campus academic programs to Yale alumni. In addition to his MA, Alex holds a JD from Harvard. He and his wife Dale live in Wilton, Connecticut.

JUSTIN ZAREMBY '03 is an associate in the Tax-Exempt Organizations and Museum and Art Law practices of Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler LLP, where he represents a range of public charities and private foundations, including universities, museums, and other tax-exempt entities, on matters such as corporate governance, charitable giving, program-related investing, and international grant making. Justin received his BA, PhD, and JD from Yale, where he taught in the Directed Studies and political science programs and earned a Prize Teaching Fellowship for distinguished undergraduate teaching. After law school, Justin served as a law clerk to the Hon. José A. Cabranes of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and practiced corporate law at Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP. He is the author of *Legal Realism and American Law* (Bloomsbury, 2014) and *Directed Studies and the Evolution of American General Education* (Yale University, 2006), and has published articles and book reviews in numerous journals including the *Yale Journal of Law and the Humanities*, *Rutgers Law Review*, and *The New Criterion*.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

1:30 PM–2:00 PM **Check-in** [AUDITORIUM]

2:00 PM–2:15 PM **Opening Remarks**

Prof. Stefanie Markovits, *Acting Chair,
Humanities Program, Professor of English*

2:15 PM–3:00 PM **Panel: Unexpected Paths**

MODERATOR:

Prof. Amy Hungerford, *Dean of the Humanities Division,
Professor of English and Professor of American Studies*

PANELISTS: Marissa Ain, Zack O'Malley Greenburg,
Itamar Moses, Ashley LaGrassa, Justin Zaremby

3:00 PM–3:15 PM **Refreshment Break** [ROOM 108]

3:15 PM–4:00 PM **Simultaneous Breakout Sessions**

ROOM 208: Andy Lipka, *Facilitator*
Ashley LaGrassa, Alex Troy, Justin Zaremby

ROOM 116: Christopher Bakes, *Facilitator*
Zack O'Malley Greenburg, Angie Ramirez

ROOM B-04: Ethan Rodriguez-Torrent, *Facilitator*
Marissa Ain, Itamar Moses

4:00 PM–5:00 PM **Networking Reception** [ROOM 108]

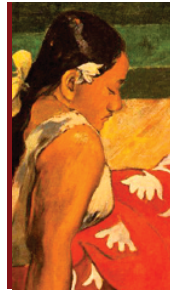
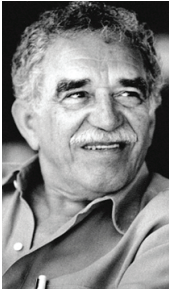
ROOM 208 SESSION:
Review by Alex Troy

ROOM 116 SESSION:
Review by Angie Ramirez

ROOM B-04 SESSION:
Review by Marissa Ain

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