Making the real-world transition easier

A career development workshop

February 8, 2018
Workshop schedule

• Welcome and Introduction

• Speakers:
  o Amin Aziznia, Director of Business Development, Mitacs
  o Rhianna Nagel, Community Engaged Learning Coordinator, Faculty of Social Sciences
  o Richard Myers, Career Educator, UVic Co-operative Education Program and Career Services
  o Holland Gidney, Research & Scholarship Coordinator, Faculty of Social Sciences

• General Q&A and Discussion
Once upon a time, the path to an established academic career was clear and unambiguous: four or five years in a doctoral program, followed by a post-doc, sessional teaching, maybe a term position or two, and then, finally, nirvana — the tenure-track job.

Those days are gone. The perfect storm of expanded graduate studies enrolment, tightened university budgets, and the end of mandatory faculty retirement has meant bleak prospects for an entire generation of emerging scholars — across virtually all disciplines.

The results are that there are far fewer tenure-track positions available[.]

— Ted Hewitt, President, SSHRC (January 2018)
Where do PhD graduates end up?

• University of Toronto study of individuals graduating with a PhD between 2000 & 2015

• Data captures 88% of 10,886 U of T graduates

Current employment of PhD graduates
The career paths of PhD graduates in the sciences and humanities are vastly different. Science PhDs are more likely to work in the private sector than those with degrees in the humanities.

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Percentage not working as tenure-stream faculty

51% 34% 21% 46%
Goal of this workshop

• Since many PhD holders end up in non-academic careers, our speakers will illuminate some programs, services, and opportunities that can help support transitioning to the so-called real world