



Careers in Women & Gender Studies Speaker Series

Date	Thursday, February 8, 2018
Time	5 to 7 p.m.
Location	2-100 SUB
Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help students in Women & Gender Studies have a greater understanding of career options available • Connect students with professionals who can provide insight into possible career options and encourage more engagement from them • Provide students and alumni with up-to-date labour market information through the shared experiences of professionals working in the field
Panelists	Four to six panelists from various occupations who have graduated with a degree in Women & Gender Studies who can talk about how their education has helped them and prepared them for the world of work.
Format	A Career Peer Educator (CPE) will host this question-and-answer discussion where speakers will share their experiences and perspectives. Speakers' answers should be no more than 1-2 minutes long per question. They are encouraged to engage in lively discussion which may include expanding on or sharing their opinion based on the answers of other panelists.
Questions	Speakers are not expected to address every question below. We hope that they will help them reflect on their career and work. The number of questions they will answer will depend on the amount of time we have.

Questions

- **Introduction:** In one minute or less, introduce yourself. How long have you been working? What is your current role? Who is your current employer?
- Why did you pursue an Arts degree? How has Women & Gender Studies influenced your professional aspirations? How did Women & Gender Studies affect you personally? How do you explain the value of a Women & Gender Studies degree to those who are not familiar with it?
Notes:
- Talk to us about what you do on a day-to-day basis. Even if every day is different – what is the purpose of your role? Describe how you use your education to help you succeed in your work.
Notes:
- What skills do you use to do your job? How did you develop these skills? What are some activities you would suggest for students to engage in to develop these?
Notes:
- At the Career Centre we teach students how to build the resilience and career management strategies needed to navigate a non-linear career path. As such, we employ a “planned happenstance” model in our career education. We believe that although you might have a career plan, seemingly insignificant events in your life can

have a big impact and that being flexible in your plans is important to career development.

If you talk to family, friends and acquaintances about how they got to where they are you'll soon see a trend of people's careers being shaped by both positive and negative unplanned events (happenstance) and factors outside their control (e.g. a change in the economy). People are often surprised with how they ended up where they are; they would not have been able to predict it. How our careers take shape is often due to our reactions to happenstance and other unexpected factors. There are also deliberate and planned actions we can take that prepare us to recognize and take advantage of unexpected opportunities, helping us be intentional and engaged in our careers. Share with us a story of how your reaction to happenstance or factors outside of your control influenced your career.

Notes:

- Not every job you've had in your career has been a dream job. What is one job you held that you disliked (either elements of the job or the job itself) but still helped you make progress in your career? What was it about the job that you disliked? What did the job help you learn about yourself, or the world of work?

Notes:

- How was the transition to work from being a student? What did you wish you had known before you started working?
- Thinking back to your post-secondary days, when did you start looking for work? Was this time frame effective for you or would you have done things differently knowing what you know now?
- What strategies did you use to find work? What strategies worked, what didn't?
- What strategies surprised you as being extremely effective? Why did they surprise you?

Notes:

- Tell us about your interview experience. What types of questions have you been asked? What types of questions are most difficult for you to answer and why? What type of information should job seekers be ready to share in their answers to interview questions? Have you ever been evaluated using other assessment methods such as language testing, written communication, computer competency assessments?

Notes:

- If you could go back in time and begin your post-secondary studies again, what's one thing you would do differently to prepare for the world of work?

Please join us afterward for refreshments sponsored by the Faculty of Arts where audience members can speak to you individually about your experience.