

Great Expectations: Understanding Humanities PhD Career Pathways

Understanding PhD Career Pathways
for Program Improvement



CGS COUNCIL OF
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No single existing dataset can give institutions or graduate schools the granular information they need to improve doctoral programs.

The logo features a central white starburst with a dark blue dot at its center. The starburst is surrounded by four colored squares: orange (top-left), green (top-right), blue (bottom-left), and teal (bottom-right).

PhD Career Pathways

- 1) Common standards
- 2) National leadership
- 3) A survey that took into account disciplinary diversity



PhD Career Pathways



Closing Gaps in our Knowledge of PhD Career Pathways: How Well Did a Humanities PhD Prepare Them?

CGS Research in Brief, October 2018

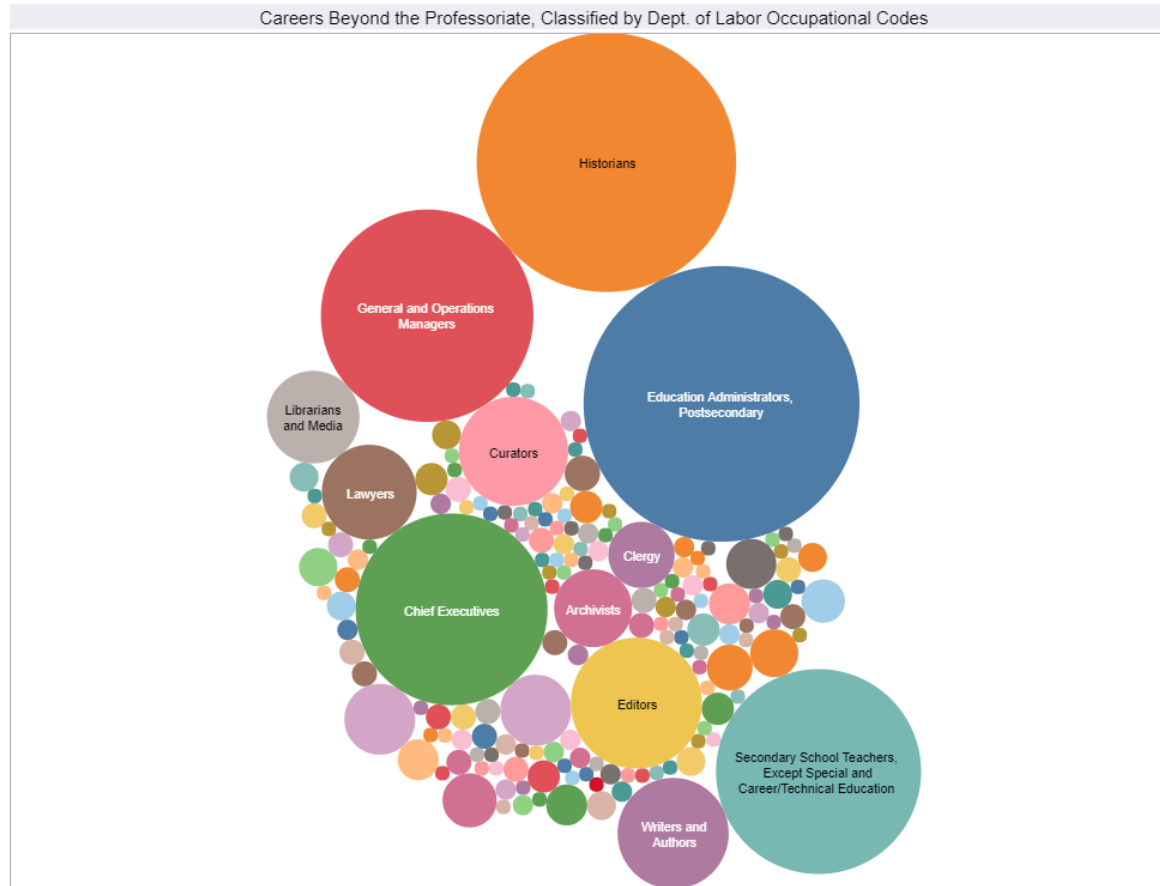
By Hironao Okahana & Timothy Kinoshita

The vast majority of humanities PhDs still work in fields related to their doctoral education and are satisfied with their jobs. According to the National Survey of College Graduates by the National Science Foundation (NSF), 92% of humanities PhDs working in 2015 held jobs that are closely or somewhat related to their PhDs. Furthermore, 85% of humanities PhDs who are employed are satisfied or very satisfied with their current work. This percentage is consistent for the 92% who work in related fields as well as the 8% who work in fields unrelated to their humanities PhD degrees

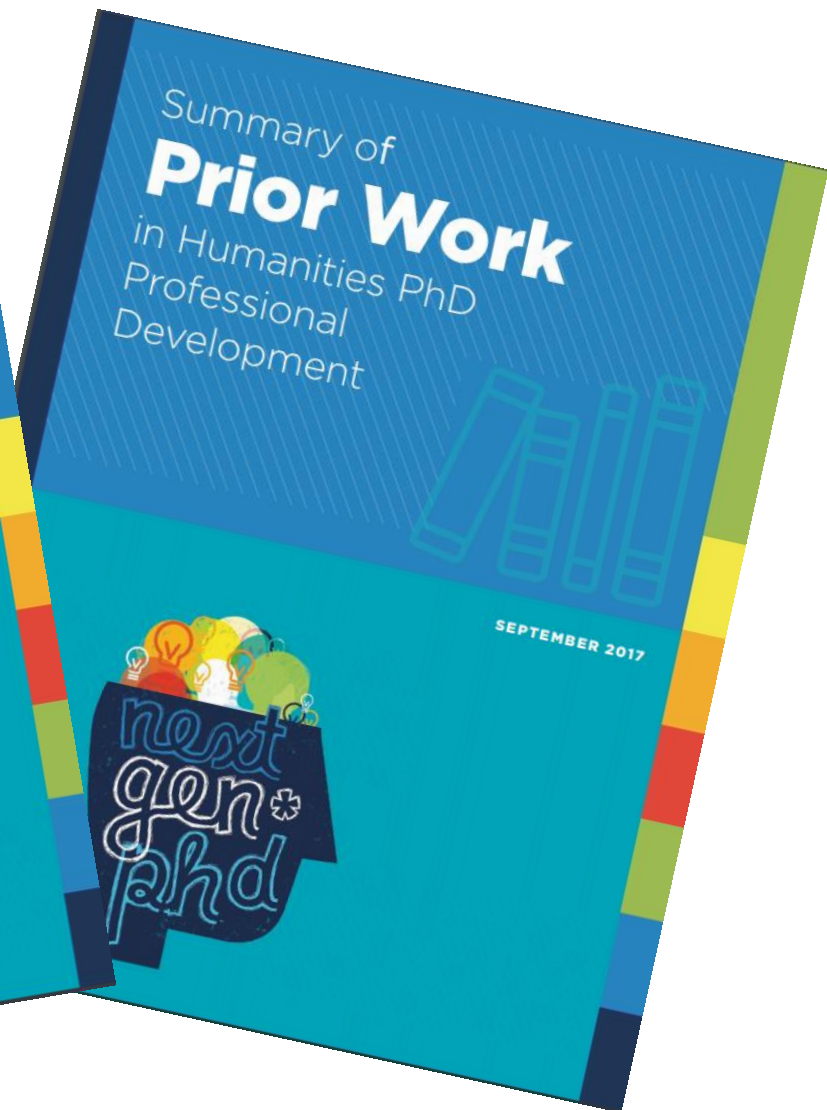
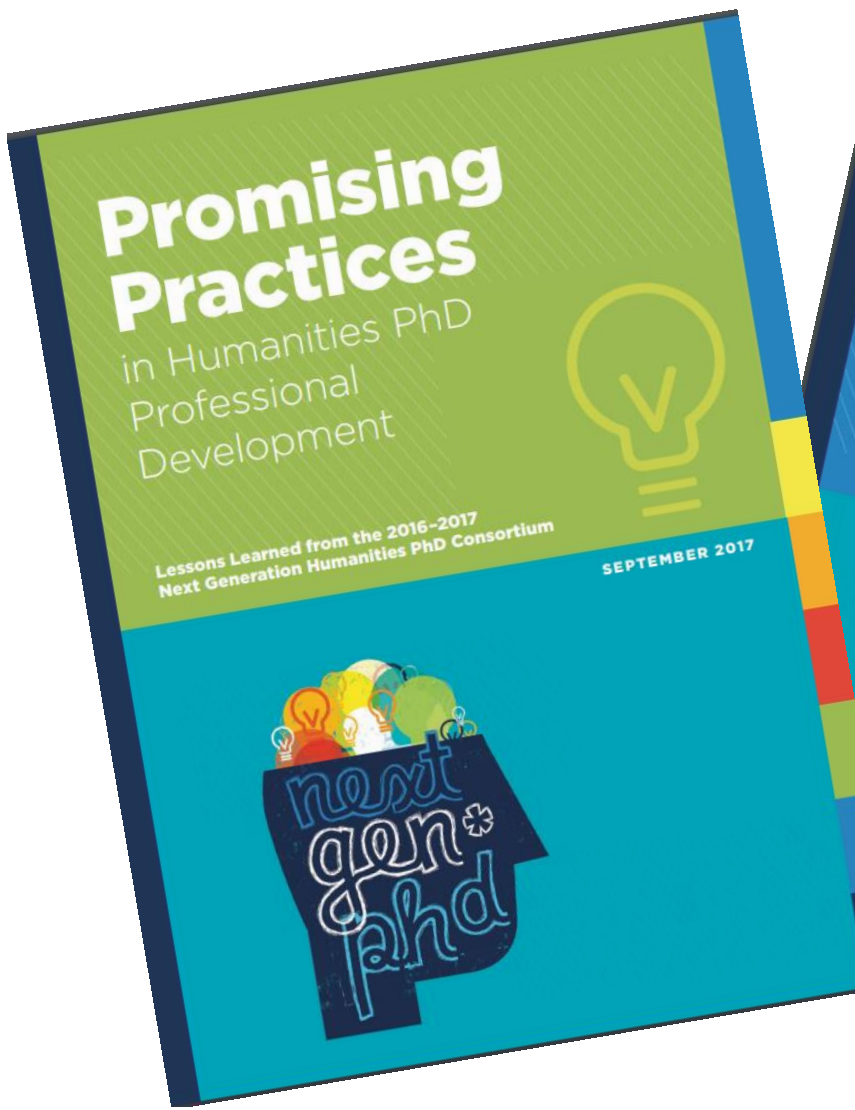
Key Findings:

- **A large majority of survey respondents believe that their humanities PhD education prepared them well for their jobs.** Although the differences were not statistically significant, humanities PhDs who were employed by colleges and universities generally felt that their doctoral studies had better prepared them for their current job than those who were employed elsewhere. The difference was statistically significant only among those who were three years post-graduation. (Figure 1)
- **A large majority of survey respondents said that they would pursue a PhD in general or in the same field, if they had to start over again.** Humanities PhDs three years post-graduation and working for employers other than colleges and universities were less likely than their academic counterparts to say that they “definitely would”

Where Historians Work



Careers beyond postsecondary teaching, classified by the U.S. Dept. of Labor's SOC Codes. Hover over a bubble to see full SOC title and number of historians employed in that category.



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