

THE YALE POSTDOCTORAL ASSOCIATION MONTHLY MEETING



**Yale
Postdoctoral
Association**

Tuesday, January 9, 2024 | 6:00 PM

Registered Attendees: 19



CHECK-IN

YPA OPEN FORUM 2024/01

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9 AT 6:00PM



<https://cglink.me/2dA/c226198015143649>

Chairs [6 min]

- Welcome – General and new Postdocs
 - The objectives of the monthly Open Forums are to (1) discuss events planned by the YPA for the upcoming month (2) raise questions and concerns about the postdoc experience at Yale with YPA and OPA representatives.
- Welcome to the new Executive Board
- YPA Executive Board Committee Meeting - February
- Trainee Accommodations Committee (TAC) meeting – February
 - Please inform YPA co-chairs about concerns that require attention and chairs will bring these up with OPA at the meeting. Email the co-chairs at YPA@Yale.edu

Secretaries [2 min]

- Please announce all planned events at monthly Open Forum for approval.
- Development of a submission form for room bookings for YPA events.
- Recruiting new members for the committee- if anyone is interested, please contact: Jessica.Sherry@yale.edu or Mia.Daucourt@yale.edu

Treasury [4 min]

- Budget updates [can be found here](#).
- Review of updated practices for ordering, details about order processing [found here](#).
- Picking up and dropping off the P-card
- Rafa Lopes and Khuleshwari (Khuku) Kurrey are the co-coordinators, please reach out to either of them with further questions : Rafael.lopes@yale.edu , khuleshwari.kurrey@yale.edu

Community and Networking Committee [4 min]

Welcome new co-coordinator, Nicoló Mangraviti! Confirmed December 2023.

- [Coordinators discussed how the goal of this committee is to foster community among all Yale Postdocs and ARS.](#)

Recent events

- Tuesday, December 5th – YPA Board Game Night at OISS
- Saturday, December 9th – YPA Holiday Party at Gryphon's Ballroom
- Sunday, December 10th — YPA Art gallery Tour

Events in progress for the next months

- More Carillon Tours
- More sports to come in January/February à Basketball and Ice Hockey
- Postdoc sports ball championship (spring)
- More Music spectator and community jam events
- More Socials
- Valentine event and Summer BBQ
- Community networking luncheons
- Potential collabs with Yale Club and Yale Colleges

Upcoming Community and Networking Committee meeting

Tentatively

- **Time** – 6-7pm
- **Date** – Tuesday, February 6th
- **Location** – TBA

- *Contact emails – pranav.sanghavi@yale.edu and nicol.mangraviti@yale.edu*

Professional Development Committee [5 min]

Welcome new co-coordinator Amit Koikkarah Aji!

Upcoming events

- Career Cafe on Jan 25th at 4:30 pm with Jacob Gonzalez (OCS) and Erin Heckler (OPA), SHM, Coffee/Snacks provided.
- Pint of Postdoc on Thursday, Feb 8th, 7:30pm. Two Postdocs presenting their research at Gryphon's Pub. Event on Yale Connect created.
- Workshop in salary negotiation with Dr. Anees Chagpar (1h)
- Visit of cold spring harbor visit in NY in Jan/Feb
- Fundamentals of Scientific Writing with Dr. Angelika Hofmann, Feb 15th 4-7 pm on Zoom
- Intensive Grant writing workshop with Dr. Angelika Hofmann, Part 1, March 14th 4-7 pm on Zoom
- Intensive Grant writing workshop with Dr. Angelika Hofmann, Part 2, March 22th 9-12 pm in person.
 - 20 registered participants will have the chance to review key points of grant writing with Angie and be helped to improve their own materials. Coffee/Snacks will be available + two free books: Scientific Writing and communication by Angelika Hofmann.
 - *This iteration of the Grant Writing workshop will be smaller, and more personalized than previous iterations.*

Next committee meeting will be January 28th on Zoom, 6pm. Contacts: bianka.mecaj@yale.edu and amit.aji@yale.edu

Communications Committee [5 min]

Updates

- **New co-coordinator-** Thanks Jyot and welcome Benoit!
 - Interested in joining? We are looking for members that would like to get involved in one or several of the tasks below:
 - o Newsletter
 - o Social Media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn)
 - o YPA Merch
 - o Spotlight videos
 - *Currently Benoit spearheads this task, and the communications committee is looking for someone to take over this role as Benoit is now co-coordinator of the committee*

- o Website development
 - This will be a priority for this upcoming year.
 - The communications committee plans to work with secretaries to update committee members names and contact information on the YPA drive, as well as on the YPA website.
- For a current overview of our tasks and the members involved in each task, have a look [here](#).
- **Updating YPA website & Re-working Ads forms**
 - Input needed from committees on how they feel the ads work for them / what can be improved to streamline posting for buffer and cross-posting on different channels.

General

YPA Canva account

- We have purchased a Premium subscription to enhance communication efforts. The login & password has been shared with all Executive Committee Members via email & Slack.
- All committees should have separate folders to create their ads.
- **We highly recommend using Canva** which will help you smoothen your work for the YPA. Input needed-
 - How do people like working with Canva so far?
 - If your committee is unsure about how to get started with designs on Canva reach out to Anne (anne.hahn@yale.edu) and we can have a look together and set something up!
- **Current Ads forms**
 - The bit.ly/YPAads form has two options: one for Twitter/Newsletter, and another for Instagram/Facebook.
 - If you want to advertise your event in the Newsletter/Twitter as well as Instagram/Facebook, you will have to **fill out the form twice** – this is because the form asks for different information for each platform.
 - **Timeline: Submit by Friday 5:00pm to include something in the next week's newsletter.**
 - Contact Orchid (orchid.allicock@yale.edu) for special requests regarding the newsletter.
 - Message the Instagram account for special requests there.
- **Website requests:** fill out the form bit.ly/YPAwebsite

There will be an in-person committee meeting in February 2024. Please reach out to Benoit.Mermaz@yale.edu or Anne.Hahn@yale.edu if you would like to attend and get involved with the communications committee.

Symposium Committee [3 min]

Last month's activities

- Continuing to work on Symposium organization:
 - Visit candidate venues in person.
 - Marsh Hall has been officially booked.

- Prepare flyers and posters.
- Review grading rubrics and recruit symposium judges
 - [Committee members are looking for 12-15 judges.](#)
- Hunt for a keynote speaker – voting in February.
 - [The committee plans to have a preliminary list assembled that will be voted on by the YPA in February.](#)

Upcoming activities

- Contact departments for sponsorships.
 - [The committee is trying this for the first time this year. If it is successful, it will be included as part of the budget planning for future years.](#)
- Finalized date for symposium – **May 23rd, 2024.**
- Call for abstracts.
 - [This will take place in February.](#)
 - [There will also be a for submissions for a science and a non -science artwork competition.](#)
- Symposium format: hybrid or in person?
 - [The default plan is to not offer a hybrid/Zoom option for the symposium, considering the very high monetary cost, and the fact that there were only four attendees on the Zoom last year. However, if there is sufficient interest expressed by YPA members, the committee is happy to reconsider. Please email Jay \(\[ghananjay.bhaskar@yale.edu\]\(mailto:ghananjay.bhaskar@yale.edu\)\) with your thoughts.](#)

Are you looking to get experience in conference organization and outreach activities, as well as develop your leadership, communications, and teamwork skills? The Symposium Committee is the right place for you! Get in touch with Dhananjay.bhaskar@yale.edu or Pratap.vydyam@yale.edu to join the committee.

Next committee meeting will be held on Monday February 5th at 5:30pm ET on Zoom [link available from Jay (ghananjay.bhaskar@yale.edu)]

Mentorship Committee [3 min]

The Mentorship Committee runs several career development programs, as well as a Buddy Program (which pairs new Postdocs/ARS with current Postdocs/ARS that will help the new Postdocs/ARS navigate Yale). Please check the [website](#) for all currently running programs.

- Building your mentoring team workshop for Postdocs and Postgrads from OPA.
 - [Contact the OPA for more information.](#)

- Most of the programs we offer are ongoing - feel free to email us for any questions.
- We are looking for more members to join the committee! If interested, or if you would like to participate in any of the ongoing events, please contact Swapna.naik@yale.edu or dagmar.zigackova@yale.edu

Advocacy Committee [3 min]

The Advocacy Committee organized events to help connect Postdocs/ARS with the resources that they can use to gain a better experience at Yale, and have their needs met. The committee also works with the OPA to advocate for Postdoc/ARS needs.

- New co-coordinator nominated – Alaz Ozcan
 - There were no objections.

Upcoming Events

- Doga returns! Date and location TBD
 - This will likely take place in February.
- Tax season advice session for postdocs and ARS
 - This will be particularly useful for international Postdocs, as their tax reporting is different than for those who are US permanent residents, and it is more challenging to find advice online.

Ongoing Advocacy

- Working with the chairs and OPA to push for:
 - Improved Yale shuttle experience and routes
 - A Postdoc rate for Payne-Whitney gym
 - Improved Postdoc access to therapy
 - Increase annual PTO and secure consistent recess days (or days in lieu) for all Postdocs/ARS
 - The goal is to make this a uniform policy for all Postdocs/ARS so that it does not depend on the home department of each Postdoc/ARS.

Note: If you are struggling with any concerns, such as disability accommodation, bullying, etc., please get in touch with the advocacy committee and we will advocate for your needs. You can reach us at claire.laxton@yale.edu and alaz.ozcan@yale.edu.

Next committee meeting will be held on January 25th at 5pm in the Medical School Library (in-person, with food!). Write to Claire to join our committee!

Belonging Committee [5 min]

Upcoming/Planned events

- Social equity and accountability event with Dr. Malika Fair from AAMC. January 22nd 1PM via zoom
 - <https://cglink.me/2dA/r2261107>



- Co-hosting event with LGBTQIA affinity group for Postdocs/ARS
 - This will likely take place in February.
- Title IX reporting procedure and information workshop
- Collaborating on Coffee and Convo with the OPA: Finding Your Community at Yale
 - The goal of this event is for Postdocs and ARS to learn about the different affinity groups and Postdoc groups that exist at Yale.

Next committee meeting is January 26th @ 3pm. Contact azmi.ahmad@yale.edu or sabrina.ghadaouia@yale.edu. And reminder that you can always find the [DEI Toolkit here](#).

Associate Provost for Postdoctoral Affairs, Erin Heckler [5 min]

- [Monthly new postdoc orientations](#) – info for new leaders: YPA sends a delegate either in-person or on Zoom to talk about the benefits of active membership.
- Jan 18 hosting viewing party on the med campus for the NPA webinar on NIH-supported postdoc training report: <https://cglink.me/2dA/r2261928> or join the webinar here: <https://www.nationalpostdoc.org/events/eventdetails.aspx?id=1809355>
- Feb 15 2nd annual [virtual recruitment event](#) – Victoria will send out a Google form for those wanting to participate in the virtual networking hour 3—4pm.

Erin recommended that Azmi advertise the seminar with Dr. Malika Fair (above) on the Med School listserv.

Open Forum - Questions/Comments [15 min]

Question for Community and Networking Committee: When does improv start?

Answer: Sometime in February!

Laura asks for further discussion about whether to have a hybrid option for the YPA Symposium.

- Symposium committee co-coordinator Jay discusses that it is quite expensive to offer a hybrid option, and that only four people utilized the Zoom option last year. Jay then brings up the counterpoint that, as specified by the newly ratified YPA Bylaws, all events are supposed to be designed to be as accessible as possible. As this Open Forum is located at West Campus, Jay asks whether those attending would prefer a hybrid option.
- There were no objections from the West Campus attendees with the plan to not offer a hybrid option this year.
- A question is raised about if there's a way to have an intermediate option, where someone runs Zoom from their personal computer.
 - o Erin remembers from the first symposium, where this was attempted, there was a lot of echoing because it is not possible to sync the speakers microphone with someone's computer.

All members present resolve to post a poll to the YPA general Slack channel asking people to vote whether they prefer (A) in-person only or (B) a hybrid format for the event. The Symposium committee will monitor the outcome of the poll and update the group of the decision at the next Open Forum.