

THE YALE POSTDOCTORAL ASSOCIATION MONTHLY MEETING



Tuesday, February 14, 2023 | 6:00 PM |

Chairs [5 min]

- o Happy Valentines!*
- Executive Board meet and greet (Feb 7th) report
 - o The meeting on Feb 7th had full attendance!*
- Postdoc Salaries
 - o There is a wave of salary increases across various institutions. YPA is also discussing taking action and plans to engage in more discussions with the administration.*
- Trainee Accommodations Committee (TAC) meetings updates
 - o The TAC committee involves the YPA chairs and 2 advocacy committee members. YPA raises issues on behalf of postdocs, such as salary changes, increases in the cost of living, etc.*
 - o We are also discussing the possibility of a dining hall for the postdocs. Currently, each college has a dining hall for the undergrads, while postdocs can only access it as guests. We would like to have access to dining halls close to our departments. YPA will get in touch with the managers of the dining halls.*

Secretaries [2 min]

- Introduction and update on YPA – Inventory.
 - o Ahmed introduced the YPA inventory and encouraged committee coordinators to fill it in. The purpose of the inventory is to keep tabs on the YPA items, evaluate the needs for storage, and request more space for YPA items if needed. An e-mail with the link to the inventory has already been sent to committee coordinators.*

Treasury [5 min]

- o Introduction of Anna as the new co-treasurer. No objections to her appointment to the treasurer position ☺*
- New ordering procedure (P-card)
 - o An important announcement related to the new ordering procedure is made. Committees should make sure that related information reaches each of their members and that everyone is updated.*

- o As of now (February 14th, 2023), all purchases will be made through the YPA P-card. The treasurers will execute the purchasing orders, which will be submitted through a request form, via Yale Connect. For any purchases, a request order must be done a week in advance to give treasurers sufficient time to process and approve. The request form needs to be filled with all the necessary information, including the details of the event, the number of attendees, the costs, the number of items to be purchased, the correct address of delivery, etc. Nevertheless, in the case of urgent items, treasurers can be contacted directly to discuss the possibility of ordering sooner.
- o *Question: How will the alcohol purchases be made since they must be made in person?*
- o *Answer: We do not yet have a clear answer for it. As a possibility, P-card can be given to committees other than the treasurers, however, this will be discussed.*
- Outstanding reimbursement.
 - o From today onwards, future purchases made by individual committees may not be reimbursed. All outstanding reimbursement claims should be completed by the end of this week (week 7 of the calendar year). The coordinators should share this announcement with all their members.

Community and Networking Committee [5 min]

Recent and Upcoming Events

- Introduction of the two new members.
 - o Welcome!
- Wednesday, February 15th at 6pm - Game night at OISS
- Friday, February 24th at 6 pm - Happy hour at Trinity
 - o This event is sold out!
- Saturday, February 25th at 2 pm - Yale Center for British Art Tour
 - o The YCBA will be closed for renovations from March 2023, so this will be the last chance for a tour in this year.
- Thursday, March 30th at 5:30 pm - Art Gallery Tour

Events in progress for the next months

- Early March - Behind the scenes tour in the Peabody Museum
- April - Trip to NY organized with OISS
 - o The NY trip will likely involve museum visits. A similar trip was organized last November and was very successful.
- May - Campus tour organized with OISS

OISS meeting Update:

- OISS could attend YPA Open forum once per semester (March?)
- Advertising of some of the OISS events in YPA newsletter?
 - o The chairs are in favor of OISS attendance at the YPA meeting and communicating OISS events in the YPA newsletter.

- Immigration Q & A with OISS
 - This will be organized for people to drop in and ask questions to OISS.
- Buddy program social @ OISS
 - Previous mixers and buddy programs were canceled due to the pandemic. OISS and YPA can discuss restoring these to promote networking and exchange.

Professional Development Committee [5 min]

- Past events:
 - Pint of Postdocs, Feb 2nd
 - Pint of Postdocs had a great turnout of approximately 50-60 people. The next pint of Postdocs is planned for April or May.
 - Career cafe, Feb 8th
 - This career café was social science focused and again, had a successful turnout.
- Next events:
 - Scientific writing workshops by Angelika H. Hofmann. 16th and 23rd Feb for “research paper”.
 - Gezim Gashi motivational talk, March 9th
 - The author of the book “Your own power”.
 - Meeting with Merck ambassador, March 10th at lunch time
 - Time management for Postdocs, March 30th

Communications Committee [0 min]

- Printed posters for department notice boards and flyers for the new postdoc orientation
- Social media channels:
 - Facebook – Ramirez, Maria - maria.a.ramirez@yale.edu
 - Instagram - Mermaz, Benoit - benoit.mermaz@yale.edu
 - Twitter – along with ads posted for the newsletter
- The planned distribution of YPA merchandise at orientation for new postdocs (pens, lanyards)
- Planning YPA t-shirts at the Symposium
- Updates to the YPA website

Symposium Committee [3 min]

- Symposium registration opens within two weeks' time.
 - Will be announced on social media.
- Date: 25th May 2023
- Venue: O C Marsh Lecture Hall (Same place as last year)
- Associated events: Art and photography competition, headshot
 - A daylong session with a photographer is planned and discussed together with YBPA.

Mentorship [8 min]

- New peer-mentorship program coordinator- Welcome Srikar
 - [Welcome!](#)
- New Faculty postdoc mentorship program coordinator - Welcome George
 - [Welcome!](#)
- Mentorship training program timeline (along with Victoria (OPA) and Mary)
 1. For the Zoom version:
 - Fridays 2-4pm on Zoom on 3/17, 3/24 and 3/31
 2. For the in-person version:
 - Tuesdays 2-4pm in person on 3/7, 3/14 and 3/21
 - [E-mails are coming soon. Feedback is encouraged which will help us know how the meetings will be made in the future, in person or via zoom.](#)
- Mentorship awards potential timeline (Open to suggestions)

Nomination Process	Timeline
Submission of Nominations	March 1 – March 31, 2023
Reviewing Nominations	April 1 - May 1, 2023
Decision and Review by Provost's Office	May 11, 2023
Announcement	May 25, 2023

Advocacy Committee [7 min]

Events around Yale:

- The Office for Women in Medicine and Science is hosting “Building Your Career Infrastructure” 2/17 9am-12:30pm ([OWiMS Link](#))
- OISS is hosting Sprintax webinars for non residents (<https://oiss.yale.edu/calendar>)
- Being Well is hosting Mental Health First Aid: How to Help webinar, 3/1 @12pm ([Webinar Registration](#))
- Being Well is hosting Mental Health First Aid Certification 4/4 @9am-4pm. Contact danielle.casioppo@yale.edu to register.
- YSM Student Mental Health & Wellness is hosting “Love Data, Love Yourself” a webinar on managing motivation, 2/16 @3pm. [Register](#)
- Look out for upcoming Postdoc Experience Survey
 - [The Postdoc Experience survey is expected to be circulated in the next month.](#)
 - [Question: Why is this survey made and what kind of questions will be asked?](#)
 - [Answer: The survey will allow us to bring the issues surrounding the postdoc community up to the administration and help us push policies to improve the conditions of postdocs. The main problems to be addressed are financial hardship](#)

(compensation and benefits), and workplace dynamics (harassment and reporting it). The survey overall will facilitate YPA to serve better.

- o On the horizon: Creating an Ombuds office. A discussion panel is planned for late March.

Racial Justice Subcommittee [0 min]

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

- Yale Postdoc Recruitment Event – May 5 afternoon, Victoria Hallinan will contact committees about programming
 - o The schedule is not set yet.
- Responsible Conduct of Research training in-person planned for Spring, dates TBA
 - o The website will be updated with FAQs. This is a required training for NIH and other funding schemes, and is only offered once a year.
 - o NIH has recently made an announcement to collect information on issues faced during postdoc training. YPA will coordinate a collective response and individual responses are encouraged.

Open Forum - Questions/Comments [15 min]

- o Introduction of Jenny Peek from the Chaplains' office:
- o Oksana is the Chaplain's office liaison from YPA. She communicates events from the Chaplain's office, such as the sacred spaces tour for postdocs (March 3rd).
- o Chaplain's office provides emotional support and helps people connect to what's meaningful to them. They do not only provide religious guidance but also confidential emotional support.
- o Additionally, they support religious life on campus and encourage people to connect to religious places.
- o Jenny introduced the Chaplain's office team and emphasized the presence of Muslim and Hindu communities on campus, as well as events organized for these communities.
- o To connect to the Chaplain's office, it is possible to sign up to "chat with a chaplain"
- o (There is free ice cream at the office!)
- o The office hours can be found on the webpage.

- o Question: How to submit a candidate for mentorship awards?

- o Answer (Mentorship committee): An e-mail will be circulated in March, which will include the details of the process. It will also be announced in the YPA newsletter.
- o Question: How will the Postdoc survey be sent out?
- o Answer (Advocacy committee): The survey will be advertised widely in the YPA newsletter, and on slack. It will also be sent to all postdocs through Yale message.