

THE YALE POSTDOCTORAL ASSOCIATION MONTHLY MEETING



Yale
Postdoctoral
Association

Tuesday, January 14, 2025, | 6:00 PM

Attendees: 38

CHECK-IN

YPA OPEN FORUM JANUARY 2025

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14 AT 6:00PM



<https://cmlink.me/2dA/c228839718151913>

<https://yale.zoom.us/j/94114445723>

Chairs [5 min]

- Welcome everyone, new coordinators, new chair.
- New budget FY26 proposal submitted.
- Ordering guidelines
 - OPA requests for 10 business days' notice for ordering for any event
- Timeline for announcing events.
- Executive board meeting next month.
- Launch of the Shuttle Complaint Survey.

Secretaries [1 min]

- Updated YPA google calendar with events presented at open forum.
- Jess is stepping down at the end of January and we are looking for a **new co-coordinator**.

Please reach out to Jess (jessica.sherry@yale.edu) or Harshini (harshini.sureshkumar@yale.edu) if you are interested in joining the secretary team.

Treasury [3 min]

- Expense updates for the current fiscal year.
 - Current fiscal year budget: \$37,000 remaining
 - FY2026 budget approved at \$47,000, less than requested \$52,000
 - Treasurer to meet with OPA to discuss budget allocation
 - Reminder of purchasing procedures and restrictions
- Updates on the FY 2025-2026 budget.
- Introduction of newly nominated treasurer: Cecilia Romaro!
 - Cecilia was nominated and selected as treasurer coordinator with no objection. Welcome on board, Cecilia!

Contact Cristina (cristina.decavoli@yale.edu) or Cecilia (cecilia.romaro@yale.edu) if you have any questions or would like to get involved.

Belonging Committee [3 min]

- Update about 4th Annual Winter Care Packages, in collaboration with DESK
 - Winter care package donations successful (\$200+ raised)
- Introduction of newly nominated co-coordinator: Peng Xu!
 - Peng was nominated and selected as new coordinator with no objection. Welcome on board, Peng!
- **We are looking for new members—join the Belonging Committee!**
- Belonging committee is changing their monthly meeting time for the first time in a few years.

Contact Luis (luis.maestre@yale.edu) or Peng (peng.xu@yale.edu) if you have any questions or would like to get involved. And you can always find the [DEI Toolkit here](#).

Community and Networking Committee [5 min]

Recent Events:

- Dec 5th: Book Club - Erica
- Dec 11th: Board Game Night
- Dec 14th: YPA Holiday Party – collaboration with YBPA; 217 registrants
- Jan 8th: Board Game Night

Upcoming Events:

- Jan 30th: Book Club
- TBD: Movie Night
- TBD: Happy hour

Upcoming Community and Networking Committee meeting:

Monday, February 3rd, 6-7 pm

Contact Hongyu (hongyu.li.hl953@yale.edu) or Rob (robert.niescier@yale.edu) if you have any questions, or would like to get involved.

Communications Committee [3 min]

Events

- Jan 14th: Meet the YPA event at 5:30 pm.

General updates

- Inventory of merchandise made in December.
- Order merch for 2025 soon (in coordination with the symposium committee)
- Website banner

Coordinators: Anne-Marie (anne-marie.rickmann@yale.edu) & Jennifer (jennifer.j.park@yale.edu)

Committee meetings: Next in-person meeting February 2025. Email Anne-Marie or Jennifer if you are interested in attending.

Professional Development Committee [6 min]

- **We are pleased to nominate two new co-coordinators to the PD committee: Shannon Duffy and Karolina Vankova!** Thank you to all the PD committee members who participated in the voting.
 - Shannon & Karolina were nominated and selected as new coordinators with no objection.
Welcome on board, Shannon & Karolina!

Upcoming events (register [here!](#))

- **Sacred Spaces Tour.** With the Chaplain's Office, visit of the Yale Sacred Spaces on January 22nd between 3 and 4:30 pm. Registration on Yale Connect.
- **Unlock Your Future: Using SciPhD Flamingo to Find the Job You Want** (GSAS & Postdocs). Joint career event with Yale OCS. The event will be held on January 23 on Zoom between 12 pm and 1 pm. Register via Yale Connect.
- *Limitless Horizon Series for Alternative Career:* First event will be on **career pathways in Science Illustration** on January 29 on Zoom between 11 am and 12 pm. Register via Yale Connect.
- In person **Science Illustration Workshop** on January 29 between 3 pm to 5pm at Sterling Hall of Medicine (SHM) C-225. Workshop is limited to 10 participants so register ASAP on Yale Connect if interested.

- **Poynter Fellow Lunch Lecture Event** with Yale Physics in first week of February. The lecture is delivered by Pulitzer Prize Winner Natalie Wolchover from Quanta Magazine. Registration for the event via Yale Connect.
- *Limitless Horizon Series for Alternative Career*: Second event will be on **career pathways in Science Journalism** in February in person and over Zoom with Pulitzer Prize Winner Natalie Wolchover. Register via Yale Connect.
- **Visit to Johnson and Johnson** (J&J) in association with Yale OCS on February 7. The job trek event is happening at the J&J facility at New Jersey. Limited to 35 Participants. Register via Yale Connect. Registration deadline: January 16th.

The PD committee generally meets the last Thursday of every month and is **looking for new members**. To attend and discover more about the PD committee, please contact Shannon (shannon.duffy@yale.edu) and Karolina (karolina.vankova@yale.edu)

Advocacy Committee [5 min]

Compensation Policy efforts:

- We requested to be an active part of the compensation discussion. We'll keep on advocating for it.
 - Held a meeting with Dean Lynn Cooley and the Sr. Director, Finance and Administration Mary Magri to present our proposal for FY26.

Postdoc Experience survey Townhall:

- Our goal is to find ways to effectively present this data to the Administration (Deans, Heads of Departments) in the hopes of meaningful action being taken on these issues.

Grievance procedure:

- Our committee members are working on a complaint procedure with the OPA.
- We will advocate for an Ombuds office together with other parties at Yale including faculty and students.
- Together with the Chairs we are scheduling a meeting with the new President.
- Current Complaint resources: <https://postdocs.yale.edu/resources/complaint-procedure-and-support-resources>

Other ongoing advocacy includes working with Chairs/OPA to push for:

- Increase our annual PTO and secure consistent recess days (<https://postdocs.yale.edu/policies/policies-postdoctoral-appointments/benefits-23-paid-time>)
- Improved Yale shuttle experience and routes.
 - Launch of the [Shuttle Complaint Survey](#).
- Securing a postdoc rate for Payne Whitney Gym.

Additionally, the Advocacy Committee is working on the following issues for 2025:

- Childcare subsidy for postdocs
- Hardship fund
- Retirement benefits

Contact us if you would like to get involved with postdoc well-being!

Committee meeting for January is TBD, usually on Zoom.

Email Rishi (rishi.tripathi@yale.edu) and Sudheesh (sudheesh.allikkaparambil@yale.edu) to join.

Mentorship Committee [2 min]

- Looking for new program leaders for:
 - Modern instructor program
 - Peer mentoring program
 - Building you mentoring team program (**New!**)
- Upcoming Mentorship Award: call for postdoc reviewers.
- Postdocs can reach to the either coordinator if they would like to know more about resources or training available or about any mentorship opportunities.

Next Committee Meeting TBD (sometime in Feb/March)

Reach out to coordinators Paris Filippidis (paraskevas.filippidis@yale.edu) and Laura (laura.meissner@yale.edu) if you would like to get involved or have questions.

Symposium Committee [5 min]

Tasks accomplished last month:

- Symposium date is currently set for Thursday, May 29th in OC Marsh Lecture Hall.
- We will focus our efforts on improving event-day items such as food availability, increased merchandise options, and awards for poster and talk session winners.
- Committee has agreed to host another Grievance-focused panelist discussion.
- Previous judges are being contacted to return – if you know any non-postdocs (ARS, lab managers, OPA staff, etc.) who would be suitable judges for the day of the event, please have them contact Danielle Sohail (danielle.sohai@yale.edu)

Upcoming tasks:

- Committee will be voting on Keynote speaker at the next meeting.
- Abstract submissions will be opened for early applicants in late Jan/early Feb.
- Committee appreciation meeting in March

Next committee meeting: TBD (late January)

Please reach out to coordinators Jacob (jacob.orkwis@yale.edu) and Adati (adati.tarfa@yale.edu) if you are interested in joining the symposium committee, or if you have any questions.

Associate Provost for Postdoctoral Affairs, Erin Heckler [3 min]

- Recruiting volunteers to meet with potential postdocs during a virtual networking hour on February 14 – [express interest here!](#)
- Sharing new event planning spreadsheet shortly and will be meeting with executive board to welcome/onboard new coordinators. Reminder of event planning timeline:
 - For any orders (Instacart, Amazon, food vendors): 10 business days in advance. We just need that head's up about the upcoming event and can coordinate with the organizer of the event for final numbers closer to the event itself.
 - For requesting the pcard: 5 business days in advance. We are generally available to pcard pickup/drop off Monday-Thursday, 8:30-4:30. Remember Instacart is always an option, too!
 - For advertising via OPA weekly newsletter: at least the Friday before the week you want to start advertising. Can send one-offs to increase registration on a case-by-case basis, time allowing!
- Current priorities:
 - Compensation for FY26
 - Meeting regularly with HR on benefits (Clarification: Mary Magri is not in HR, HR doesn't have academic salaries. She is the director of finance and administration for FAS)
 - Addressing burnout and sharing mental health resources, recent article on postdoc mental health and boundary setting. Informed by [this](#) article.

Questions or issues with registration? Please reach out to Victoria (victoria.hallinan@yale.edu)

Open Forum - Questions/Comments [15 min]
