Yale Postdoctoral Association

Yale

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Open Forum

2026.05.12

CHECK-IN

YPA OPEN FORUM MAY 2026

TUESDAY, MAY 12 AT 6:00PM

https://cglink.me/2dA/c2323844428165717

If you experience issues with Check in, you may want to be sure you are registered first

REGISTRATION

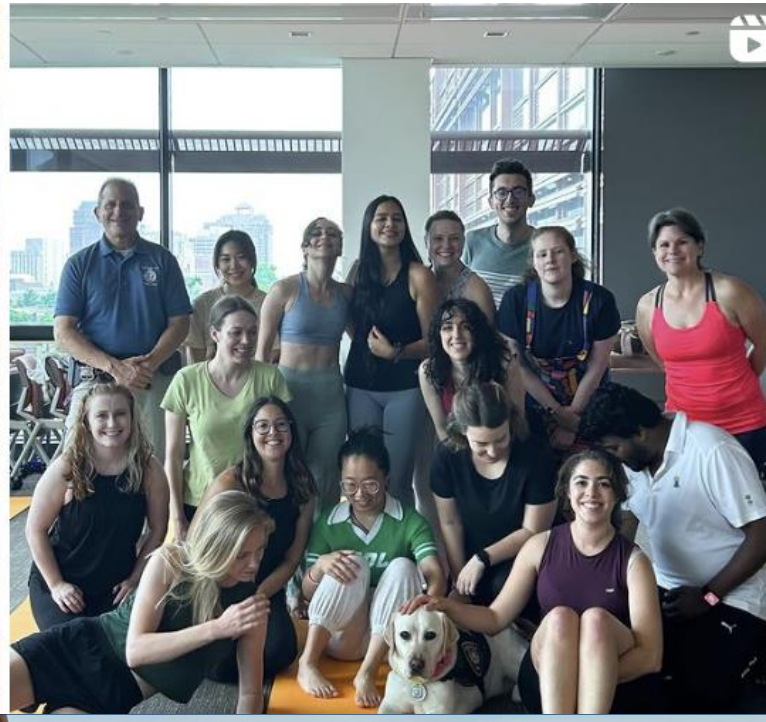
Yale Postdoctoral Association: from the postdocs to the postdocs

Founded in 2014

We serve over 1,500 postdocs and Associate Research Scientist (ARS) at Yale.

Our Missions:

- Building a supportive community
- Connecting different disciplines
- Enhancing the postdoc experience
- Supporting career transitions



Yale Postdoctoral Association: Organization Chart

Yale Postdoctoral Association

Executive Board

Chairs
Cristina
Peng

Communications
Danielle
Vacant

You?

Secretary
Anne
Harshini

Treasury
Jane
Nikita

Advocacy
Afsheen
Ammara

Belonging
Merrill
Tianyu

Mentorship
Carolina
Fatima

Community & Networking
Devika
Mgayya

Professional Development
Rafael
Juan

Symposium
Eunate
Nebal

Committee members & YPA Liaisons

YPA members: All postdocs and Associate Research Scientists (ARS)

Chairs

Include your event in the shared calendar

- It helps visually understanding the number of weekly events
- Helps coordinating better with the other committees

Remember to track attendance at your event and report the number in the column Y of the Event Tracker spreadsheet

No more event for FY26

- Our calendar has reached full capacity for FY26. If you are planning a new event with purchases, please schedule it starting from July

We are also looking for committees' coordinators!

Chairs

Resources for Postdocs

- **Counseling and Support**
  - Yale offers confidential counseling services through Optum, available 24/7 at 1-866-416-6586.
  - Visit the Your Well-Being website (https://your.yale.edu/working-at-yale/benefits/your-well-being) for additional information and resources.
- **Reach out for help**
  - If you are experiencing treating situations, please look for help. YPA is happy to share resources and **won't leave you alone!**

YPA Chairs: ypa@yale.edu

(For any support please contact the Chairs, we are here for you)

(For any questions related to OPA please contact Chairs first and always have ypa@yale.edu cc'd while contacting OPA)

Chairs

OPEN THE FLOOR FOR CO-CHAIR CANDIDATES' PRESENTATION

Secretaries

What we've been doing:

- Onboarding Anne
- Working on committee handbook
- Working on poster for Symposium

Next:

- **Harshini** is stepping down. Thank you, Harshini!
- Looking for new members/ co-coordinator

Email: secretaries.ypa@yale.edu and please cc Anne: anne-marie.rickmann@yale.edu

Treasury

What we have been working on:

- Working to keep the event tracker up to date
- Updating p-card request forms
- Updating receipts to their respective event numbers.

Things to remember:

- Please fill out all fields in the tracker before sending out any OPA requests.
- Please specify the type of purchase you are doing or have requested in the event tracker, such as Papa John's pizza, or Instacart order of food and drinks; not simply pizza or food & drink or refreshments.
- We need to know who the vendor is, and that is how we can easily match the receipts with the event number, the event numbers are not always there on each receipt.

Jane is leaving (mid-July). We need a new treasurer!

YPA Treasury Email: treasury.ypa@yale.edu

Symposium Committee

Symposium Date June 6th 2026

- **Registration: 130, Abstracts 36**
  - Keynote speaker: Dr. Monica Mojer confirmed
  - Career Panel and Networking Reception
  - Cultural Program
  - Party
- **Please advertise and register and submit abstracts!**
  Deadline for abstract submission May 18th 2026
  - If you are experiencing treating situations, please look for help. YPA is happy to share resources and **won't leave you alone!**
  - Flyer/poster to advertise each committee
  - Awards ?

Belonging Committee

May Day Social was big success!

- Co-hosting w/ Wu Tsai instiute,
- 78 postdocs and postgrads joined us for the beautiful sunset moment 🌅 ,nice food and wine!
- Thank you for coming!

Join us for the Mental Health in Academia event !

- Co-hosting w/ YPGA
- Focusing on wellness, support resources, and community discussion for Yale postgraduates and postdocs.
- Dinner will be provided!

We are Recruiting!
Join us for the wonderful events!

Please reach out to:

Merrill Asp
merrill.asp@yale.edu
Tianyu Zhu
t.zhu@yale.edu

Communications Committee

- Recruiting new communications co-coordinator. E-mail: danielle.sohai@yale.edu
- E-mail Danielle directly with photos of your event for the socials.
- Next meeting TBD

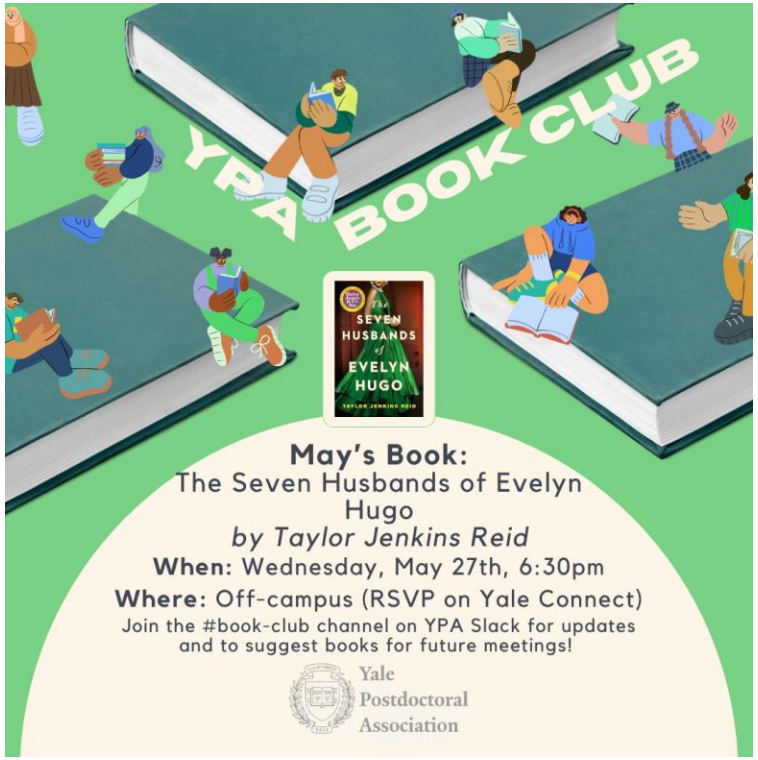
Community & Networking Committee

Past Events

- April 29 - Book Club: Please Look After Mom
- May 7 – Board Game Night

Upcoming Events

- May 27 – Book Club: The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo
- May 28 – Happy Hour
- June 24 – YPA Summer Party- Blue Orchid



Mentorship Committee

- Launched the first workshop in Modern Instructor Program (May 5). It was a success! We had 19 official registrations and 12 people showed up.

  We are ready for the next workshop, with two classes on June 9 and June 30
  Registration will open soon!! Stay tuned!!

- YPA storage space for big orders, etc….

- Committee meeting: May 21

Mentorship Committee

- **Call for Program Leaders! Join the YPA Mentorship Committee.**
  Are you passionate about mentorship and eager to make a difference? We are looking for leaders for our Modern Instructor.
  Email caroline.muiler@yale.edu and fatema.hasan@yale.edu to learn more.

Mentorship Committee

•Call for Program Leaders! Join the YPA Mentorship Committee.

Do you love helping others feel welcome? Want to make a real impact in just a few hours a month?
Join our Buddy Program as a leader and become the friendly face that helps incoming postdocs.

Email caroline.muiler@yale.edu and fatema.hasan@yale.edu to learn more.

Professional Development Committee

Past Events

- April 8 – Job Trek to Novartis
- April 9 – Grant Writing Workshop
- April 28 – Job Trek to Jackson Labs and Alexion Pharmaceuticals

Professional Development Committee

Upcoming Events (1/2)

Professional Development Committee

Upcoming Events (2/2)

- May 20 – Career Café (Currently being arranged by Juan and Bingqing*)*: We have an academic-focused speaker confirmed.
- June 29th – Pint of Postdoc. Trying to update the booking with Eastock (25th ->29th).
- Looking for a new co-coordinator: Please reach out to juan.velasco@yale.edu or rafael.bayarri.olmos@yale.edu

Open to collaborating with Community, Advocacy, and other committees . We are looking for new members to join the Professional Development Committee. Join us, we have cookies!

The next Professional Development Committee meeting will take place on Wednesday, May 27 at 5:00 PM via Zoom.

Advocacy Committee

Professional Development:

- Revised IDP (Two-page IDP proposal drafted with NIH/NPA guidance; feedback received from OPA),
- Protected professional development time
- Developing framework for mentorship oversight committee for postdocs

Benefits:

- Mental health needs assessment
- New directions for advocacy/ benefit expansion work

Office for Postdoctoral Affairs (OPA)

Upcoming programming:

- New version of orientation – rolling out with May orientation on May 20
  - Half day format
  - Self-reflection/assessment and goal-setting exercises, detailed information about trainee benefits and policies, mentorship norms and expectations and YPA intro
- **Academic Job Search Series: Surviving Thriving in Your First Year as a Faculty Member** – May 14, 10am-2pm in HQ 134: https://cglink.me/2dA/r2321711
- **Academic Job Search Intensive** – June 17, 10am-3pm (Yale Connect link forthcoming)
- Gentle reminder: please no events the week before (May 29-June 4) or week after (June 6-June 12) the symposium – thank you!

Office for Postdoctoral Affairs (OPA)

Unionization FAQ: https://your.yale.edu/working-at-yale/workplace-guidelines/union-management-relations/labor-agreements-and-resources-3

- Recurring questions:
  - Clarity on the monthly union fee that will be deducted from paychecks — many postdocs are unclear on the amount and how it will work, which is causing some confusion?
    - FAQ question “What are union dues, and what are they used for?”, contact Local 33, or review the Local 33 Graduate Workers page on dues.
  - What the union process means in practical terms for postdocs day-to-day?
    - FAQ question “Will there be a pause on the changes to the terms and conditions of employment, including compensation, for postdocs who are union eligible?” Answer - As is customary when a union election is announced, there will be a pause on changes to the terms and conditions of postdoctoral employment, such as minimum compensation and benefits, until a union contract is ratified. Questions may be referred to the Labor Relations team.
  - What to expect in the coming months as the process moves forward?
    - See the FAQ sections Yale-Specific Postdoc Unionization Information and Collective Bargaining/Negotiating a Contract

Yale Postdoctoral Association (YPA)

Empowering Postdocs & Researchers

Thank you for your attention