Yale Postdoctoral Association

Yale

Yale Postdoctoral Association

Open Forum

2026.07.14

CHECK-IN

YPA OPEN FORUM JULY 2026

TUESDAY, JULY 14 AT 6:00PM

https://cglink.me/2dA/c2325058618174021

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

REGISTRATION

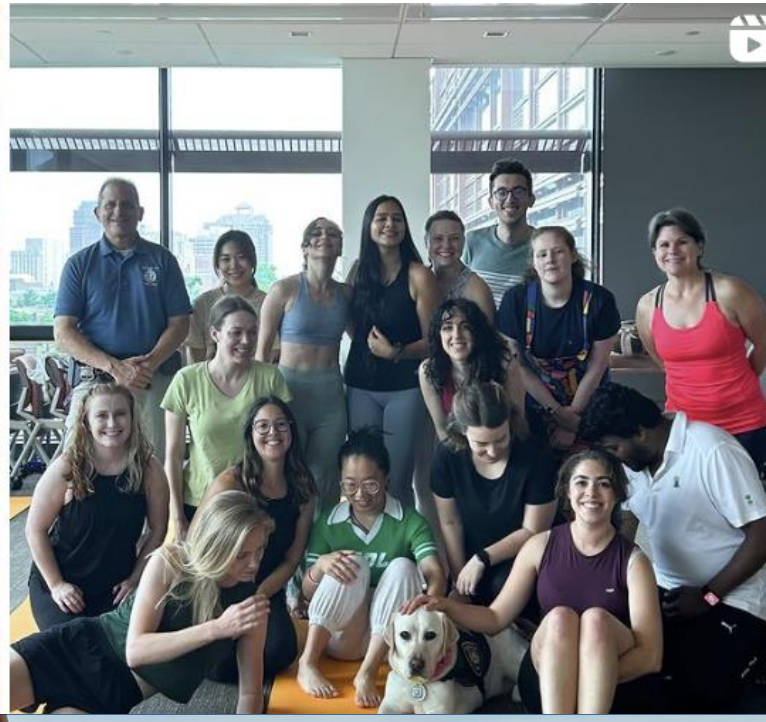
Yale Postdoctoral Association: from the postdocs to the postdocs

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
Peng
Luis

Communications
Danielle
Vacant

You?

Secretary
Anne
Nai Yang

Treasury
Jane
Nikita

Advocacy
Afsheen
Ammara

Belonging
Merrill
Tianyu

Mentorship
Fatima
Giulia

Community & Networking
Devika
Mgayya

Professional Development
Juan
Mahsa

Symposium
Eunate
Nebal

Committee members & YPA Liaisons

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

YPA Culture (proposed)

Inclusive

Everyone is welcomed, respected, and heard.

United

One YPA, working toward a shared mission.

Grow together

Grow through collaboration, leadership, and service.

Priorities for all committees this year

💰 Financial Stewardship

- Manage committee budgets responsibly.
- Plan ahead and spend strategically.
- Maximize the impact of every dollar.

🚀 Operational Excellence

- Maintain efficient project management.
- Communicate early, clearly, and consistently.
- Follow through on action items.

🌱 Leadership Development

- Mentor future coordinators continuously.
- Identify and empower future leaders.
- Build a strong succession pipeline.

2026 National Postdoc Appreciation Week (NPAW)

2026 National Postdoc Appreciation Week (NPAW) Planning

- September 21~25
- celebrating 150 years of the U.S. postdoc position.
- YPA and OPA events - no more than 1 event per day and do not schedule any YPA events the week before or week after (September 17-21 and September 28 - Oct 2)

BRING YOUR IDEAS! :D WHAT CAN WE DO TO CELEBRATE OUR POSTDOC PEERS?

2026 NPAW Planning DOC

YPA and OPA events - no more than 1 event per day and do not schedule any YPA events the week before or week after (September 17-21 and September 28 - Oct 2)								
Date	Time	Location	YPA committe/OPA	Event	Facilitator/point person(s)	Joint committee event	Yale connect link (when ready)	Next steps
September 25th	lunchtime - tentative	virtual	Modern Instructor Program	"Academia and industry: career myth vs reality"	Fatema Hasan & Giulia Lorenzon			
		3 different locations	OPA	"Coffee and Bagels"				
September 24th	6pm	Science Hill Courtyard	CNC	YPA End of Summer BBQ				

Collecting Advices on YPA Event Checklist

Procedures	Resources	Supporting Committee/Personnel	Note
Before Event			
A1. Check your budget FY27 Budget Plan and announce your event proposal on Open Forum	JUL 2026 - JUN 2027 YPA EVENT AND BUDGET TRACKER	Treasury and YPA Chairs	
A2. Pick the date: Check the YPA Event Calendar (do not violate the two events per week policy)	YAP Event Calendar	YPA Chairs oversee the Calender	
A3. Book a place: Reach out to Secretary to book a place	secretaries.ypa@yale.edu, please cc **Anne** (anne-marie.rickmann@yale.edu) and **Nai Yang** (naiyang.yeat@yale.edu)	Secretary	
A4. Create flyer for advertisement	Please reach out to your committee coordinator for account and password.	NA (Shared resources)	
A5. YPA visual identity	YPA Visual Identity	NA (Shared resources)	
A5. Create event on Yale Connect (You need to ba an officer to creat an event on Yale Connect. When setting up your event, please make sure you have set up pre-event notification and post-event survy)	Request to become an officer to Communications Committee if you are not: **Danielle** (danielle.sohai@yale.edu)	Communications Committee	
A6. Add Your Event to Event and Budget Tracker	JUL 2026 - JUN 2027 YPA EVENT AND BUDGET TRACKER	Treasury	
A7. Add your event to YPA Event Calender	YAP Event Calendar	YPA Chairs oversee the Calender	How to use YPA Calender: YPA EVENTS CALENDAR.pdf
A8.1 Submit your event for advertisement	YPA Advertisement Request Form	Communications Committee	
A8.2 Promote your event in Yale Postdoc WhatsApp and YPA Slack # general channel	Join WhatsApp group: https://chat.whatsapp.com/FMnZeoKI7hSEwzJCenRqKt	NA (Shared resources)	WhatsApp does not belong to YPA, but it is still a great way to distribution your event information
A9.1 Submit food order to OPA. Yahaira Otero from OPA will take care of the order. Treasury will track the status of your order.	YPA Order Request	OPA and Treasury	Please contact Treasury if you have questions. Avoid contacting OPA directly.
A9.2 (Optional) Apply for PCard if you really need it	YPA PCard Pick-up request	OPA and Treasury	
During Event			
B1. Setting up the event	Yale Campus Map	Your committee members	Motivate your committee members
B2. Check in attendees (Attendees can check in themselves or the organizers can help with checking in using YaleUConnect app or Yale Connect webpage)	Yale Conncet	You and your committee members	Be active and motivate your committee members
B3. Take photos or videos	NA	NA	Take photos and videos yourself or ask your committee members to do so
B4. Connect with more people	NA	NA	
After Event			
C1. Collect feedback via Yale Connect (Survey email will be sent automatically if you set up your event on Yale Connect properly)	Yale Connect		
C2. Send your photo to Communications Committee for social media exposure	Send request with attached photos and videos to **Danielle** (danielle.sohai@yale.edu)	Communications Committee	
C3. Review the Event and Budget Tracker to finalize the checked-in attendees and final cost	JUL 2026 - JUN 2027 YPA EVENT AND BUDGET TRACKER	Treasury	
C4. Send receipts to Treasury (and return PCard if you have)	treasury.ypa@yale.edu	Treasury	

Gift Policy

Gift policy:

- Gift cards or certificates cannot be purchased at all.
- Alcohol cannot be purchased for a gift.
- Gifts needs to be no more than $100 per gift.

Handbook:

If you have any question related to YPA policies or protocols, please read YPA Executive Board Handbook, or you committee Handbook, or reach out to chairs.

Reminders from 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 U of the **Event and Budget Tracker**

For Executive Board:

- Check Slack messages regularly!
- SEND OPEN FORUM AGENDA BY FRIDAY!!!

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're facing challenges or going through a difficult time, please reach out for help. YPA is here to support you, connect you with helpful resources, and remind you that **you're not 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)

Secretaries

- Welcome new Member: Yanrong Xiao

YPA Executive Board Team Bonding Event:

Idea: organize an event each semester for the executive board (+family & partners + former chairs and E-board members) to get to know each other

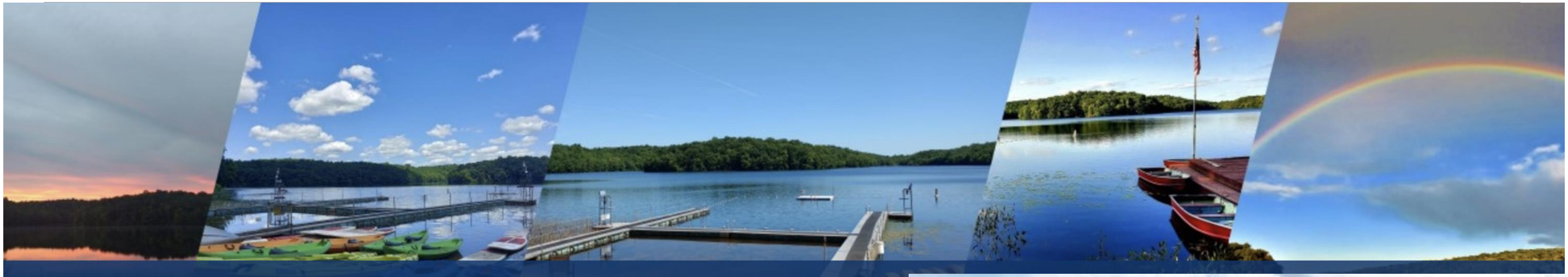
Date: Sunday August 2
Location: Yale Outdoor Education Center
What to expect:

- BBQ, Kayaking, games... just a fun day outside

will send out an Email with more details soon

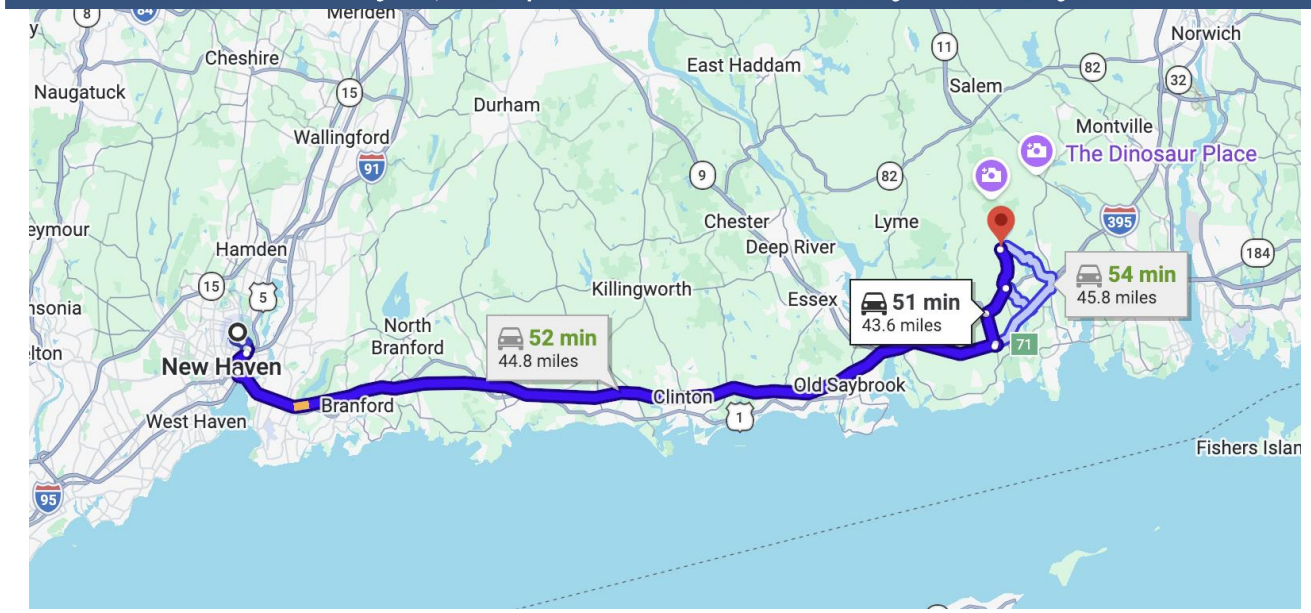
Email: secretaries.ypa@yale.edu and
please cc Anne: anne-marie.rickmann@yale.edu & Nai Yang: naiyang.yeat@yale.edu

Secretaries



Outdoor Education Center (OEC)

Located in East Lyme, CT. Open to the Yale Community and East Lyme Residents.



Treasury

Review of the New Event Tracker

JUL 2026 – JUN 2027 YPA EVENT AND BUDGET TRACKER

- Walk through the new event tracker using this current event as a test case.
- Identify any improvements or issues with the workflow.

Planning for the Next Budget Proposal Cycle

- Review last year's budgeting timeline.
- We will be asking for budget proposals for the next fiscal year over the coming months, deadline in Nov.
- Establish a draft timeline for collecting and reviewing submissions.

YPA Treasury Email: treasury.ypa@yale.edu

Symposium Committee

- Finishing the handbook for next year
- Planning a summary for the committee will be next week.
- Contacted some of the members to vote for the next year's coordinators
- Looking for new members, please contact Nebal or Eunate:
  Nebal.abuhussein@yale.edu, eunate.gallardo@yale.edu

Belonging Committee

Pride month celebration 🌈 was a big success! 🏳️‍🌈

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

Modern self-defense course is ongoing!

Every Tuesday 6-7pm at BCMM 206/208.

Next Courses

Class 6
Vehicle safety

July 21

Class 7
Bystander intervention and predator ID

July 28

Communications Committee

- No major changes.
- Communications is looking for coordinators. E-mail danielle.sohai@yale.edu. Thanks!

Community & Networking Committee

Upcoming July Events

We have two events planned this month:

- Board Game Night – July 22,YSB Room153 (Looking for new host)
- Book Club – July 29

We are looking for new members!
Contact: devika.gireesansudha@yale.edu
mgayya.makullah@yale.edu

National Postdoc Appreciation Week BBQ

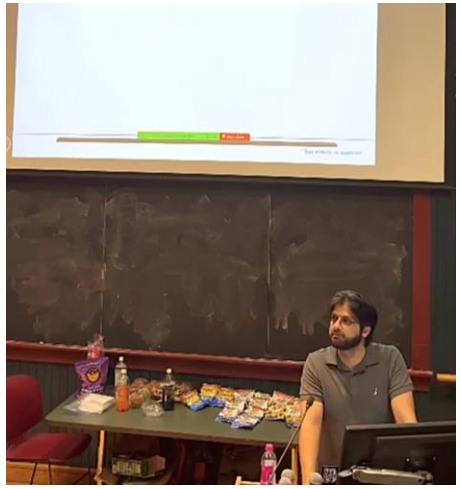
Mentorship Committee

- **Modern Instructor Program Workshops (May 5, June 9, June 30):**

Completed all three sessions successfully. Attendees provided strong, positive feedback.
Registration for new instructors is still open!! Stay tuned!!
Looking for new industry mentors for Faculty/Industry mentorship program. If you have any industry contacts that might be interested please reach out to the 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 fatema.hasan@yale.edu and giulia.lorenzon@yale.edu to learn more.



Mentorship Committee

- **Faculty Postdoc/ Industry Track Mentoring Program:**

Program concluded for this academic year. Postdocs shared positive feedback, especially industry track.

Preparations for the next academic year, recruit more industry mentors.

New Initiative: "Developing an Advisory Team"

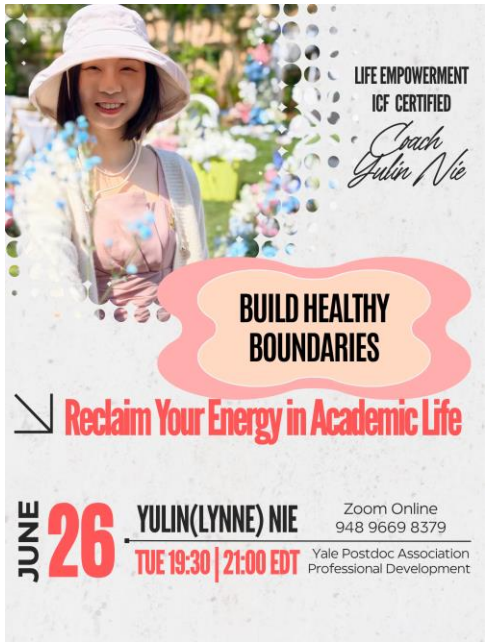
(in collaboration with the Advocacy Committee and OPA):

- **Goal:** Help postdocs identify mentors/advisors beyond their primary mentor to support scientific growth and professional development.
- **Status:** Currently in development (planning and coordination underway).

Professional Development Committee

Previous Events:

- "Building Healthy Boundaries" Workshop
  - Certified ICF ACC Life & Empowerment Coach Yulin (Lynne) Nie addressed a common challenge in academia: setting healthy boundaries



Upcoming Events:

- Pint of Postdoc (July 21st)
  - Pint of Postdoc summer edition, with 2 great speakers:
    - **Patrícia Santos Silvia** will try to answer the question "Who burns the tropical forest?"
    - **Cao Cong** will present how she is using AI to understand the relationship between social disadvantage and sickness.
  - https://cglink.me/2dA/r2323172

Advocacy Committee

Professional Development:

- Revised IDP (Two-page IDP proposal drafted with NIH/NPA guidance; feedback received from OPA)
- Developing an Advisory Team for postdocs **(in collaboration with the Mentorship Committee)**

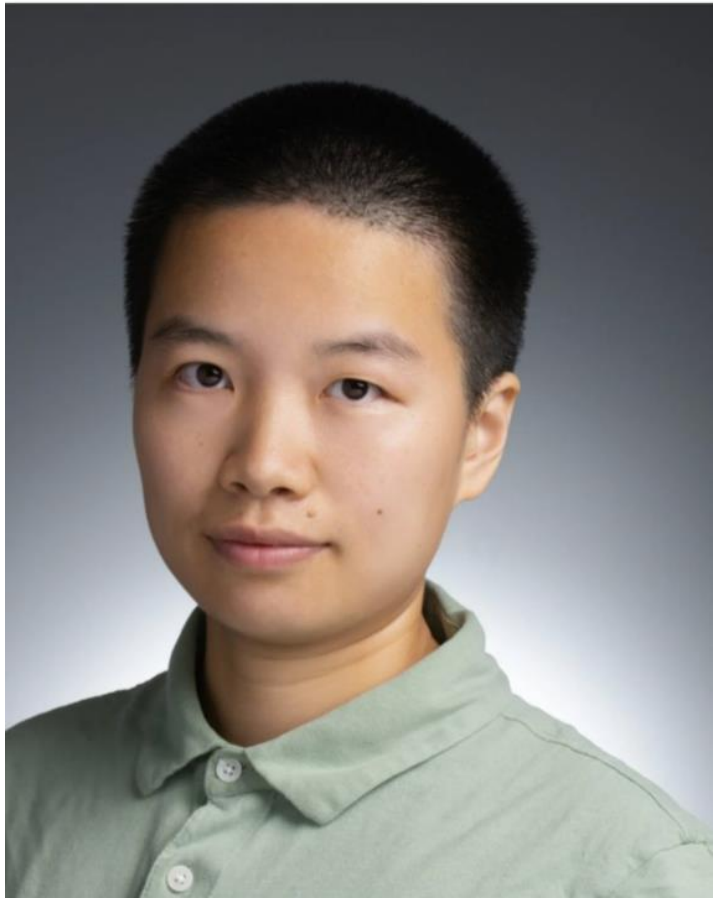
Benefits:

- Mental health needs assessment, Childcare advocacy
- Potential Actions to Respond to Changes by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB)

Advocacy Committee

Next Coordinator:

Ziqing Shi (Seesaw)



Office for Postdoctoral Affairs (OPA)

Upcoming events:

- July 15: Surviving & Thriving Your First Year as a Faculty Member, in person 12-1pm https://cglink.me/2dA/r2324338
- July 22: Understanding the Importance of Mentorship: Sharing experiences and strategies for success, in person 12-1:30pm https://cglink.me/2dA/r2324340

Yale Postdoctoral Association (YPA)

Empowering Postdocs & Researchers

Thank you for your attention