Yale Postdoctoral Association

Yale

Yale Postdoctoral Association

Open Forum

2026.08.11

CHECK-IN

YPA OPEN FORUM AUGUST 2026

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11 AT 6:00PM

https://cglink.me/2dA/c2325747728121414

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

REGISTRATION

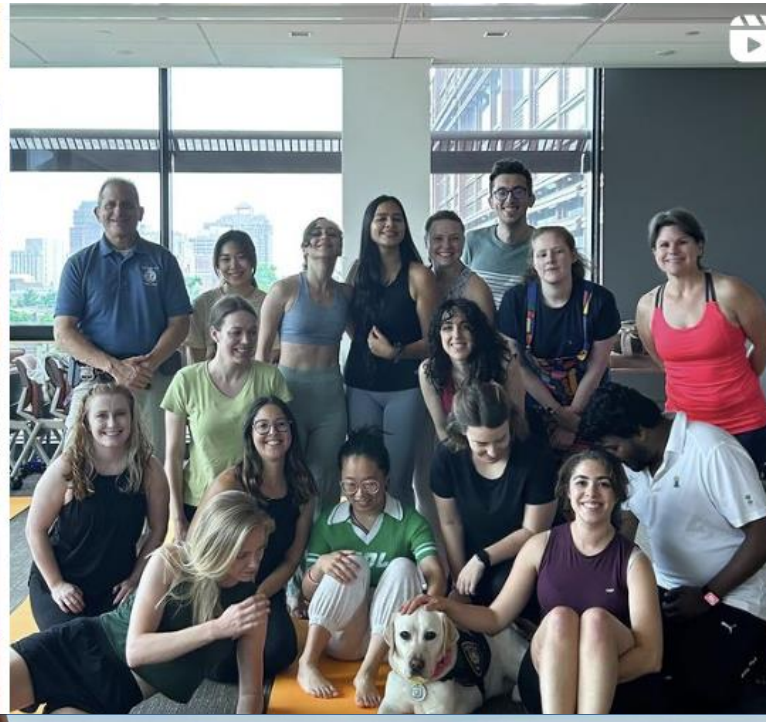
Yale Postdoctoral Association: from the postdocs to the postdocs

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
Ammara
Ziqing

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)

Chairs

YPA Executive Board meeting

- August 24, Monday, 6:00 p.m. ~7:30 p.m.
- Beaumont Room, SHML 221, 333 Cedar St (Yale School of Medicine).

THE EVENT WILL BE IN PERSON ONLY

WE WILL PROVIDE FOOD!

Chairs

Association Leadership Workshop: Difficult Conversations, Communication and Motivation (OPA)

📅 August 31, Monday, 9:00 a.m.~11:00 a.m.

📍 Cohen Auditorium, 230 South Frontage Road, New Haven

(Please let us know if you need the invitation links.)

National Postdoc Appreciation Week (NPAW) 2026

- Confirm the date and book the room
- May invite Handsome Dan 🐶 to one of our events

Include your event in the event tracker and shared calendar

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

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)

Secretaries

- Successful Team Bonding event at the Yale Outdoor Education Center on August 2
- 22 people attended
- We had a BBQ, went kayaking & paddle boarding, swimming, painted some rocks + made bracelets + just hung out in the sun

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

Secretaries

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Treasury

- Keeping up to date with receipts and the new Event Tracker.
- Continuing to resolve outstanding receipts and spending from the Postdoc Symposium.
- Will arrange a meeting later this month to review finances and any outstanding items.

YPA Treasury Email: treasury.ypa@yale.edu

Symposium Committee

- Last Symposium 2025-2026 committee meeting hold on 08/04/26. Feedback from committee.
- Finishing the handbook for next year.
- Contacted some of the members to nominate themselves for the next year's coordinators
- Looking for new members, please contact Nebal or Eunate: Nebal.abuhussein@yale.edu, eunate.gallardo@yale.edu

*NEXT SYMPOSIUM MEETING FOR NEXT YEAR 2026-2027 WILL BE SCHEDULE IN SEPTEMBER.

Belonging Committee

Our 7-week self-defense course is a big success!

Thank you everyone for joining us!

Tomorrom 6:00PM,
Join us for the self-defense seminar!

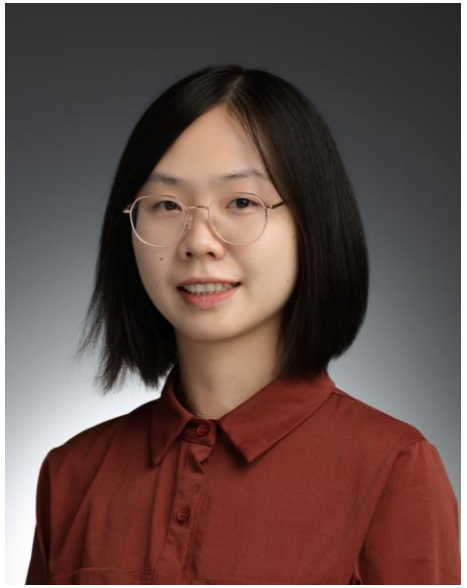
We are Recruiting!
Join us for the wonderful events!

Please reach out to:

Merrill Asp merrill.asp@yale.edu

Tianyu Zhu t.zhu@yale.edu

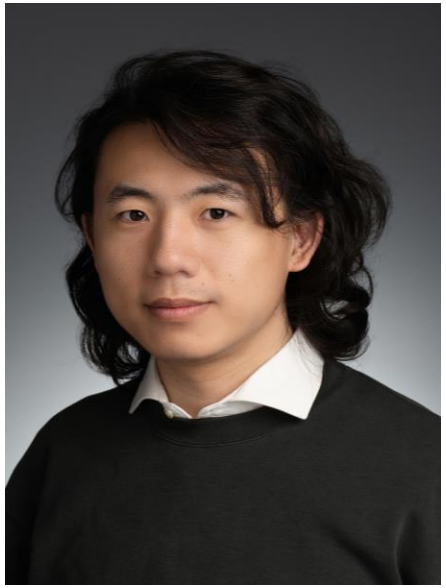
Belonging Committee



Bingqing Yao

New Coordinator

Welcome, new members! 😊
Thank you, Merrill!



Pingze Zhang

Community & Networking Committee

Past events:

YPA Board Game Night – July 22

YPA Book Club – July 29

Abigail managed to snag a selfie

Future events:

YPA Board Game Night – Aug 19, YSB Room 153

YPA Happy Hour – Aug 28, Science Hill

YPA Book Club – Sept 9

YPA stones!

Mentorship Committee

Past month:

- No events, but restructured some organizational aspects
- Plan Appreciation Week activity: "*Academia and Beyond: career myth vs reality*"
- Recruited new members!

Upcoming month:

- Organizing committee materials, workflow, and schedule for the semester
- Faculty/Postdoc and industry track mentorship program kick-off event (Sep 10)
- Organizing National Postdocs Appreciation Week event (Sep 25)

Professional Development Committee

Upcoming Events:

- Pint of Postdoc has been rescheduled (New date TBD)
- The next Professional Development Committee meeting will take place on Wednesday, August 26th via Zoom

Advocacy Committee

PROPOSAL 1 · GSAS STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Yale Postdoctoral Association · Advocacy

An Inclusive Affiliate Participation Framework

Broaden who may participate in GSAS clubs — without changing who votes, who leads, or who is funded.

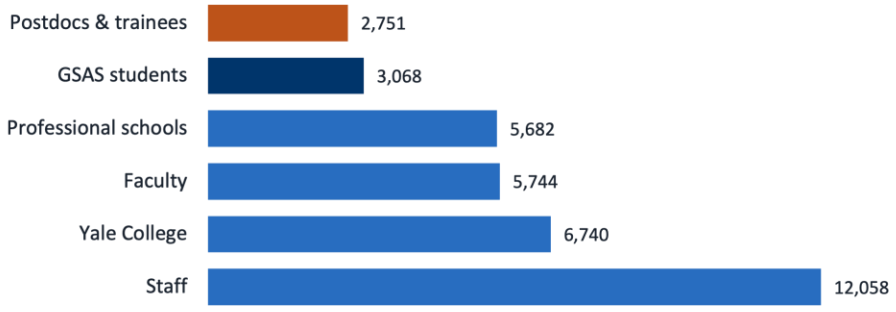
36,117
people in the Fall 2024 Yale community across student, trainee, faculty, and staff categories

2,751
postdoctoral, postgraduate, and clinical trainees — the group the current rule leaves ambiguous

~40
registered GSAS organizations, each interpreting participation rules on its own

51%
GSAS membership majority and student-only leadership — preserved, not touched

WHO IS ACTUALLY ON CAMPUS (FALL 2024)



Only the two highlighted categories have a defined place in current GSAS club rules.

THE PROPOSED FOUR-TIER MODEL

1. **Formal Member** Votes, holds office, funded benefits. GSAS students ≥ 51%.
2. **Officer / Voting Leader** GSAS students only. Controls finances and the roster.
3. **Affiliate Participant** Postdocs, postgrads, faculty, staff, visiting scholars, partners. No vote, no office, no automatic funding.
4. **Guest Participant** One designated event. No continuing rights.

Capacity priority stays: GSAS students → eligible members → postdocs & postgrads → affiliates → guests.

THE ASK

Clarify postgraduate eligibility, separate “member” from “participant,” and authorize a one-semester pilot with 3–6 volunteer organizations.

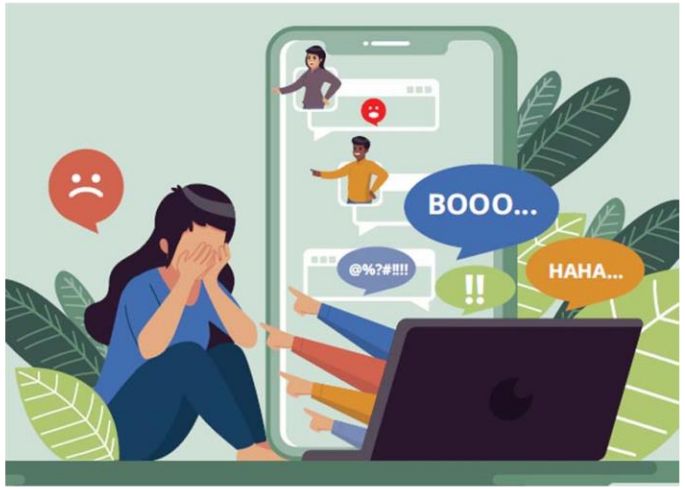
Sources: Yale Facts (Fall 2024); GSAS Group Registration & Renewal; Yale Connect GSAS organizations; Office for Postdoctoral Affairs. Shares are illustrative, not a deduplicated census. Peer comparison: MIT extends recreation membership and Postdoctoral Association sports programming to postdocs holding affiliate ID cards.

Advocacy Committee

PROJECT 02 • ONLINE SAFETY

Cyberbullying & Online Harassment Response Protocol

Make YPA a safe first door: support, triage, platform stewardship, and warm referral — without becoming a parallel investigative body.



"Safe first door, not a parallel court."

The protocol separates immediate support and platform risk management from formal Yale findings or discipline.

A SIMPLE RESPONSE PATH

1	INTAKE	Low-barrier contact Clarify goals + privacy limits
2	SAFETY	Check threats, doxing, stalking Preserve evidence
3	ACT / REFER	Moderate YPA spaces Warm handoff to Yale experts
4	LEARN	De-identified trends Training + prevention

6-MONTH PILOT • secure intake • trained response team • account registry

EXTERNAL BENCHMARK

Harvard and UChicago both publish university-level guidance for online abuse, doxing, cyberbullying, evidence preservation, safety, and referral.

YPA's added value: make those principles operational for postdocs and the online spaces they actually use.

BOUNDARIES THAT REDUCE RISK

- No credibility findings or legal conclusions
- Two-person review for non-urgent restrictions
- Recusal, data minimization, anti-retaliation
- Immediate escalation for credible danger

Advocacy Committee

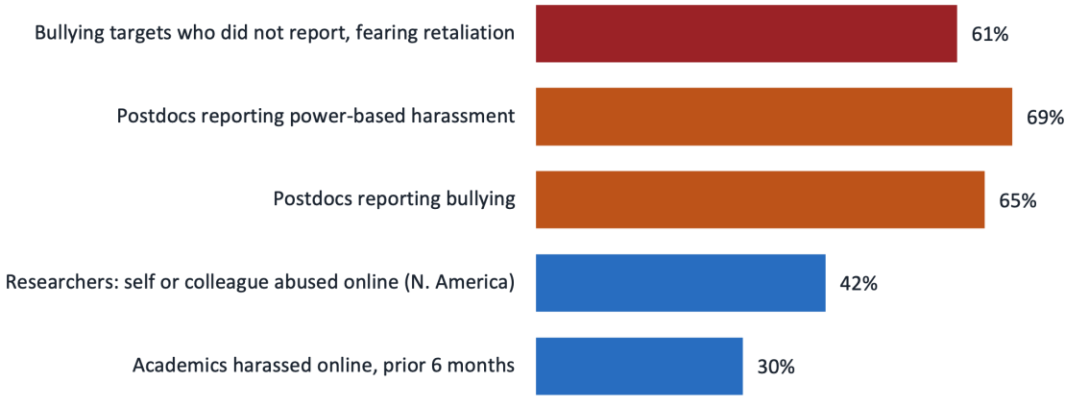
PROPOSAL 2 · YPA AND POSTDOCTORAL ONLINE SPACES

Yale Postdoctoral Association · Advocacy

A Cyberbullying and Online Harassment Protocol

YPA should be a safe first door — not a parallel court.

THE EVIDENCE BASE



RISK-TIERED RESPONSE

LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4
One-time incivility	Repeated targeting, impersonation	Protected-characteristic harm, retaliation	Threats, stalking, doxing, image abuse
Acknowledge ≤ 2 days	***Review ≤ 2 days***	***Same / next day***	***Immediate***

YPA'S BOUNDED ROLE

1. **Accessible intake —** One low-barrier door; no need to name the right policy or office first.
2. **Support & safety planning —** Evidence preservation, account security, referral to care — never pressure to go quiet.
3. **Platform stewardship —** Standards, two admins, MFA, documented and time-limited interim measures.
4. **Affiliation verification —** A public registry of official accounts; action on impersonation.
5. **Warm handoff & patterns —** Consent-based referral to OPA, OIEA/Title IX, OISS, Public Safety; de-identified annual reporting.

Not in scope: investigations, credibility findings, discipline, or promises of absolute confidentiality.

Scope covers official YPA accounts, officer-run channels, community WhatsApp groups, and accounts impersonating Yale or YPA.

THE ASK

Approve a six-month pilot: secure intake, named OPA liaison, an official-account registry, anti-retaliation safeguards, training, and de-identified evaluation.

Sources: Higher Education (2021), N=2,492 Finnish university staff · Economist Impact for Elsevier, Confidence in Research (2022), N=3,144 researchers · Nature global postdoc survey (2020) · Columbia postdoc survey (2024) · eLife 10.7554/eLife.75705 · Yale Policy 9000 (rev. Aug. 2025) and OIEA procedures · Yale doxing policy and guidance.

Office for Postdoctoral Affairs (OPA)

Upcoming Programming:

- August 20: Academic Job Search Series: Identifying and Breaking Down Academic Job Postings - via Zoom, https://cglink.me/2dA/r2325493
- September 9: Special Topics in Mentorship: Discussing Your Professional Development with Your Mentor, https://cglink.me/2dA/r2325648

Note from OISS: Before you submit a career development or transition award (ex. NIH F99/K00 or K99/R00), contact your OISS adviser. OISS needs to be aware of the submission **prior to** receiving the notice of award for any career development or other transition award or fellowship.

Upcoming NPA Board Election – YPA usually uses Yale Connect for the vote

Gentle reminder: please do not schedule events the week before (September 13-20) or after (September 26-October 3) National Postdoc Appreciation Week – we appreciate your help on this!

Yale Postdoctoral Association (YPA)

Empowering Postdocs & Researchers

Thank you for your attention