

“Beyond the Ivory Tower: Career Opportunities for the Jewish Studies Scholar”
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- We were asked to describe our training, our current position, and the path that led us there.
- Training:
 - BA, Duke University in history with certificates in Jewish studies and women’s studies
 - PhD, American University in American history
- Current Position:
 - Editorial Coordinator of Academic Publications at the Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies (CAHS) of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum
 - We publish books, a journal (*Holocaust and Genocide Studies*), and occasional papers.
- Path:
 - I’ve been working at the Museum for 14 years.
 - Started working at the Museum in 1991 as research assistant for the permanent exhibition. This was two years before the Museum opened. I worked with the Museum director, director of the permanent exhibition, exhibit designer, and historians, and participated in design meetings that occurred in the last year and a half before we opened. I got to see the exhibit and the Museum develop.
 - After the Museum opened (in April 1993), I began working in Academic Publications and started graduate school.
 - I had two jobs simultaneously while I was in grad school; working part time and taking classes part time.
 - There were some advantages to doing that: I had a salaried job during grad school and could pay my rent. I had real-world work experiences. I wasn’t too isolated or lonely during grad school or while writing my dissertation. I had a built in distraction/break from school/dissertation that was productive and intellectually stimulating.
- After receiving my Ph.D.:
 - Came back to work full time
 - One of the advantages of working while in school was that I had a job to go into full time.
- Message to audience:

- Publishing is an option for folks with a degree in Jewish studies
 - Three of the four of us in my department have a Ph.D.; none in Holocaust studies (two in history, one in political science).
 - Even though my specialty isn't Holocaust studies, my academic skills are still very useful outside academia.
 - It is an opportunity to work with current scholarship and with scholars.

- CAHS has scholarly environment
 - Interaction with fellows in the office, at seminars, and at lunches.
 - Staff is strongly encouraged to attend scholarly programs at the Museum (symposia, conferences, seminars, fellows' presentations, etc.)