



# **A Journey from Shakespeare to EdTech**

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PhD Pathways, February 18<sup>th</sup>

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## To Discuss

- + Deciding to leave academia
- + Finding the right career path (with a lot of trial and error)
- + Committing myself to EdTech
- + Getting the job!
- + Applying—and getting—a job in the middle of a semester.

# Deciding to Leave Academia

- + Regional focus
- + Wanting a family (not across the country)
- + Exploitation of adjunct labor
- + COVID and the need for stable income
- + Hearing from humanities friends with TT jobs
- + But also...missing my students and our discussions 😞  
(I even had a teaching award!)

# **My Journey**

- + Figuring out how to write a resume
- + Academic advisor (college)
- + Academic publishing
- + Private school teaching
- + Editing recipes
- + Research assistant at NYPL
- + Educational Content for K-12
- + Even an hourly job editing reviews of household goods (which I did not get)

# Committing Myself to EdTech

- + Be devoted and focused on a single field (it makes things much easier)
- + Focusing on higher ed
- + Applying for jobs you may not be thrilled with, because sometimes they work out!
- + Being valued, having your PhD valuable, having the company see you as a more desirable candidate *because* of your experiences

## Some Advice

- + Always, always negotiate your salary
- + Find a job where your PhD is *valued*: Broadcast that PhD!
- + Go where you *are valued*
- + Learn what “skills” are, but focus on experience
- + Put “PhD Candidate” on your resume: it was work you got paid to do
- + Emphasize designing courses, lessons, tests, and teaching, pitching courses
- + Go on informational interviews: you may just find an advocate

# Getting a Job Mid-Semester

- + Check with your union (if you have one) and read your CBA
- + Try to have an advocate where you work (if you can) who supports you leaving part-time teaching work (postdocs or adjuncting)
- + If you have a contract, read it.
- + Be careful with an official leave of absence
- + Don't open yourself up to getting sued
- + Be selfish

## Other Notes from Our Discussion

- + Read Christopher Caterine's *Leaving Academia: A Practical Guide*: it's wonderful.
- + Leaving academia—or a PhD program—does *not and never will mean you weren't "good enough."* Prioritizing your happiness is the strongest thing you can do.
- + Know that you'll find something. I promise. It just takes time.
- + People to follow on LinkedIn:
  - Eric James Stephens, PhD who posts stuff on how to Translate Academia
  - Jeff Paterson, who posts about EdTech jobs a few times a week





**Q&A!**