A Journey from Shakespeare to EdTech

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PhD Pathways, February 18th
3:00 PST / 6:00 EST
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!