“Yale Career Fireside Chats – Managing Your Career in a Covid-19 Downturn”

June 4, 2020

This event is the seventh in a series of fireside chats covering career-related issues. Unlike the “Yale Career Panels: A Candid View of Professions” series that focuses on specific professions, this series is comprised of one hour conversations with panelists about career related topics. This series is separate from the Yale Career Panels” series.

Our three panelists represent differing perspectives: Professor Zimmerman studies labor economics, public finance, and household finance, with a focus on the economics of education; Richard Foster is an investor, author, and Emeritus Senior Partner of McKinsey & Company; and Leah Libresco Sargeant is a statistician and author who works who works in campus ministry at Princeton.

They will talk about how one makes key decisions in a severe economic downturn about jobs, school, and career tracks; what history tells us about the impact that recessions have on the careers of individuals across different ages and career stages; how to manage the emotional anxieties in the current circumstances; and what to do if your preferred career path is blocked in the near term.

The fireside chat will be broadcast via an interactive streaming video system. It will last for 45 minutes and will be followed by a 15 minute Q&A session.

**Time:** June 4, 2020 from 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm EST

**Webinar:** interactive streaming video

**Registration:** [https://yalecareerpanels-6-4-20.eventbrite.com](https://yalecareerpanels-6-4-20.eventbrite.com)

**Topics:**
- What is the impact of recessions on long-term careers?
- What advice do you have for Yale community members on professionally navigating this recession?
- How can people stay grounded as they grapple with the anxiety of this moment?
- If someone can't currently break into their preferred career, what sorts of things can they focus on learning or doing now to be competitive when hiring picks back up down the road?
- Five years from now, how will employers likely read the resumes of students who graduated into the crunch?

**Fireside Chat Interviewees:**
**Richard Foster**
Richard is an Emeritus Senior Partner of McKinsey & Company, where he led several practices including private equity and technology. Dr. Foster is Chairman of Ancera Diagnostics, the Lead Director at Zocdoc, and a Member of the Executive Committee of the W. M. Keck Foundation, a Board Member of the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center and a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences. Dr. Foster has been a member of the boards of the Council on Foreign Relations, the Santa Fe Institute, and the Oak Ridge National Laboratories. Dr. Foster has written two best-selling books: Innovation: The Attacker’s Advantage (1986) and Creative Destruction (2001). Dr. Foster received his BS, MS, and PhD from Yale University in Engineering and Applied Science.

**Leah Libresco Sargeant**
Leah Libresco Sargeant has worked as a statistics professor, a data journalist, and a Bayesian probability instructor at an organization teaching “defensive driving for your brain.” She grew up as an atheist and converted to Catholicism. Her writing has appeared in The Washington Post, First Things, The Weekly Standard, The American Interest, The American Conservative, America and other outlets. She has spoken across the United States, as well as Australia, Ireland, and Poland. She is the author of Arriving at Amen (on her conversion) and Building the Benedict Option (on creating Christian community). She graduated from Yale as a political science major in 2011, and currently works at the Aquinas Institute for Catholic Life at Princeton University in student ministry.

**Professor Seth Zimmerman**
Seth is an Assistant Professor of Economics and the Richard N. Rosett Faculty Fellow at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business. In addition, he is currently a Faculty Research Fellow at NBER, and a Research Fellow at IZA. In July 2020 he will be moving to Yale SOM as an Associate Professor of Economics. He studies labor economics, public finance, and household finance, with a focus on the economics of education. He received his PhD in Economics from Yale University, and his undergraduate degree from Dartmouth College.

**Moderator**

**Justin Kosslyn**
Justin is executive director of the Healthy Internet Project, a new effort being incubated at TED. Born and raised in Cambridge, Mass, he spent a decade in Product Management at Google, working on Google News, Ads, and finally Jigsaw, where he oversaw a range of software tools to improve digital and information security for elections, journalists, and activists. Justin also directly led projects including Google’s warnings for targets of government-backed cyberattacks; Password Alert, a Chrome extension to fight phishing; and Share the Facts, a tool for global fact-checkers with markup now used by Google Search, Bing, and Facebook. He graduated from Yale and lives with his wife and two children in NY.
The Yale Career Fireside Chats series spotlights issues and opportunities which may be encountered during your professional career. Thus far, our chats have covered “Managing Major Career Changes,” “Serving on Boards,” “The Art of Networking”, “Cybersecurity”, “How to Ace Your Interviews,” and "A Candid View of Post-Ph.D. Non-Academic Careers.”

There have been 37 Yale Career Panels. Previous Yale Career Panels have covered architecture, artificial intelligence, boutique consulting, consulting (three times), education, entrepreneurism, film and drama, finance and investing, internet and data services, investment banking (three times), investing, government service, journalism and publishing, legal (four times), medical (four times), medical devices, music, non-profit organizations, politics - the election process, R&D, real estate, product management, start-ups, and a comparison of investing/investment banking/consulting. Thirty-three of these career panels were recorded and can be viewed at www.yalecareerpanels.com. The panels for the 2019 – 2020 academic years thus far have been boutique consulting, non-candidate political careers, product management, and the medical profession.

All of the above were recorded and can be viewed at www.yalecareerpanels.com.

The Series Sponsors

This series is jointly supported by various organizations at Yale University and Yale Alumni organizations, including the Yale Office of Career Strategy, the Yale Alumni Association (YAA), the Yale School of Management, Students and Alumni of Yale (STAY), the Junior Class Council (JCC), the Yale.nyc (the Yale alumni association in New York City), and the Association of Asian American Yale Alumni (AAAYA).