



~~Plan A~~

Plan B



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>>originally published 1/31/2006



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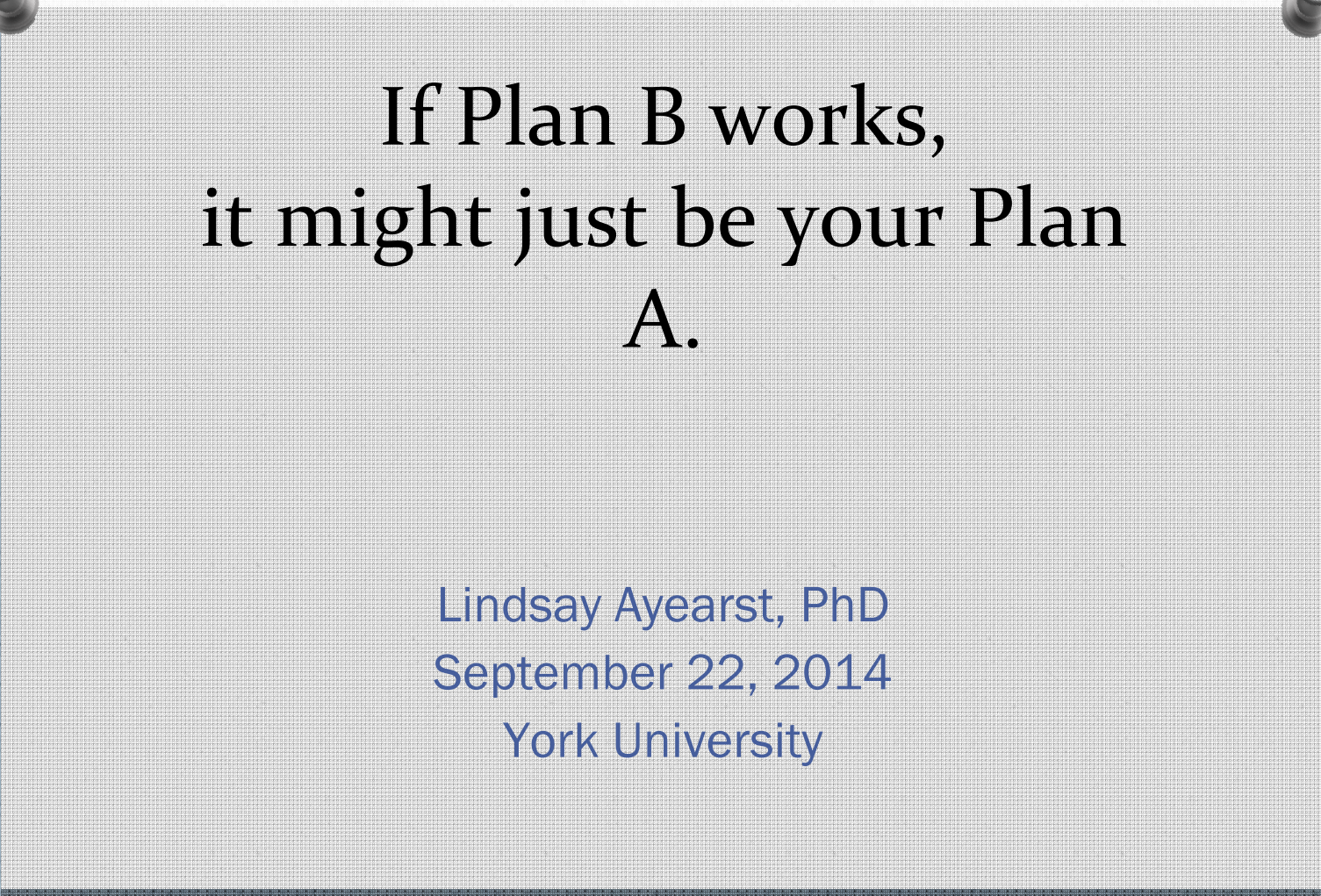


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If Plan B works,
it might just be your Plan
A.

Lindsay Ayearst, PhD
September 22, 2014
York University



Plan B

Plan A

What do the numbers say?



**So You Want to Earn a PhD?
The Attraction, Realities, and Outcomes
of Pursuing a Doctorate**
@ Issue Paper No. 15
April 30, 2013

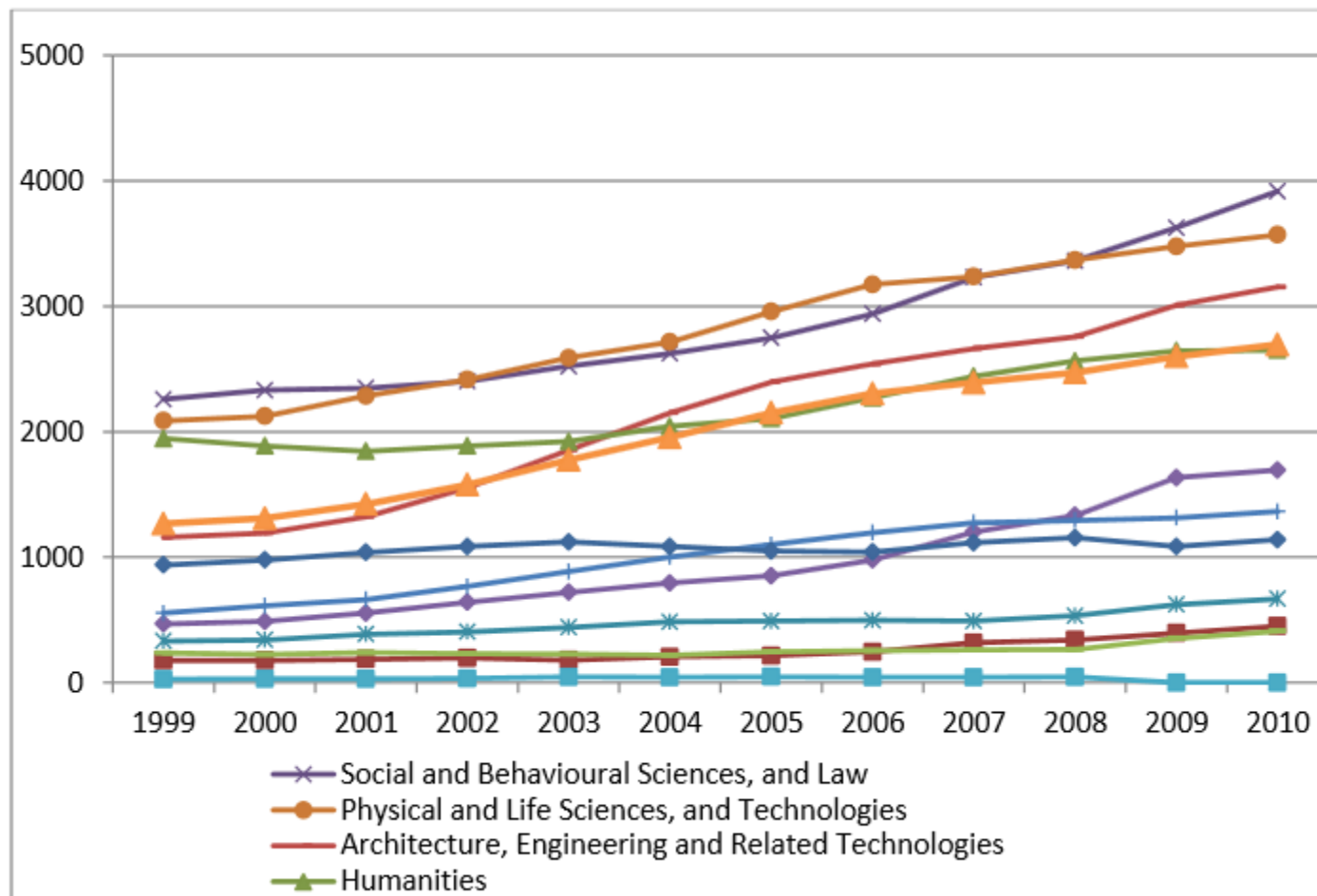
Vicky Maldonado, Richard Wiggers, and Christine Arnold

The Numbers

Supply & Demand Problem!

- o In 2001, the Canadian Association of Graduate Studies (CAGS) called for a doubling of doctoral enrolments to meet the anticipated demand
- o As recently as 2007, the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) was still predicting that “full-time faculty numbers are expected to grow between 3,600 (9 per cent) in the low growth scenario to 13,600(33 percent) in the high growth scenario”
- o As recently as January 2012, the Council of Ontario Universities (COU) was still asking government for funds to further expand graduate programs to “support innovation” and compete internationally.
- o Previous HEQCO research demonstrates that all Ontario universities have expanded their graduate programs in the past decade (Wiggers, Lennon, & Frank, 2011).
- o Ontario universities have nearly doubled enrolments in their doctoral programs, from 10,182 students in 1999 to just over 19,000 in 2009 (PSIS, 2012)

Chart 3: Doctoral Enrolments by Field of Study, Ontario, 1999-2010



Source: Statistics Canada, Postsecondary Student Information System (PSIS)

How many of you entered into your PhD with the intention of becoming an academic?

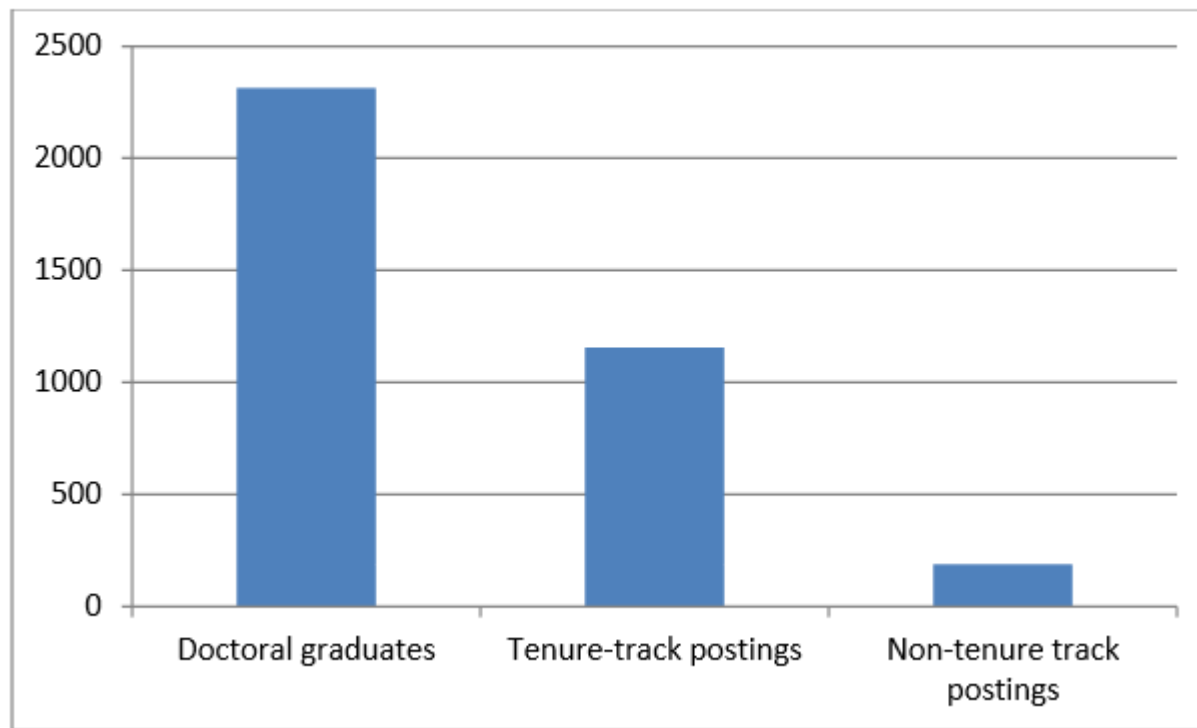


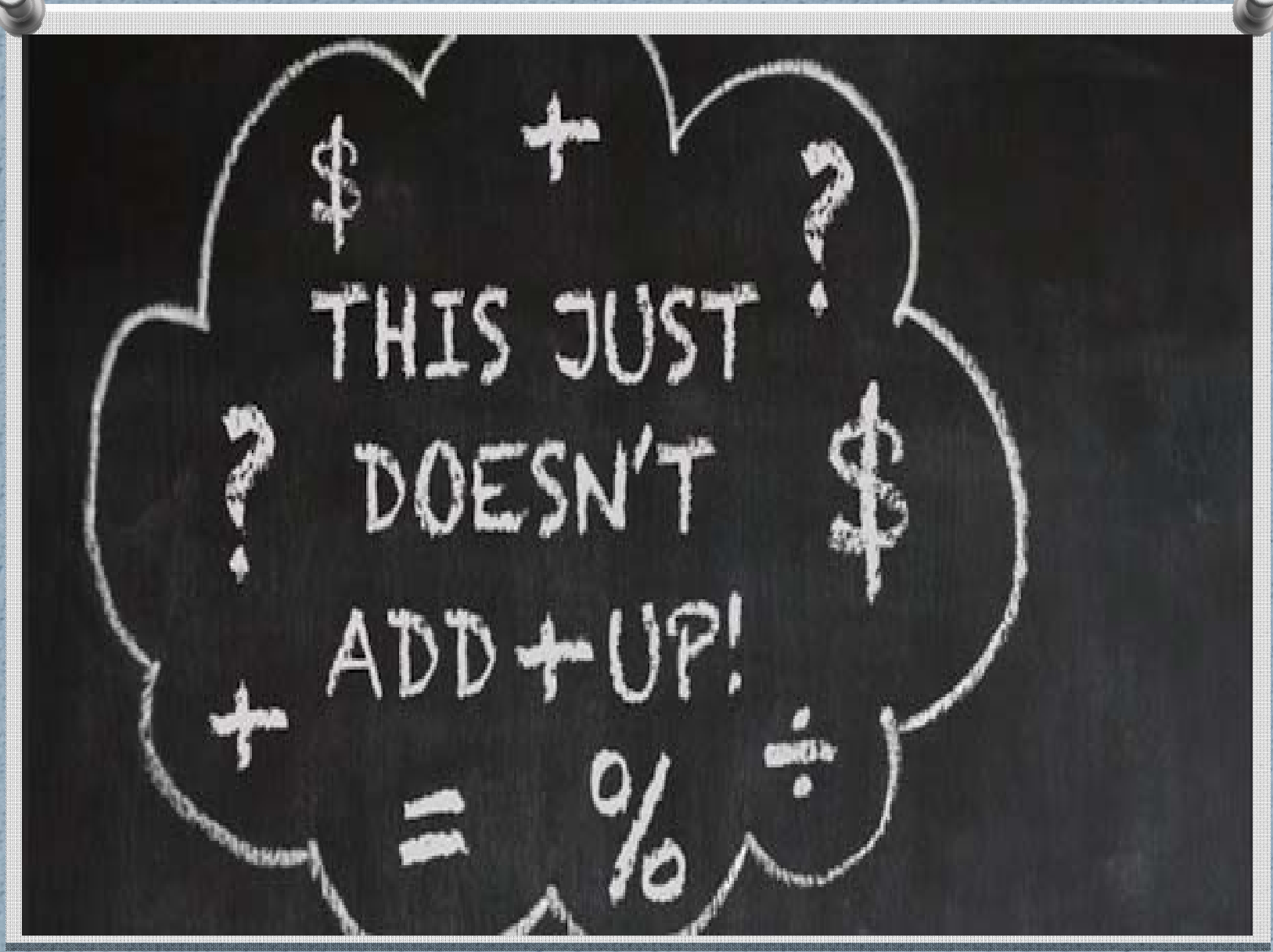
- o About two-thirds (65 per cent) of Ontario PhDs pursued their degree with the intention of becoming a university professor, and the proportion is even higher in the humanities at 86 per cent (Desjardins, 2012).

Academic Career

- o the opportunity to continue to pursue research and teach in an area for which I've developed a passion and expertise
- o the potential of academic tenure (aka - job security)
- o salaries which have grown steadily over the past decade, and the accompanying social and economic benefits of pensions, etc.
- o belonging to a profession and holding a job title imbued with social prestige

Chart 11: Ontario Doctoral Graduations Compared against Ontario *University Affairs* Job Postings, 2009-2010¹³





THIS JUST

DOESN'T

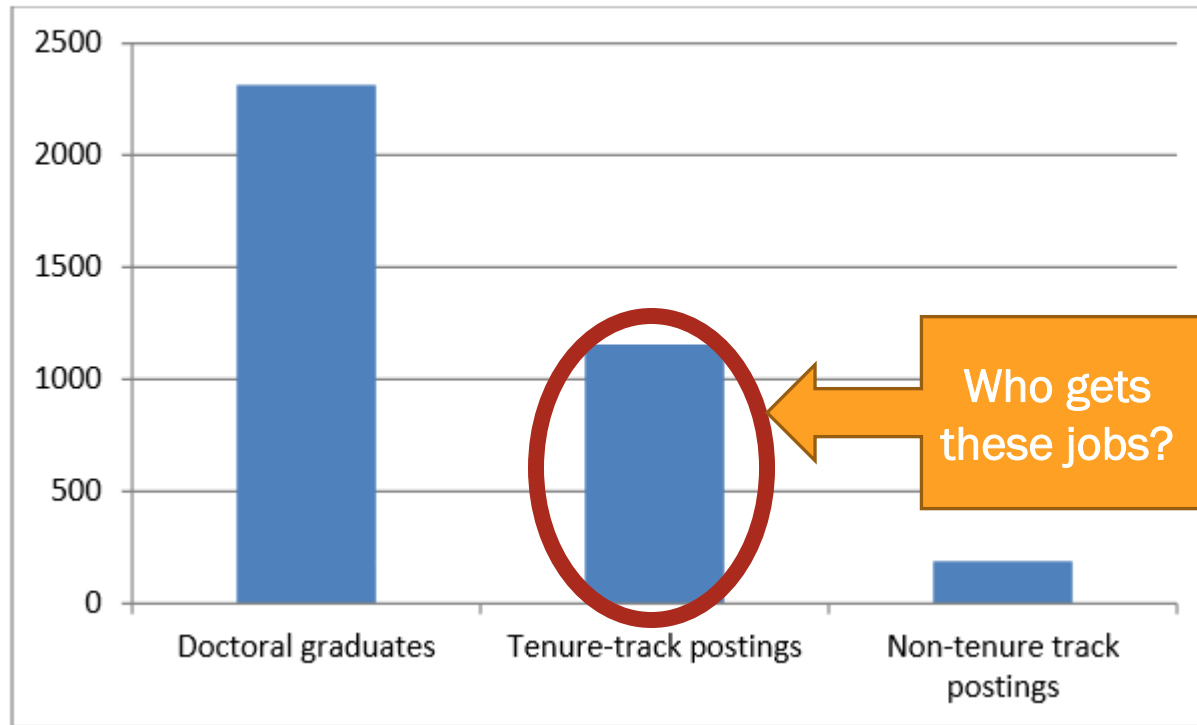
ADD + UP!

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Chart 11: Ontario Doctoral Graduations Compared against Ontario *University Affairs* Job Postings, 2009-2010¹³





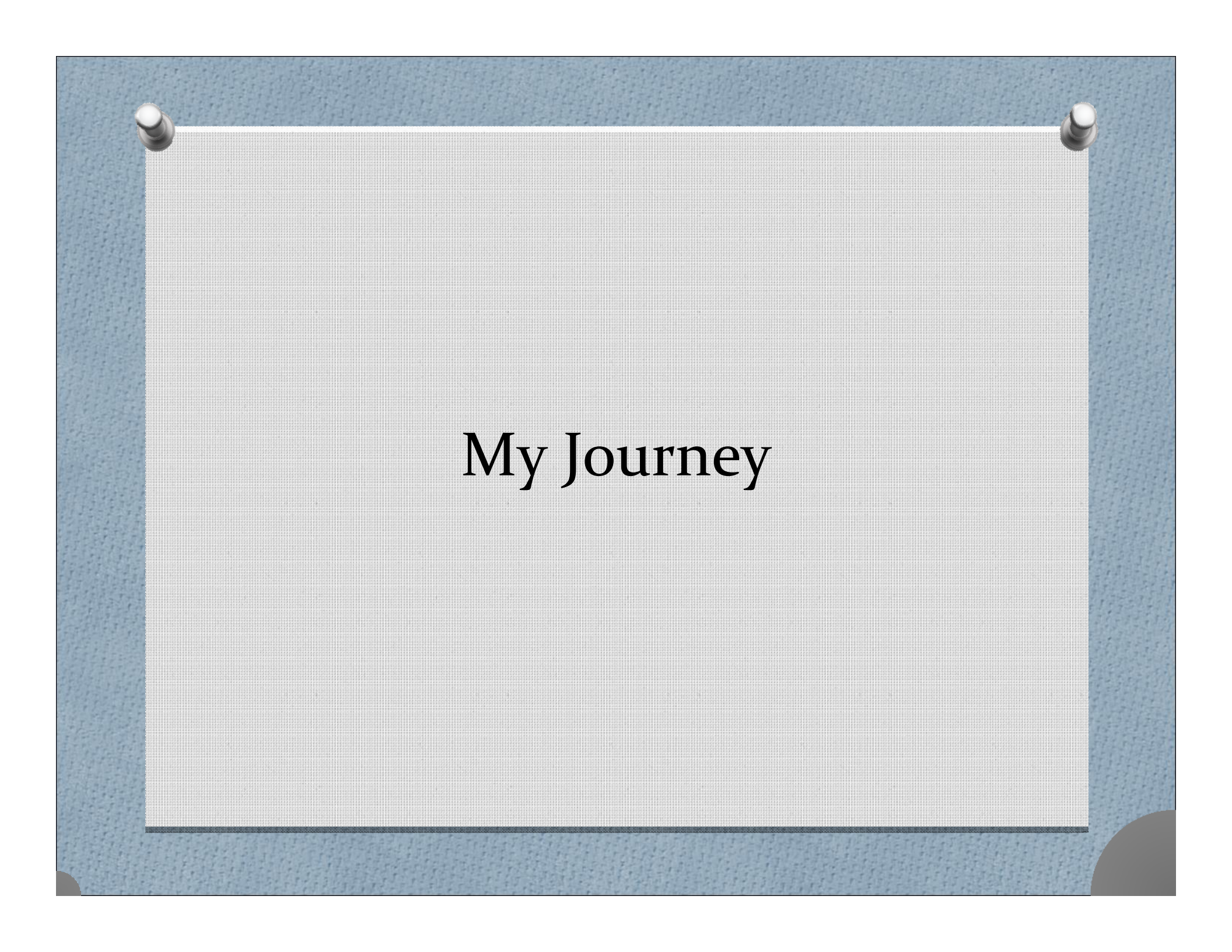
It's ok to want to explore your options

In fact, it doesn't make sense not to



Plan B

Plan A



My Journey

My journey through academia

- o Undergrad 4 years – Mt. Allison
→ (lawyer until 4th year)
- o Honors thesis - York
- o Year off – apply to grad school, work as RA
- o MA – 4 years - York
- o PhD – 6 years (2 years concurrent with MA) – York
- o Post-doc #1 – 1 year 5 months – York
- o Post-doc #2 – 1 year 6 months – UTSC,

A moment to acknowledge Dave:



- o Rescued my PhD
- o Greatly added to and strengthened my skill set (IRT)
- o Supported me and encouraged me to consider alternatives

Thank you, Dave!

My journey through academia

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Testing the waters

o RA & TA

Contract work:

o Phallometric testing

o Psychometrician

o Therapist

o Forensic internship

o Pharmaceutical Company

o Course director

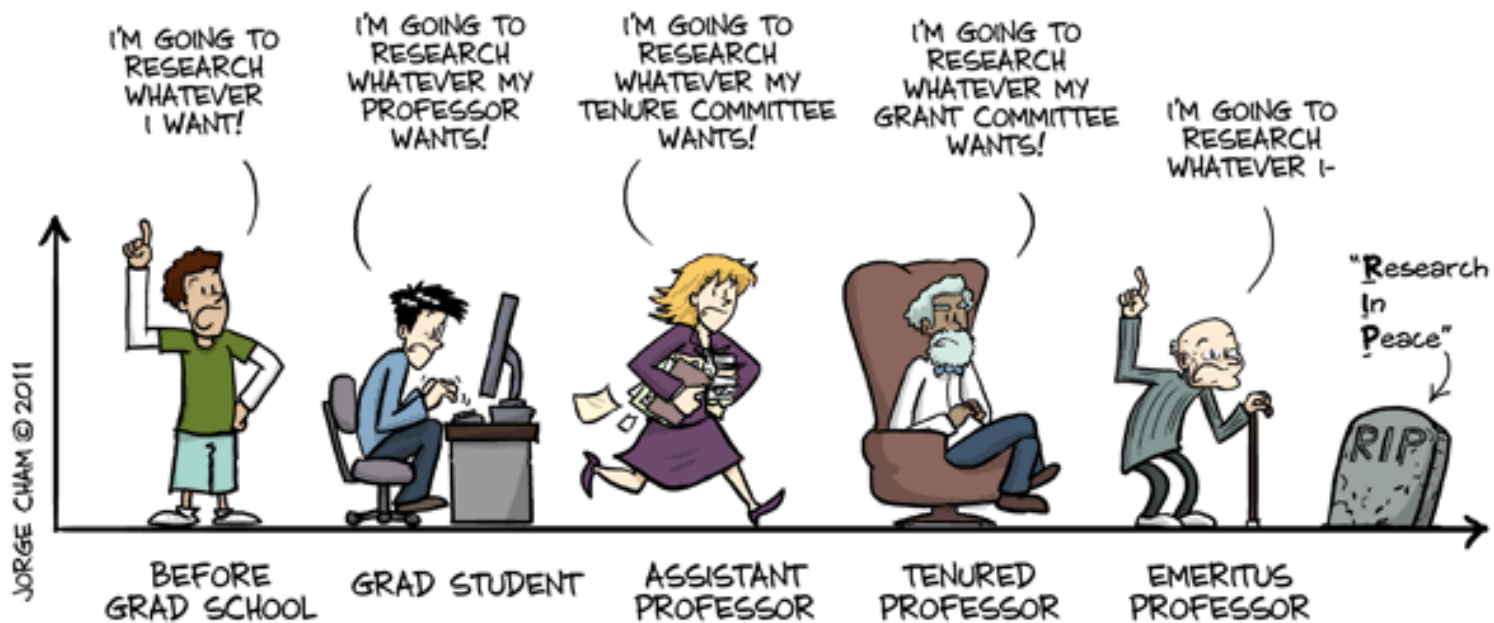
o Honors Thesis Supervisor

Half-way through Post-doc #2...

- Time to start thinking about job talks, the job market, etc

**EXPIRATION
DATE: - - - - -**

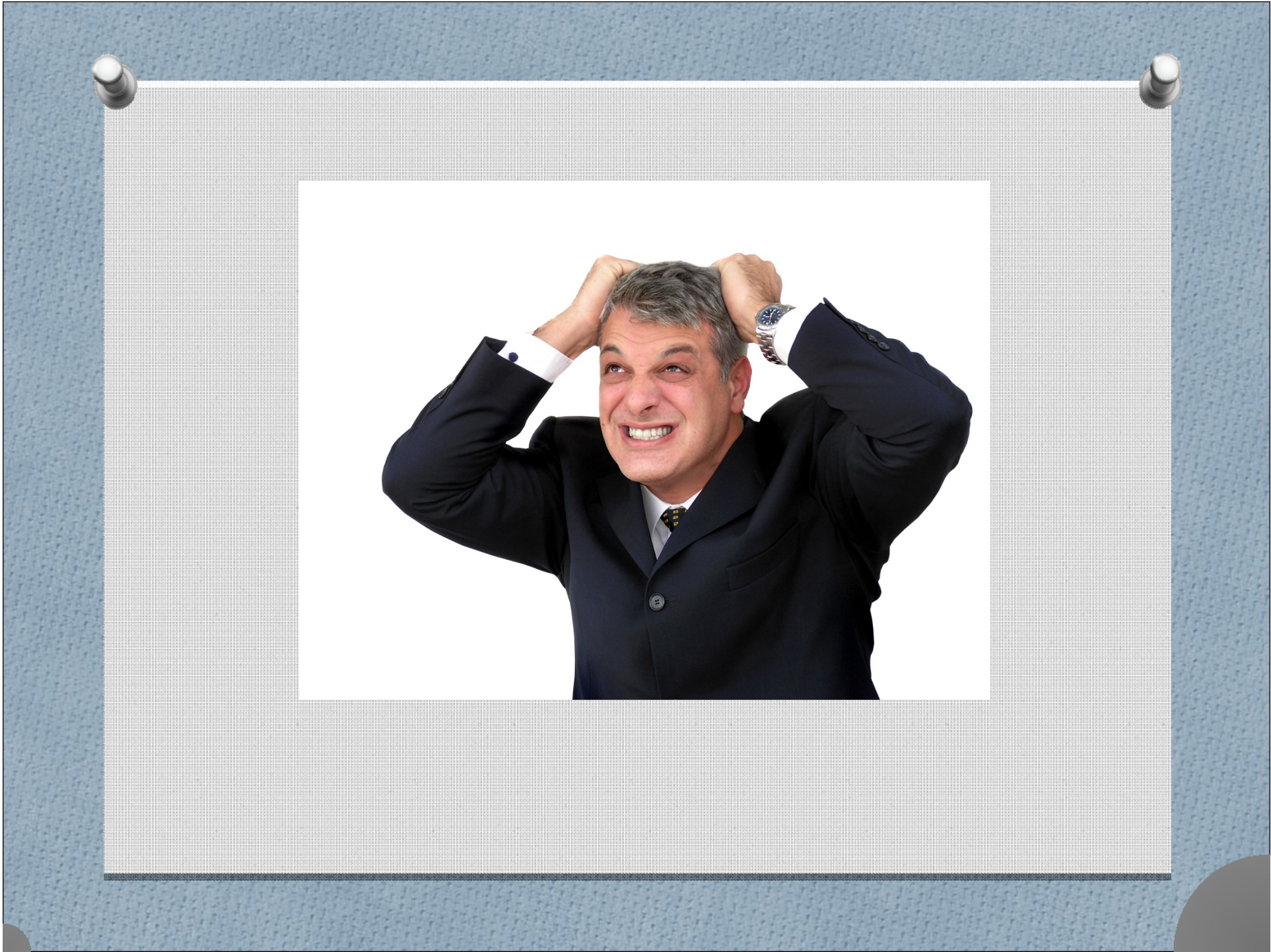
THE EVOLUTION OF INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM



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Options

- o No academic jobs in Toronto
- o Apply to academic jobs where ever they are
- o CAMH – contract → full-time; independent scientist; psychometrist in forensic unit
- o DRDC – Defence Research and Development Canada – defence scientist
- o Purdue Pharma
- o Simcoe Psychology
- o MHS Inc.



Following

Companies



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✓ Following



DRDC
Defense & Space
✓ Following



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Hospital & Health Care
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My Advice

- o Follow your passion
- o Gain applied experience
- o Develop breadth
- o Network
- o Market yourself
- o Don't be afraid to take the leap



Q & A to help you discover what is right for you

OK if you can't answer them on the spot –
that's not the point.

Point is to ponder them for a while and see
what answers start to appear

Resources

- o <http://www.apa.org/science/resources/careers/index.aspx>
- o <http://boffinsandcoldwarriors.blogspot.ca/2012/11/tenure-and-culture-of-failure-in.html>
- o <http://qz.com/174811/enroll-in-a-phd-program-but-leave-academia-as-soon-as-you-graduate/>
- o <http://www.apa.org/careers/resources/profiles/index.aspx>
- o <http://deathbytrolley.wordpress.com/2013/01/26/how-are-psychology-phds-doing-on-the-job-marke/>

Academia or Industry?

- Which you prefer is really a matter of personal taste
- Do what you really love doing
- it's not about where – it's about what

Things I didn't mention

- o Once you leave academia, it can be hard to get back in
- o New corporate language – ROI, blue sky
- o No job is perfect – so don't look for perfection – there will be personality clashes, things that you think should be done differently, things that piss you off → that's every where though!

Some Quotes from doctoral students that resonated with me

- o “I want to be involved in building something, whether it’s building a lab or building a program at a think tank or a nonprofit”
- o “I just want a job that I’m excited to go to every day, a job that isn’t meaningless, where I’m making a difference” ~ 5th year doctoral student in vision science

Academia or Industry?

- o I still don't know
- o Ryerson position – deadline is Nov. 1

I'll keep ya posted





That's all folks

Questions?

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gBzJGc
kMYO4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gBzJGc
kMYO4)