

# Stories from the Field: A Reader's Guide

**Why should you read *Stories from the Field*?** What will you get from reading this 40+ page data booklet on career outcomes for UC humanities PhDs, that uniquely incorporates the visual (think: California photographed, alumni quotes, and yes...a few compelling data charts) and a humanistic analysis of the numbers?

- *Stories* (aka, The Booklet) is a long-term study built on 3 years of quantitative and qualitative data collection and 7+ years of programming experience across the University of California system—within and beyond the humanities and humanistic social sciences.
- The Booklet is a collection of data points that's critical of data collection projects. It develops a humanistic methodology that speaks to both what and who's present—and missing—from the data. It's data that's a tad distrustful of data.
- The people who made The Booklet, and those who contributed to it in a variety of ways, are diverse. In many ways. And importantly, The Booklet is grounded in UC humanities PhD alumni reflecting on their experiences—it is NOT comprised of academics reflecting on the state of the academy.
- The Booklet doesn't provide easy answers, but does encourage thoughtful reflections on topics you may not be thinking about in a sustained way:
  - Adjuncting and career diversity
  - Alumni relations, PhD style
  - What alumni value most about non-professorial careers (like clear expectations and the importance of collaboration), and the types of activities that grad school could provide to help better prepare them.
- The Booklet is a short 20-minute read.

## Now What? You've read The Booklet, and are wondering about next steps:

1. Visit UCOP's dashboard and filter the results. See what the picture looks like for your campus and/or your discipline. Go down rabbit holes we haven't yet explored.
2. As you examine the numbers, ask hard questions about diversity—what kinds are addressed, which kinds are elided? Who is (implicitly, inevitably) the audience for conversations about diverse career pathways and diversity more generally?
3. Share The Booklet with others. Some potential readers:
  - Faculty and graduate student colleagues
  - Graduate student coordinators
  - Staff across the university, including in career centers, research institutes, etc.
4. Meet and discuss The Booklet and dashboard data with these colleagues. Foster department-specific conversations about the findings. Reach out across the division to engage a diverse group of faculty and grad students around the topics that most matter. Contact us if you'd like help facilitating these conversations and/or provide printed copies for your campus-based conversations. And stay tuned for UCHRI grant opportunities for grad student/faculty collaborations around working with The Booklet on your campus.
5. Engage your alumni in all of the above activities. And if you don't know where your alumni are (and what they're doing), start small and track the last few years of PhD graduates via LinkedIn searches.