

Academic Career Mentoring Series

“Career Choices: Industry vs. Academia”

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http://viterbi.usc.edu/students/phd/academic_resources/

Personal and Corporate Missions

- Our central mission is the development of human beings and society as a whole through the cultivation and enrichment of the human mind and spirit. The principal means by which our mission is accomplished are teaching, research, artistic creation, professional practice and selected forms of public service. - USC Mission Statement
- We will provide branded products and services of superior quality and value that improve the lives of the world's consumers, now and for generations to come. As a result, consumers will reward us with leadership sales, profit and value creation, allowing our people, our shareholders and the communities in which we live and work to prosper. - Fortune 500 Company Mission Statement

Panel Discussion Questions

- **What career path did you consider most during your Ph.D., and what influenced any changes to this over time?**
- **What does it take to succeed in academia vs industry, and in which career can one make the most impact (what kind)?**
- **What compels you to pursue a career in academia now given your past experiences in industry? Can you share a personal story about your experiences in industry versus academia? How has one impacted the other, if at all?**
- **What are lessons learned and tips (advantages and/or disadvantages) from working in industry prior to pursuing a career in academia?**
- **What key things should one do during Ph.D. studies to determine whether a career in industry or academia is best for achieving one's career goals? What advice can you give about deciding between industry vs academia?**



- **Peter A. Beerel**, Associate Professor, Ming Hsieh Department of Electrical Engineering-Systems



- **Mike S. W. Chen**, Assistant Professor, Ming Hsieh Department of Electrical Engineering-Electrophysics



- **Henryk Flashner**, Professor, Department of Aerospace & Mechanical Engineering



- **Yan Liu**, Assistant Professor, Computer Science Department



- **Azad M. Madni**, Professor and Director, Systems Architecting and Engineering Program, Daniel J. Epstein Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering

Panel Format

- **Panelists' remarks:**
 - personal background; path taken to academic career
 - responses to panel discussion questions
 - additional tips
- **Open Q&A:**
 - questions from the audience
- **Wrap-up**



Job Search Resources for Placement in Academia

- Viterbi's **academic job search website** of new postings for postdoc and faculty opportunities:
 - <http://www.viterbi.usc.edu/students/phd/jobs-faculty-positions.php>
 - Additional links of **national academic search engines**:
 - <http://www.academickeys.com/>
 - <http://www.academiccareers.com/>
- and a **clearinghouse** of postdoc opportunities:
- <http://www.ucop.edu/acadadv/ppfp/>
 - http://www.hercjobs.org/home/index.cfm?site_id=793
 - <http://www.nigms.nih.gov/Training/CareerDev/MOREInstRes.htm>
 - http://www.pathwaystoscience.org/Postdocs_portal.asp
 - <http://minoritypostdoc.org/>
 - http://graddiv.ucsc.edu/student_affairs/PostdocFellows_Minorities.php

