Growing up, Becca Voelcker would drive with her parents 20 miles to the local cinema, which showed a foreign film once every month. “This was long before I knew what the word ‘director’ meant or what it was to make a film,” the PhD student in film and visual studies explains. From her early teens, Voelcker was intoxicated by films’ ability to capture the essence of place. “I could almost feel the steam from dumplings cooking in some Hong Kong street vendor’s cart or feel the sand in the desert,” she reminisces. “I was living in North Wales, but somehow I could get a sense of all of it.”

Those monthly trips to other countries via film instilled in Voelcker a love for cinema. “From then on, I became really interested in films which were made in other cultures, that gave you a sense of place. Also in films that gave you a perspective on your own.” These films developed in her a desire to experience other ways of living. This urge would take her from rural Wales to London, then Japan, and now Harvard where Voelcker studies the sense of place, politics, and identity in experimental nonfiction film. According to Voelcker, these films mix a number of genres and styles, straddling the art installation and cinema worlds. “They’re restless,” she describes them. “And that’s exactly where the interest lies for me.”

A Residential Audience
Voelcker’s interest in sense of place extends beyond her academic work, to the four GSAS residence halls located in the North Yard, a short walk from the Religious Life

Get to know the new chaplains

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Business Applications Workshops
Thursday, January 18, and Friday, January 19, 2018
Come hear GSAS alumni share their experiences building successful careers outside of academia during the Business Applications Workshops, part of January@GSAS. As alumni share their insights in sessions held over two days, GSAS students will receive suggestions on how to navigate the world of careers outside of academia.

The workshops include:
- Cracking the Experience Barrier: Internships, Externships, and Fellowships
- The Many Roads to Biotech and Healthcare
- Calling All PhDs to Data Science
- Humans Needed: AI and Machine Learning
- Tours of the Harvard i-lab

Each session concludes with a networking reception that will allow students and presenters to connect.

Free Registration
Learn more and register for one session or all four at gsas.harvard.edu/january beginning December 1.

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A Sense of Place
How Becca Voelcker brings her love of cinema to her work as a GSAS resident advisor By Fernanda Ferreira

Growing up, Becca Voelcker would drive with her parents 20 miles to the local cinema, which showed a foreign film once every month. “This was long before I knew what the word ‘director’ meant or what it was to make a film,” the PhD student in film and visual studies explains. From her early teens, Voelcker was intoxicated by films’ ability to capture the essence of place. “I could almost feel the steam from dumplings cooking in some Hong Kong street vendor’s cart or feel the sand in the desert,” she reminisces. “I was living in North Wales, but somehow I could get a sense of all of it.”

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Feedback from Past Workshops:
“Very good variety. Inspiring advice.”
“I really appreciated the interactive nature of the workshops.”
“I learned a ton about where to start looking for a career, which is difficult information to find!”
“Emphasis on how to make the transition. Very helpful.”

The Business Applications Workshops are sponsored by the Graduate School Alumni Association Council.

Make the Most of January@GSAS!
Explore Events, Seminars, and Workshops
January@GSAS provides numerous opportunities for graduate students to acquire essential research and professional skills, prepare for careers, and master new interests. Take a mini-course, offered by the Graduate Student Council. Work on your writing at the Bureau of Study Counsel’s Write@5 Linden events or take part in a Fellowship Proposals Boot Camp. Get ready to teach during the Bok Center Winter Teaching Week. Advance your research skills.

Find out what’s available and sign up at gfas.harvard.edu/january.

NOTES FROM THE DUDLEY UNDERGROUND
Graduate Students and Faith: New Resources
BY JACKIE YUN, ROOM B-2 IN DUDLEY HOUSE — COME VISIT!

The Harvard Chaplains offer spiritual support to the community and serve as a great resource for graduate students. Harvard has over 30 spiritual advisors representing many traditions including Humanism (atheists, agnostics), and these Chaplains provide pastoral support and guidance to students, faculty, and staff.

New this year, the University has appointed two full-time staff members to join the Chaplains team. Reverend Dr. Lucy Forster-Smith serves as the Sedgwick Chaplain to the University and Khalil Abdur-Rashid joins Harvard as the University’s first Muslim chaplain.

Whether connecting students to resources or providing them counsel as they navigate their studies, these chaplains understand that graduate school is hard. Forster-Smith states, “Also, there are pivotal moments in graduate school when one is away from home or family or creating a new home, establishing roots in a new place.”

Abdur-Rashid is finishing his doctor of liberal arts degree and can relate to the challenges of graduate study. He appreciates that graduate students can pose profound questions and new realizations and outcomes. “In graduate school, I was exposed to different types of thought,” he states, “secular thought, sometimes antagonist literature, and I found that challenging, but I see now how that was helpful to my study and understanding of different world-views.”

In his first few months on campus, Abdur-Rashid has noticed that graduate students are particularly interested in discussions of faith and how it intersects with their academic discipline or area of study. “It is the interdisciplinization of Islam. Students trying to understand how their academic study can be enhanced by their understanding of Muslim faith.” Abdur-Rashid leads a weekly study circle on Fridays at Dudley House, which allows students to explore specific texts through discussion and ask questions such as, “how do I use faith texts to support my challenges and opportunities?”

Forster-Smith sees herself as someone who can assist graduate students trying to connect with a spiritual community. “Graduate students may want to seek out a religious community to support their family while studying at Harvard,” she explains. “Perhaps they want their children to participate in Sunday school or they want to find resources and community for their spouse who may not speak English.”

Chaplains assist graduate students across many of the challenges they might experience. Sometimes they connect students to grief support, help them celebrate life events (marriage, baptisms, Bar and Bat Mitzvahs), connect graduate student families to community resources, or simply listen to a student’s academic experience. Chaplains also can assist graduate students in thinking about the big questions, such as “what am I doing with my life and how am I meaning making?”

Both Forster-Smith and Abdur-Rashid are available to support graduate students with pastoral care or spiritual and personal confidential conversations. They can be reached by e-mail at lucy_forster-smith@harvard.edu and khalil_abdur-rashid@harvard.edu.

Students can learn more about the Harvard Chaplains by visiting chaplains.harvard.edu, e-mailing chaplains@harvard.edu, or calling 617-495-5529.
“When I walk out of the cinema or gallery after seeing a film, I don’t want to be thinking in the same way as when I went in. I want something to trouble me, so that I leave with more questions than I came with. That, I believe, is political.”

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**ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT**

**After GSAS: Re-Shaping American Identity**

Tomás Jiménez, PhD ‘05 in sociology, is an associate professor of sociology at Stanford University who studies immigration, assimilation, social mobility, and ethnic and racial identity. As a PhD student, Jiménez was part of the second cohort of students affiliated with the Multidisciplinary Program in Inequality and Social Policy based at Harvard Kennedy School. He says that this program, and his mentor Mary Waters, the John L. Loeb Professor of Sociology, had a profound impact on his approach to research.

“I was encouraged to do solid research and to make it relevant to both an academic and a policy audience,” says Jiménez.

This approach led Jiménez to explore what he feels is an underreported story about immigration in America.

“There is a common observation that immigration is changing everything, but I wanted to dive deeper than just asking whether established communities see immigrants as an economic or cultural threat,” says Jiménez.

Read more at gsas.harvard.edu/news/stories/re-shaping-american-identity
Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology

All the World Is Here: Anthropology on Display at the 1893 Chicago World’s Fair
Wednesday, December 6, 2017, 6:00 p.m., Geological Lecture Hall, 24 Oxford Street, Cambridge
Ira Jacknis, Research Anthropologist, Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley
The 1893 World’s Columbian Exposition in Chicago was the first American fair to feature anthropology. The new discipline had its own building, supervised by Frederic Putnam, director of Harvard University’s Peabody Museum. It competed, however, with another anthropology display organized by the Smithsonian Institution. Ira Jacknis will discuss how these exhibits offered competing versions of cultural reality, and he will trace anthropological display innovations that have become standard museum practice.

○ Free and open to the public. Presented by the Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology with free event parking at 52 Oxford Street Garage.
○ See more about the World’s Fair at the exhibition All the World Is Here: Harvard’s Peabody Museum and the Invention of American Anthropology. www.peabody.harvard.edu/all-the-world

Semitic Museum

From Stone to Silicone: Recasting Mesopotamian Wall Carvings
Exhibition opens Saturday, December 16, 2017, Harvard Semitic Museum, 6 Divinity Avenue, Cambridge
The Harvard Semitic Museum is reimagining its grand third-floor atrium gallery, featuring the arts of ancient Mesopotamia (present-day Iraq). This first installment showcases newly fabricated casts from the ancient scenes that once adorned Mesopotamian palace walls. Meticulously created by museum curators and Harvard students, these relief sculptures show how the ancient kings commemorated their military triumphs and civic achievements. For ancient audiences, these scenes presented powerful royal propaganda. For modern audiences, they reveal great artistry and important glimpses into life in the ancient Near East.

○ This exhibition is supported by a grant provided by the Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Fund, a program of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts administered through a collaborative arrangement between MassDevelopment and the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Radcliffe Institute

US Foreign Policy from the Inside Out: A Lecture with Samantha Power
January 25, 2018, 4:00 p.m., Knafel Center, 10 Garden Street, Cambridge
Samantha Power is the 2017–2018 Perrin Moorhead Grayson and Bruns Grayson Fellow at the Radcliffe Institute, professor of practice at Harvard Law School, and the Anna Lindh Professor of the Practice of Global Leadership and Public Policy at Harvard Kennedy School. She is a former US permanent representative to the United Nations and a former member of President Obama’s cabinet.

○ Register at radcliffe.harvard.edu/event/2017-samantha-power-fellow-presentation

Mahindra Center

The Mahindra Humanities Center and the Office of the President at Harvard present
The Tanner Lectures on Human Values
Social Justice Action: How We Change the World
Wednesday, December 6, 2017, 4:00 p.m. Lecture, 5:45 p.m. Panel Discussion, First Parish in Cambridge, 1446 Massachusetts Avenue
Bryan Stevenson is the founder and executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) in Montgomery, Alabama. Under his leadership, EJI has won major legal challenges eliminating excessive and unfair sentencing, exonerating innocent death row prisoners, confronting abuse of the incarcerated and the mentally ill, and aiding children prosecuted as adults. Stevenson recently won a historic ruling in the US Supreme Court banning mandatory life-without-parole sentences for all children 17 or younger.

○ Admission is free. Tickets required. Limit of 2 tickets per person, available by phone, online (for a fee), and in person at the Harvard Box Office–Farkas Hall, 20 Holyoke Street, Cambridge, beginning Wednesday, November 29. Tickets valid until 3:45 p.m.
○ More information at mahindrahumanities.fas.harvard.edu/content/social-justice-action-how-we-change-world
Holiday Film Evening: The Sound of Music  
Friday, December 1, 2017, 6:00 p.m., Dudley House Common Room.  
Celebrate the last day of fall term and the beginning of reading period by joining us for our annual holiday film treat, The Sound of Music! Crisp apple strudel, Julie Andrews, Captain von Trapp, nuns, Alps, a scheming baroness...and all those children! Music by Rodgers and Hammerstein, scenery by Salzburg and the film studios! Irresistible for so many of us...we can’t help it. Great fun for everyone! ◆ Open to all  

Dudley House Winter Formal  
Saturday, December 2, 2017, 8:00 p.m. doors open, 8:30 p.m. waltz lessons, 9:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m., Dudley House. Celebrate the end of classes at the Dudley House Winter Formal and see the House transformed into a breathtaking winter wonderland! ◆ Tickets are $15 in advance, $20 at the door (if any remain). Refreshments and drinks included. Students based in the Longwood Medical Area may reserve tickets by calling 617-495-2255. Open to Dudley House members and their guests. Questions? E-mail dudley.social@gmail.com.  

Writing and Study Boot Camp  
Saturday, December 2, 2017, and Sunday, December 3, 2017, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Café Gato Rojo.  
The Writing and Study Boot Camp provides a weekend’s worth of breakfast, lunch, and coffee in a quiet setting where the combination of enforced seclusion and proximity to other graduate students somehow, magically, ensures lots of work gets done. ◆ Open to all Dudley House members. Students in the Longwood Medical Area may register by calling 617-495-2255. E-mail dudleyhouse.literary@gmail.com with questions. Sign up by Friday, December 1, cost is $25 (cash or check) due at the time of sign up.  

Movie Night: Dead Poets Society  
Wednesday, December 6, 2017, 7:00 p.m., Dudley House Common Room. Set in 1959 at the fictional elite conservative Vermont boarding school Welton Academy, Dead Poets Society tells the story of an English teacher who inspires his students through his teaching of poetry. ◆ Refreshments provided. This event is free and open to all Dudley House members and their guests.  

Dudley House Ski Trip  
Friday, January 12, 2018, through Monday, January 15, 2018, or Monday, January 15, 2018, through Thursday, January 18, 2018. Head up to Sugarloaf Ski Resort, Maine, on one of two three-day trips during the last week of January break. Weekday and weekend trips leave from Harvard Square. Each package includes three days of ski lift passes, three nights accommodation, round trip transport to and from Maine, and more. ◆ Tickets $445 on sale until December 12, 2017. Cash/check only. If you need to rent equipment (snowboard or skis+poles, and boots), there will be an extra cost. Dudley House members may bring a guest. Questions? Contact outings@dudley.harvard.edu  

Dudley House Your Graduate Student Center since 1991  
Lehman Hall, Harvard Yard ✪ www.dudley.harvard.edu ✪ 617-495-2255  
Faculty Deans James M. Hogle and Doreen M. Hogle ✪ House Administrator Susan Zawalich
Professional development, broadly defined, refers to ways of enhancing career options. The process consists of two components, and both are important.

One is to develop new skills that appear to be important in the career fields that are of interest to you. For example, a popular area for PhDs is in academic administration. While you already have the advantage of firsthand knowledge of an academic institution, you probably have had little or no exposure to office work. To pursue a career in academic administration, you would need to acquire new skills that are of value in an administrative office. Another popular area is the world of business. Here you would need to familiarize yourself with the culture of the business world and also identify some skills that are essential in many business settings, including moving in a quantitative direction if that is a blank spot. The main point is to add to your current skills and experience to satisfy the demands of a new sector that you might want to enter.

The second component to the process of professional development is to take inventory of the skills that you have acquired or are acquiring as an integral part of your graduate training and to identify those that would enhance options in whatever career path you choose, including academe. The main point here is to be conscious of the potential value of the skills you are already acquiring during your graduate training and to develop them as fully as possible while you are still in school.

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GSAS has a variety of services to assist you in professional development, whether it is in component one or two.

- Make an appointment with the Fellowships Office for support as you apply for fellowships.
- If you are a PhD student who entered in fall 2015 or later, make use of the professional development funding included in your financial aid package.
- Attend events and classes offered by the Fellowships Office, the Office of Career Services, and the Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning.

CONTACT
If you have any questions about your fellowship applications, make an appointment to see Cynthia Verba, Director of the Fellowships Office
Richard A. and Susan F. Smith Campus Center
1350 Massachusetts Avenue, Suite 350
Phone: 617-495-1814
E-mail: cverba@fas.harvard.edu
gsas.harvard.edu/fellowships
Upcoming Events at the Office of Career Services

The Office of Career Services (OCS) provides a wide range of services and resources tailored specifically to the needs of master’s and PhD students. Advisors work confidentially with GSAS students on a wide range of career-related issues, from broad self-assessment and decision-making to specific advice on resume, CV, and cover letter preparation for academic and nonacademic job searches. OCS also offers monthly events designed to help graduate students with their professional development.

‑ “We Have No Idea”: A workshop and lecture on discovery and communicating your research
  Monday, December 4, 2017, Workshop (limited space, registration required): 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Lecture: 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Northwest Labs, Room B-103, Cambridge
  Now, more than ever, it is important that academics speak passionately and accessibly to the public about how and why they do research. Jorge Cham (creator of PhDcomics.com and co-author of We Have No Idea: A Guide to the Unknown Universe), will offer a two-hour workshop for 50 lucky graduate students and postdocs who will each create a one to two minute video explaining a complex topic to a general audience. Then, in an interactive lecture format, Cham will relay (in one to two minute video explaining a complex topic to a general audience. Then, in an interactive lecture format, Cham will relay (in

‑ How Harvard Can Help You Land a Job
  Tuesday, January 9, 2018, 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m., Webinar
  Are you a PhD student graduating in May? Have you just realized you need a job in a few months? Don’t panic! OCS is here to help you whip your nonacademic job search into shape. Check out this webinar to learn about valuable resources and strategies to begin an effective nonacademic job search. We will cover topics such as the importance of networking, how alumni can help in your search, skills you have that employers may be looking for, crafting an effective resume, and more!
  Registration details on the OCS events calendar at ocs.fas.harvard.edu/calendar

‑ Resumes and Cover Letters
  Thursday, January 18, 2018, 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m., Webinar
  Are you a PhD looking at nonacademic careers? Are you concerned about how to write an effective resume and cover letter? Join this webinar to learn tips on how to tighten and tailor your resume and cover letter to help you land an interview!!
  Registration details on the OCS events calendar at ocs.fas.harvard.edu/calendar

‑ Nonverbal Communication: How It Affects Your Job Search
  Monday, January 22, 2018, 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., OCS, 54 Dunster Street, Cambridge
  You might not think that things like tone of voice, facial expressions, or posture would affect your networking, interviewing, and negotiating processes, but they do! Come learn ways to effectively communicate nonverbally so that you can leave a positive, lasting impression with all those that you meet.
  Register through Crimson Careers at harvard-csm.symplicity.com/students

‑ Find a Quiet Place to Study
  Study@5 Linden—a pleasant, distraction-free study space with company, quiet, coffee, and cookies—is available during Reading and Exam Periods in the Bureau of Study Counsel at 5 Linden Street, Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
  Study@5 Linden is also available throughout the term on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

‑ Designate Writing Time
  Write@5 Linden—a writing space for dissertation writers, senior thesis writers, and other students with writing projects—is available in the Bureau of Study Counsel at 5 Linden Street, weekdays in January, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., beginning January 2 and running up until the start of classes.

‑ Visit the BSC during January
  The BSC is open throughout January. January is a good moment to visit the BSC for individual academic counseling conversations about matters such as orienting to the expectations and assumptions at work in graduate-level work; developing greater competence and confidence with reading, writing, speaking, and problem-solving; working collaboratively with others; developing a sense of voice and authority in one’s scholarship, relationships, and leadership; exploring issues of authentic motivation, purpose, and identity; and finding a meaningful path in life.

The Bureau of Study Counsel (BSC) offers a collection of services designed to support you in your efforts to learn and grow and engage in the educational opportunities available to you at Harvard. Visit the BSC at 5 Linden Street in Cambridge or online at bsc.harvard.edu.
Get Out
EXPLORATIONS AND ADVENTURES ON AND OFF CAMPUS

Family-Friendly New Year
December 31, 2017, 7:00 p.m., Boston Common
Enjoy the spectacular Boston Family Fireworks at a time when children can attend!
Part of First Night, First Day Boston.
Learn more at www.firstnightboston.org

Investigate How Planetary Life Begins
ORIGINS OF LIFE CONSORTIUM LOOKS TO EARTH AND OTHER PLANETS

The Origins of Life Consortium fosters an interdisciplinary approach across disciplines to answer questions related to the origin of life on Earth and the presence of life on other planets. As part of the Consortium’s activities, Zoe Todd, PhD student in astronomy, and Travis Walton, PhD student in biological and biomedical sciences, along with several other Consortium members and Origins faculty, traveled to Norway on the Consortium’s annual field trip to observe billions of years of the historical record preserved in the rock. The trip covered both basic introductions to the major rock types as well as outcrops with more complex stories. Overall, they gained perspective on the scale and scope of geological events that may have played a role during the origin of life and throughout Earth’s history.

In addition, the trip provided ample time to talk with graduate students outside their fields. “Being an astronomer and a biochemist, neither one of us held much prior experience in geology,” says Todd. “Fortunately, the geology students and senior faculty were there to supply context for the rock samples we collected.” Back at Harvard, Todd and Walton are continuing to analyze their samples in the laboratory to understand their composition and age. “This trip has been a unique opportunity to become immersed in a completely different field and to broaden our knowledge,” shares Walton.

For further information about getting involved in the Origins of Life Consortium, please contact Kelly Colbourn-Moreno, coordinator of academic programs, outreach and events, at kelly.moreno@cfa.harvard or by visiting origins.harvard.edu/graduate_consortium.