



THE REALM OF POSSIBILITY



A new career-guidance website for global health

Harvard Global Health Institute

Who is Global Health?

The field of global health inspires students to tackle a huge set of integrative problems. Courses expose students to broad definitions of health, emphasizing the need for collaboration amongst a slew of actors from different disciplines. Yet, the options for careers in global health are often portrayed quite narrowly, obscuring the wide range of opportunities that exists. The Realm of Possibility aims to bridge this gap.

The Idea Behind the Realm

The Realm of Possibility will be an online career-guidance resource for students. The website will profile a series of diverse professionals who contribute in some way to the field of global health. That's where you come in. Students want to hear how you connected the dots, experimented, dealt with uncertainty, and finally got to where you are today. Your narrative can offer students a glimpse into what is possible, ultimately helping them understand career paths that they might not previously have imagined.

The Basic Structure

Unlike traditional career-guidance resources that are siloed by discipline or profession, The Realm of Possibility centers jobs around specific challenges in global health. This allows the students to ask themselves what issues they care about and learn how different professionals work to solve these very problems. The burden of HIV, for example, requires the help of not just doctors and biomedical researchers, but engineers, architects, lawyers, policymakers, and educators. The Realm of Possibility pilots this innovative problem-based approach to career guidance. Presenting the variety of pathways that people have taken to forage dynamic careers, and prompting students to consider what they are passionate about, gives them permission to explore the truly expansive field of global health without disciplinary or professional boundaries to constrain them.

The Interview Set-Up

Each contributor will be asked to record a 2-minute audio story and answer a series of interview questions (lasting approximately 30-45 minutes) that will be compiled into a profile. Contributors will also be asked to provide 5 photos, which will be turned into a digital slideshow to accompany the audio recording. One photo should be a headshot, and the others should pertain to the contributor's work, office, and/or audio story in some manner. After the interview has been edited and condensed into a profile, contributors will be sent a draft version for their approval. The set of interview questions is provided on the following page.

Interview Questions

For Audio:

1. What problem are you currently working to solve?
2. Please tell a short, personal story that gives students a glimpse of why you care about solving this problem through your particular line of work.

For Extended Text Profile:

1. What problem are you currently working to solve?
2. Describe who you are, where you're from and your current role/job/profession/area of study.
3. Can you describe the path that led you to where you are now (major, internships, jobs), and how your path changed over time? Is this where you expected yourself to be?
4. Who or what inspired you to take the path you took?
5. Give a sampling of what you do on a day-to-day basis. What types of people do you work with? How does your work continue to challenge you?
6. What are some of the enjoyable parts of what you do? What are some of the downsides of what you do?
7. What is a challenge that you faced in your career? How did you deal with this challenge?
8. What is your vision for working on the problem that you are invested in solving? How do you propose we get there?
9. What types of interests and activities do you maintain outside of your work?
10. Can you recommend three articles or books that positively impacted you that students might benefit from reading?
11. What piece of advice do you have for students who are in the process of discovering their passion?



Licensing

All content will be available both on the HGHI website and www.TheRealmOfPossibility.org, where students will be able to learn about careers in global health, and link to similar profiles collected by other non-health organizations and institutions involved in problem-based career guidance. All content for The Realm of Possibility will be under a Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Unported License. This means that all content can be shared, adapted, and used for commercial purposes if attributed properly. Profiles may also be used for research and articles related to The Realm of Possibility. Contributors will be asked to sign Harvard's speaker consent form at the time of the interview.



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