Report:

My podcast, *Wisdom at Work: Philosophy Beyond the Ivory Tower*, features interviews with people who practice philosophy outside the academy.

These include four groups of people: 1) “Agents”: academics who do public-facing work; 2) “Naturals”: people with no formal training in philosophy but whose work is philosophical in nature; 3) “Rogues”: former academics who are self-employed entrepreneurs doing some combination of teaching, research, counseling, or consulting; and 4) “Escape Artists”: former academics who transitioned into a new industry.

In the interviews, I invite guests to share their stories, specifically the challenges they faced forging a new professional identity and repurposing their philosophical training for work in the public and private sectors, in for-profit and non-profit organizations, and across a wide range of professions, including philosophical counseling, philosophy for children, management consulting, human resources, tech, journalism, government and public policy, finance, and law.

From their stories, I aim to distill the pathways (*where* they went) and the patterns (*how* they got there). In tandem with the interviews, I am currently working with a research assistant to gather nation-wide data about careers for undergraduate and graduate philosophy students. My aim is to collect as many stories and as much data as possible to create a comprehensive map of the professional prospects for philosophers. My hope is that this will be a useful resource for students (both undergraduate and graduate), faculty (to recruit majors, to help them connect what they are studying with potential careers, and to provide graduate students with career options outside of academia and the tools to pursue them), and administrators (to better understand why they should invest in philosophy programs (and the humanities broadly) and to better market their graduate programs).

The podcast was launched in mid-May of 2019. To date, I have recorded 33 interviews spanning between one and three hours in length, both in person and remotely, and have scheduled an additional six interviews through August. Of these, I have produced 15 episodes. Moving forward, I plan to continue the podcast indefinitely, releasing an episode each week. At the current rate, I have enough material to last into Spring 2021, and I will continue to record new interviews from now until then. I currently have a list of potential guests with over 100 names on it, and typically, each guest will lead me to one or two more.

In addition to the guest interviews, I am planning to do quarterly “patterns and pathways” episodes that serve as a kind of “stock take” to reflect on recent episodes and try to identify what I’ve learned. Ultimately, my plan is to produce a book distilling and synthesizing what I learn from the project. In effect, the interviews function as research for that book, which I have already outlined and plan to work on in earnest next year once I have a substantial amount of interviews on the books.

Beyond the work of recruiting and scheduling guests, recording interviews, and editing and producing episodes, there is the work of marketing and promotion. The podcast is currently hosted on the major podcast networks (Apple, Google, and Spotify), and is also a part of
Lyceum, an educational podcast network. I have primarily relied on my personal and professional networks to promote it, and it has been featured on some of the prominent blogs in the profession, such as the *Daily Nous* and the *Philosopher’s Cocoon*. Moving forward, to grow my listenership and achieve greater impact, I will need to devote more time and resources to marketing and promotion.

My general takeaway, now that the project has cruising altitude, is that there is massive potential here, and the resources I hope to provide will be in even greater demand than before I started the project. The academic job market has been punishing for a long time, and is likely going to get even worse in the wake of the pandemic. Many if not most folks who pursue graduate work in philosophy do not go into or stay in academia. The question, then, is where do they go, and how do they get there? If we re-order our academic institutions, our curricula, and our departmental and professional cultures to better prepare students for a wide range of professions, we will better serve them and we will be more likely to grow our numbers and thus improve the academic job market and the profession as a whole.

**Budget:**

- *Funds Awarded:* 1000.00

- *Funds Spent:*

  I spent the funds on equipment (two microphones, a digital recorder, and pop filters), training (a workshop at a local studio that teaches audio production), and services (the website for the podcast and related resources). The funds helped me acquire the tools, technical knowledge, and digital infrastructure required for a project like this, and the WordPress site fee will allow me to continue the project through the summer of 2021. The seed grant from the Berry Fund has been very helpful to me in getting this project off the ground, and I am grateful to the APA and the committee for providing it.

  - Microphone 1: 69.00
  - Microphone 2: 69.00
  - Digital Recorder: 279.00
  - Pop filters: 6.49
  - Podcast Workshop: 75.00
  - WordPress website fee 2019: 320.00
  - WordPress website fee 2020: 300.00

  - Total: <1000.00