Uneven Experiences and Rewards in the Intern Economy: The Case of Arts and Design Graduates

Wednesday, February 17, 2021, 11am CST (US)

Drawing on survey data with 200,000 arts and design alumni, Dr. Alex Frenette from Vanderbilt University will talk with CCWT Director Dr. Matthew Hora about the rise of paid and especially unpaid internships in the creative sector, how arts graduates feel about their internship experiences, how these alumni say higher education could improve internships going forward, and how gender may shape unequal intern-to-career pathways.

Alexandre Frenette is an assistant professor of sociology and associate director of the Curb Center for Art, Enterprise, and Public Policy at Vanderbilt University. Using the music industry as his case study, he is currently working on a monograph about the challenges and the promise of internships as part of higher education. His writing on artistic workers and the intern economy have won awards from the Society for the Study of Social Problems as well as the Labor and Employment Relations Association.

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