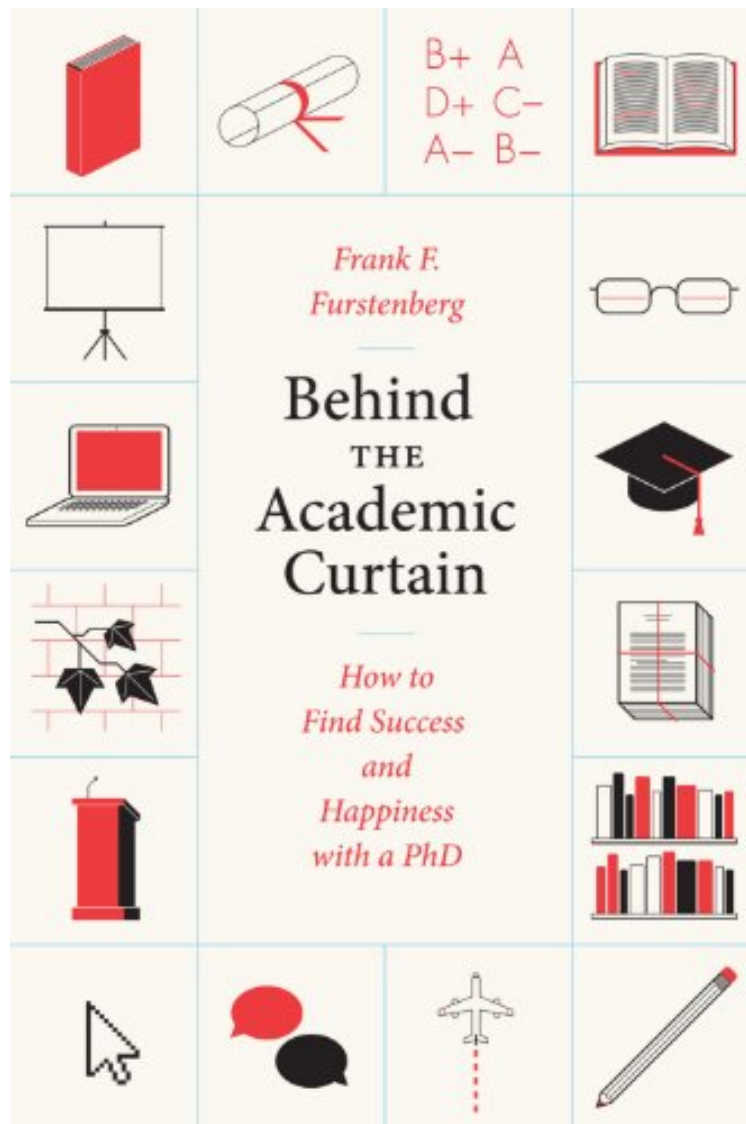


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Behind the Academic Curtain: How to Find Success and Happiness with a PhD (Chicago Guides to Academic Life)

Frank F. Furstenberg
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Frank F. Furstenberg : Behind the Academic Curtain: How to Find Success and Happiness with a PhD (Chicago Guides to Academic Life) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Behind the Academic Curtain: How to Find Success and Happiness with a PhD (Chicago Guides to Academic Life):

5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. A Wise and Sensible BookBy Los Angeles ProfessorFurstenberg

provides wise and sensible advice, drawing from a lifetime career at U of Penn in Sociology, for all scholars in all fields, from PhD to retirement. I found his thoughts on the last phase of a career, the "endgame," and retirement to be thoughtful and quite prudent. Throughout, his suggestions and guidance are right on. I suspect that those in laboratory sciences or mathematics or theoretical science fields are in a slightly different position, at least as graduate students. There are a number of guidebooks for budding natural scientists that may be good supplements. If you listen to his advice, you will be better off. If you are studying higher education, again and again he points to lacunae in the research literature, and that may well suggest vital research topics. I am a professor and I recently published a book with some of the goals of "Behind the Academic Curtain" (mine is "The Scholar's Survival Manual," Indiana U Press). So I bought the book and read it with my own work in mind as well as all the other books I have seen that advise scholars. My book is a complement to his, meant more as monitory guidance, for when you hear Furstenberg's advice and then do not really listen. I spend more time on pathologies and misdirections. In general, what is most tragic about scholarly life (and this is of course much more general) is that most people know more or less what they ought do but believe they might do something else and succeed--and so they get hit by the proverbial truck. On the other hand, Furstenberg's and my books, both give away the secret handshakes and tacit premises of the scholarly life. It's wonderful to see the different tone of each book. But in practical terms they say the same thing.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Sensible and informative
By Eduardo Bessa
This is the first book I read that goes beyond tenuring, reaching retirement. Even though the author is from a totally different area from mine, his approach is sensible, charismatic and absolutely useful to me. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. It is a great overview of an academic career from its very beginning ...
By Customer
It is a great overview of an academic career from its very beginning till the end. Lots of tips on how to start, go on, and survive. A must for everyone who's considering going to grad school, as well as those who have already decided to follow this path.

More people than ever are going to graduate school to seek a PhD these days. When they get there, they discover a bewildering environment: a rapid immersion in their discipline, a keen competition for resources, and uncertain options for their future, whether inside or outside of academia. Life with a PhD can begin to resemble an unsolvable maze. Behind the Academic Curtain, Frank F. Furstenberg offers a clear and user-friendly map to this maze. Drawing on decades of experience in academia, he provides a comprehensive, empirically grounded, and, most important of all, practical guide to academic life. While the greatest anxieties for PhD candidates and postgrads are often centered on getting that tenure-track dream job, each stage of an academic career poses a series of distinctive problems. Furstenberg divides these stages into five chapters that cover the entire trajectory of an academic life, including how to make use of a PhD outside of academia. From finding the right job to earning tenure, from managing teaching loads to conducting research, from working on committees to easing into retirement, he illuminates all the challenges and opportunities an academic can expect to encounter. Each chapter is designed for easy consultation, with copious signposts, helpful suggestions, and a bevy of questions that all academics should ask themselves throughout their career, whether at a major university, junior college, or a nonacademic organization. An honest and up-to-date portrayal of how this life really works, Behind the Academic Curtain is an essential companion for any scholar, at any stage of his or her career.

“An exceptionally comprehensive guide to an entire academic career, from deciding where to apply to grad school to determining when it's time to retire.”