

Episode 64 – Welcome to Season 4!

Grad-post is back for Season 4! I'm your host, Brian S. Mitchell, and we're here to talk about life before, during and after graduate school, and whether an advanced degree is right for you.

Before I give you a preview of what's coming this season, let me share that the content of this podcast is gaining traction across the mainstream media. The rising threats to graduate education that I first outlined last year in Episode 38 and again most recently in my 2025-26 year in review of Episode 62 have been highlighted by Liam Knox on Bloomberg:

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/audio/2026-07-08/big-take-america-s-grad-school-bubble-is-bursting-podcast>

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/videos/2026-07-24/graduate-schools-face-crisis-during-trump-admin-video>

and by Julie Posselt in her recent op-ed at AERA.net:

<https://www.aera.net/Newsroom/AERA-Highlights-E-newsletter/AERA-Highlights-July-2026/Julie-Posselt-Correction-Bubble-or-Existential-Crisis-Is-this-the-End-of-Graduate-Education-as-We-Know-It>

Mainstream media coverage is not the aim of this podcast, but information and analysis dissemination certainly are, so it's heartening to see that this research is being accessed.

I want to focus this season primarily on graduate education administrators: admissions committee members, associate deans and graduate deans. I've sprinkled high-level thought pieces into my podcasts the past three years, including such topics as [Representational Aspiration in Episode 40](#) and the [impact of recent policy changes on graduate education](#) this past year, but I want to be more timely and provocative in some of my pieces, so expect to see more from sitting deans and policy influencers. Don't worry prospective and current grad students, there's still plenty for you! In fact, I'm starting off the season with a deep dive into the PhD dissertation – what it is, what it is becoming, and what it could be – with the aid of some industry experts. I'll also be adding to the "I Have a PhD" catalog with representatives outside academia.

Thanks for joining me today. Look for the first full episode of Season 4 - What is the Dissertation? in about two weeks. And tune in every two weeks after that for more ways to make every degree count!

Links

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/audio/2026-07-08/big-take-america-s-grad-school-bubble-is-bursting-podcast>

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