The Passion Project: Transitioning into Work You Love
THE PASSION PROJECT
TRANSITIONING INTO WORK YOU LOVE

Dr Jack Tsao
Faculty of Medicine HKU
THE JOURNEY THROUGH MIRO

GUIDELINES

- Be respectful to others when commenting on the board
- Participate and share
- Have fun!

Please download the Miro app if you are joining with your mobile phone: https://miro.com/apps/

LOGIN DETAILS

https://miro.com/app/board/o9J_lOzJmVU=/

THE PASSION PROJECT
What's your dream setting?

1. Click on the sticky note icon in the menu on the left side of your screen
2. Select a sticky note, then click on a photo to place your note
3. Type your name on the sticky note.
WHAT IS IT?

Workshop series to:

- Help you explore and uncover what your passion is in life
- Encourage and inspire you to pursue your dreams
- Develop capacities to further that passion

Talks given by thought-leaders, entrepreneurs, industry professionals, innovators, and dreamers, covering a range of topics from life-planning, sharing of success stories, relationships, and self-development.

We would love to hear your ideas on how we can make the workshops more useful for you.
What are you hoping to learn tonight?

- How do I narrow down/figure out the industries I want to get into?
- Turning passion from idea to action/achievement.
- How to find the courage to start and follow your passions.
- Getting Insights from Experts on How To Take My Passion and Fulfill on it.
- How do I make my passion into a sustainable career field?
- How do you figure out which passions to pursue and when?
- How can I find one single passion/career to pursue when I'm interested in so many things? And time is limited.
- How can I find my passion?
- How do I come up with a feasible idea to start following my passion.
- What should I focus on/aiming other than getting too obsessed with grades.
Questions? Park them here!

- How did you transition from someone shy who didn't know how to communicate to being able to teach others about communication and leadership?
- How do you go about doing large career transitions?
- How do you tell the difference between my passion and stuff I'm interested in?
- Why did you enter finance? Was it for the money?
- Why did you get into fashion?
- Why did you get a PhD? Were you expecting/trying to go into academia?
- At what point should I give up on one passion, in terms of pursuing it as a career?
- What is your advice for building meaningful, authentic relationships with others? Especially pertaining to work relationships?
- About the job search: focus on quantity and a broad search, or a focused, narrow search?
- How do you know when it's time to leave a role and search for a new one?
- How do I ensure I'm not spreading myself too thin when exploring?
- Do you have any advice for developing communication skills?
- What made you think getting into business banking was a mistake?
- Does everyone have a passion? Or some people just don't.
- Why is finding your passion important?
TONIGHT’S JOURNEY

WHY IS IT HARD TO FIND YOUR PASSION?
DEVELOPING OUR CAPACITIES
RELATIONALITY
OUR POTENTIAL

THE PASSION PROJECT
MY BACKGROUND

Undergraduate Student
Science (Biochemistry) / Economics

Business Banker

Facilitator

Leadership and Communications Consultant

Entrepreneur

Teaching / Academia

THE PASSION PROJECT
Why is it hard to find your passion?

- Sometimes the idea of passion is different from actually pursuing it; it might not be that fascinating.
- My interests are conditioned by social expectations.
- How can I determine if something is my passion?
- We are not honest with ourselves.
- How to tell the difference between my passion and stuff I'm just interested in?
- To find your passion, there is an element of experience, but it's a huge investment to take the lead and get into something you don't necessarily know you'll enjoy.
- Not sure if the transition will work!
- Not sure if my passions can become a money earning job.
- And not sure if my talent is there.
- Sometimes I'm interested, but not interested in stuff I can do. So, what should I focus on?
- Need to financially support yourself.
- My interests are based on my parents' expectations. I don't really have a passion of my own.
- People have busy everyday lives, too tired to think and explore their passions.
LIMITATIONS TO FINDING OUR PASSION

1. Limited understanding of our capacities.

2. Limited understanding of how all these capacities related to each other holistically.

3. Limited understanding of our potential for growth and change.

Influenced by our relationships, culture, expectations of ourselves, and our education.
DEVELOPING OUR CAPACITIES
CREATING SPACES

- Opportunities do not always arise in our everyday lives to discover or develop what we are good at.

- Need to actively seek out and create these spaces.
EXPLORATION

- Messing around with different things. Accumulate and diversify your passions.
- Self-discovery of your passion period is valuable.
- Do stuff and make mistakes.
- Always be active doing stuff and meeting people. Discovering your passion comes from doing.
CULTIVATING DIFFERENCE

- Told to suppress your nature when you start your career.
- Passion economy vs widget economy
- Searching for authenticity.
- Rewarded for finding your passion and what sets you apart from others.
- Give up stability and clarity of your job.

The Passion Economy
The New Rules for Thriving in the Twenty-First Century

Adam Davidson
Cofounder, NPR's Planet Money

THE PASSION PROJECT
FINDING OUR WEAKNESSES

- Weaknesses can act as signposts to identify your passions.
- Starting from a position of weakness can be a source of strength.
- What ‘medium’ do you need to develop?
HUMILITY TO LEARN

- Danger if you start feeling you already know all there is to know.
- Literature through history warning of hubris.
- Pay attention and listen to people as if they have something to teach you.
What capacity would you like to develop more of?

- Music
- Team building
- EQ
- Social skills
- The skill to identify and correct my mistakes
- Interpersonal skills in a social context
- Leadership skills

- Data analytics
- Presentation skills
- Water sport coach
RELATIONALITY
PLACE IN THE WORLD

- World is complex and interdependent. Disciplinary boundaries are blurred.
- How do you fit into this world?
- Matching passion to the economy

THE PASSION PROJECT
CRUEL OPTIMISM

“A relation of cruel optimism exists when something you desire is actually an obstacle to your flourishing.”

- Attachments to unachievable fantasies of the good life – upward mobility, job security, durable relationships, political and social equality – despite the rapid changes to our society.

- Doing what everyone is doing but expecting a different result.
TOUR VS MAP KNOWLEDGE

- Tour (or topographical) knowledge – operational, recognize directions of another, take prearranged route and vague understanding of final destination.

- Map (or topological) knowledge – see the bigger picture, familiar with territory, sense of direction, knowledge of nodes & pathways to desired destination, awareness of alternative routes. Explorers and cartographers.
CONNECT THE DOTS

- Life rarely follows a logical or linear progression.
- Passions will form from intersections of unlikely interests and capacities.
- Carving out unique path and combination.

You can’t connect the dots looking forward; you can only connect them looking backwards. So you have to trust that the dots will somehow connect in your future.

- Steve Jobs
MY BACKGROUND

Undergraduate Student
Science (Biochemistry) / Economics

Business Banker
Worked as a Marketing Assistant for a shopping mall

Facilitator
Finished a Masters in Applied Finance

Entrepreneur
Selling goods on Groupon

Leadership and Communications Consultant
Selling shoes on eBay

Teaching / Academia
Learning Programming and Data Science

Finished a PhD Education
Renovating houses
What may be interesting to learn about that you've never tried learning before?
OUR POTENTIAL
RENEWAL AND CHANGE

• Not like there’s something inherent that is waiting to be unlocked. There is no perfect path.

• Turning points or epiphanies.

• Our passions may evolve over time.

• Can take pieces from the past and (re)create yourself from past experiences and networks.

• Stupid choices will eventually lead to redemption or a better outcome.
OUR PERSONAL LIFE NARRATIVES

- Stories (either fictional or non-fictional) are a way to make sense of the world.

- Passion is a story. Need to learn the vocabulary and how to tell your personal story to others and more importantly yourself. Be a storyteller of your value.

- Invites dialogue and self-reflection.

- Agency and communion with others.
Sometimes when you're in a dark place you think you've been buried, but you've actually been planted.”

- Christine Caine

NECESSARY SUFFERING

- Part of the process of change
- A sign you are shifting to a new paradigm
- Letting go before you are forced to let go
- The beautiful idea that we can sacrifice the present for the future
What is one challenge I would like to overcome?

- Becoming more clear of my goals
- Overcoming my anxiety of speaking to a large audience, improving public speaking skills.
- Comparing myself to others
- Being more determined/dedicated in what I'm passionate in
- To really make a space for developing my capacity rather than wasting that time for nothing
- Lack of confidence, assertivity
- Stage fright
- Overthinking
- Work under stress
- Time management
- Finding the strength of trying new things we might really like
KEY TAKEAWAYS

• Be curious and explore beyond your subjective limitations. Go acquire different types of knowledge and skills, you won’t know where it will take you.

• Everything you learn and experience will connect somewhere in the future.

• Wherever you are, the potential for renewal and change is always present.
What is one thing I will commit to doing for the next 3 months?

- Re-design and launch new website
- Going to the gym
- Produce and post a new song
- Finish reading some of the books I put down on my to-do list!
- Research paper for an internship
- Better time management
- Stop being procrastinated for challenging tasks
- Really try to identify my goal and passion
- The Google analytics course I signed up for
THANK YOU

Love to hear from you!

👤 JACK TSAO
✉️ jtsao@hku.hk
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