

BEYOND YALE

“When you ask the best questions of yourself and others, you invite the best answers.”
ANGELA BASSETT '80 AMERICAN ACTRESS

Now in Toronto, former Yale professors continue to counter Trump

BY SASHA HUROWITZ
STAFF REPORTER

Last spring, three Yale professors — history professors Marci Shore and Timothy Snyder and philosophy professor Jason Stanley — left New Haven for the University of Toronto’s Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy.

A year later, Shore and Stanley spoke to the News about the public-facing scholarship they have been working on in Toronto in the face of what they described as an authoritarian rise in the United States, as well as their motivations for leaving and the chilling effect across American academia.

While the three professors departed after the same year, they described decisions made based on varied timelines and distinct philosophical rationales. Stanley said in a phone interview that his departure “didn’t have much to do with Yale.” Instead, he said, he executed his departure to send a deliberate political message to the world that the United States is in severe crisis.

Stanley told The Guardian in March 2025 that his final decision to leave was catalyzed by watching Columbia University “completely capitulate” to political pressure.

After the Trump administration announced the cancellation of \$400 million in Columbia’s research funding, the university agreed to overhaul its protest policies and place its Middle Eastern, South Asian and African studies department and Center for Palestine Studies under an administrator’s purview. Stanley told The Guardian that he “just became very worried” when he “didn’t see a strong enough reaction in other universities to side with Columbia.”

Over a year later, Stanley noted that he is still uncertain if leaving was the correct decision.

“Whether or not it was the right decision depends on all kinds of factors,” Stanley said, explaining that his decision’s merit will ultimately depend on what he and his colleagues can build in Canada to support American democracy.

Stanley said at the Munk School, he is working to establish a center

that gathers global experts to combat authoritarianism and facism. By operating out of Toronto, he said that scholars can bypass what he refers to as the “anti-wokeness” funding restrictions spreading across American universities. He added that the freedom of speech in Canada allows him to organize and speak candidly about American politics without risking institutional backlash.

Shore also wrote in an email to the News that the Munk School is designed precisely to support “interdisciplinary, engagé, both academic- and public-facing scholarship.” While she acknowledged the historical debate over scholars’ politically neutral, Shore asserted that she cannot maintain academic detachment.

She wrote that her background as a historian of Eastern Europe allowed her to recognize “postmodern forms of fascism emerging” in American politics as early as 2015, comparing the climate to 1930s Europe. Combined with the ongoing slaughter of her friends and colleagues in Ukraine, Shore stated that neutrality is no longer a moral option.

Shore added that her departure was a “very gradual, complex family decision” that originated long before the 2024 election. Shore emphasized that her choice was not exclusively political but that it was heavily influenced by anxieties about American gun violence.

Pointing to New Haven’s proximity to the 2012 Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting, which took place in Newtown, Conn., Shore noted her desire to raise her children in a country where per-capita gun ownership is lower.

Drawing on her academic background, Shore wrote, “I’m a Slavacist, and I always have in mind what Anton Chekhov said about guns: once the gun is on the stage, it has to go off by the end of the last act. I fear that’s true in life as well as in theater.”

In a video posted last June on Substack, the online newsletter platform, Snyder rejected public framings that he and his partner, Shore, were fleeing the Trump administration or acting out of cowardice. To his more than 400,000 subscribers, Snyder noted that his relocation was

a family decision made during the Biden administration and argued that leaving an elite private institution for a public university like Toronto is a progressive action.

“I can teach more diverse students, including students from more diverse economic backgrounds,” he said, adding that he hopes to be worthy of them.

Addressing broader progressive strategies, Snyder argued on his Substack that international mobility and cross-border institutions have historically been crucial to democratization.

He warned his audience against equating physical presence with political action, stating that “staying is not the same thing as fighting.”

Addressing broader political strategies, Snyder cautioned those who consider themselves “progressive or being somehow in the resistance” against turning their energy inward to critique imperfect allies. “Dismissiveness is essential to Trumpism,” he said, warning that looking for excuses to dismiss others is a habit that draws people away from tangible political action.

Snyder declined to comment for this article.

A chilling effect on American academia, but sparks of hope from Yale

Shore and Stanley also pointed to a concerning shift in the climate of American higher education, observing an increasing atmosphere of fear and self-censorship among both faculty and students. These warnings arrive as the second Trump administration places unprecedented financial and ideological pressure on higher education.

In July, Trump signed the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, which raised the top tax rate on private university endowments from 1.4 percent to 8 percent.

Beyond financial penalties, the executive branch has leveraged federal funding to enforce ideological conformity. Last April, Trump signed an executive order overhauling the college accreditation system to explicitly eliminate diversity, equity and inclusion standards in favor of what he described as intellectual diversity.

Shore told the News that her “apocalyptic nightmares” have



KIMBERLY ANGELES / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Professors Marci Shore and Jason Stanley, who both left Yale for the University of Toronto last spring, said Canada has provided a more open academic climate for them to resist what they described as an authoritarian rise at home.

begun playing out in the real world, noting that her American colleagues “no longer speak openly or directly about politics in public forums.”

Shore pointed to an incident in January 2025 when Vice President JD Vance LAW '13 tweeted that her husband, Snyder, was an “embarrassment to Yale.” Her fear, she noted, did not stem from Vance’s comments but from the fact that no Yale colleagues publicly defended him.

Drawing on her expertise as a historian of 20th-century totalitarianism, Shore warned that in situations of encroaching tyranny, “people most often lower their heads and get in line.”

Stanley said that American universities are facing immense pressure from donors and the federal government to implement “affirmative action for conservatives” and lean into “Trumpist anti-wokeness.” He further warned that this is a “voluntary” and “pointless effort” to placate what he described as an authoritarian regime.

Stanley also expressed sympathy for students navigating an “atmosphere of fear,” arguing that mainstream publications — such as The New York Times and The Atlantic — have systematically vilified student protestors over the last decade. He noted that this media framing historically positioned leftist students as a primary threat to democracy, which helped fuel right-wing political backlashes.

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In a job market reshaped by AI, seniors confront new demands

BY JOLYNDA WANG
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This year’s graduates who chose to enter the job market face a workforce inextricably altered by the proliferation of artificial intelligence technology.

Over 54 percent of the class of 2026 will enter into the workforce following graduation, per a survey conducted by the News. For these seniors, artificial intelligence is impacting their job search process and the skillsets employers are looking for.

“We have seen AI as a skill show up in many more job descriptions,” Yale Office of Career Strategy Director Jeanine Dames said in a Zoom

interview with the News, adding that the “biggest change” in the job market is the regularity with which employers ask about AI.

Based on her office’s annual survey on post-graduate plans, though, it appears that employment outcomes have remained relatively steady compared to past years, Dames said. She added that 62 percent of the class of 2026 has responded so far.

“We’re not seeing it as a threat to the job market,” Dames said of AI. “It’s certainly become a skill that employers want students to have or to be willing to learn.”

Dames cited a May report from the National Association of Colleges and Employers, which found that demand for AI skills has more than

doubled in the last six months for entry level jobs. Ultimately, she said the rise of AI has reinforced the value of a liberal arts education.

“Because AI is a tool, now everybody has access to all the same information,” she said. “Everyone has access to all the same reports, all the same data. So now the tool becomes,

‘Who’s thinking about this? Who’s thinking about the right prompts and the right efficiency?’”

She noted that this kind of resurgence of critical-thinking abilities among employers’ demands aligns well with the skills emphasized in a liberal arts education.

“The liberal arts education is really shining in this moment,” Dames said.

In April, the News distributed an independent survey to members of the class of 2026 and received 171 responses: 54.4 percent of respondents reported entering the workforce immediately after graduation, while 23.4 percent said they would pursue continuing education.

Another 8.2 percent reported plans to both work and continue their education. Some seniors also reported plans to travel, participate in volunteer or service programs or remained undecided about their post-graduation plans.

Seniors expressed mixed views on the potential of AI in the job market they’re entering.

Ethan Chiu '26, who secured a position with the Council on Foreign Relations while pursuing a master’s degree in public policy at the Jackson School of Global Affairs, said he believes AI technology will significantly alter the labor market in the years ahead.

“There’s going to be pretty significant job shifts. Exactly how is to be determined, but I do think there are going to be changes in what people do and what opportunities there might be,” Chiu said in a phone interview with the News. “In terms of enabling people to multiply their productivity, I think there’s just tremendous potential.”

However, Zane Glick '26, who said he will work in creative consulting, social media management and filmmaking industries in New York City, said he opposes using AI even in preparing resumes and cover letters. Other students see AI as opening entirely new professional opportunities.

Glick also described the difficulties that he experienced when searching for internships as “disheartening” in a phone interview with the News and noted his skepticism of the “job

application process in general — sending resumes and cover letters into the void.”

“I kind of just thought that the fact that I went to Yale would just put a job right in my lap,” Glick said.

But Andy Gu '26 noted that he thinks that Yale “uniquely positions” its students in the job market, thanks to “the connections that you can find.”

“I do think that the endowment tax for research and academia have made searching for jobs a little bit more difficult, but I wouldn’t say there’s a restriction of opportunity. I recognize that going to this institution I’m privileged enough to not face some of the difficulties,” Gu wrote in a text message in the News. “The job market is tough, and it always has been tough.”

Gu wrote that he plans to balance medical school applications with a healthcare services research position with a Yale emergency medicine professor.

During economic downturns, universities often see an increase in students pursuing graduate school immediately after college, particularly among students who may not have secured their preferred job opportunities, according to Dames. So far, Yale has not seen a substantial shift in that direction, Dames said.

“I would not say we are in a challenging economy. At least for our data right now, it looks pretty much on track,” Dames said. “That’s also, I think, an indication of still a good hiring market — that students are getting the opportunities that they want and are going right to work.”

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XIMENA SOLORZANO / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The class of 2026 enters a job market that demands dexterity with AI technology and complementary critical thinking skills. The director of Yale’s Office of Career Strategy told the News that employment outcomes have remained steady.