

THE PHD AFTERLIFE

GREG KELLY
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER, CBC IDEAS

It began with an image: the Bodleian Library, Oxford. This is where I was determined to do my doctorate on Oscar Wilde. And I did, thinking maybe of pursuing an academic career. I wasn't sure, but I knew I wanted a life of the mind, felt called to it. But during the course of my studies, I gradually got turned off by lousy job prospects, and what I took to be the orthodoxy that French theory had become in Anglo-American universities. Still, I was ploughing ahead, and was even awarded a postdoc to go to Stanford. Then I experienced an unshakeable deconversion moment, something I've come to know as my offramp epiphany—the offramp before Damascus. I got my doctorate, but left the academy. My first job: proofreading Harlequin romances -- funny now, but depressing and demeaning back then. But I soon got a foot in the door at CBC Radio and haven't looked back. My point: there is life after the PhD even if an academic career isn't in the cards. And your identity as an intellectual will not only survive -- it may thrive in ways you've never even imagined.

Wednesday, January 29 2020
4:00PM
Arts Building 230

Greg Kelly is the Executive Producer of the CBC Radio program IDEAS, with which he's had a working relationship since 1989. He's worked at CBC in television and radio, and his documentaries in both media have won multiple national and international awards. Prior to joining IDEAS, Greg developed and led public radio programs at NPR and Radio Netherlands Worldwide. Greg also holds a doctorate in English literature from Oxford University.

TRaCE Talks
Pathways for PhDs



McGill

TRaCE
TRACK REPORT CONNECT EXCHANGE