Energy Career and Leadership Webinar Series
Spring 2024
Adapting to Change: Building a Resilient Career in the Energy Sector Amidst Dynamic Shifts

This webinar will be recorded.
Adapting to Change: Building a Resilient Career in the Energy Sector Amidst Dynamic Shifts

Alan Rossiter
Executive Director, External Relations & Educational Program Development
UH Energy, University of Houston
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Confirmed Presenters

Rey Banatao, Ph.D. Director / Project Lead, X (formerly Google X)
Presentation Topic: Fall in Love with the Problem - Lessons in Moonshot Taking, Climate and Entrepreneurship

Don Victory. Founder and Chair of Energy Mentors; previously Upstream Chief Process Engineer at ExxonMobil
Presentation Topic: Defeating Career Anxiety

Presentation Topic: From Raising Cows to Removing Carbon: A Personal Sustainability Journey

Jane Stricker. SVP and Executive Director, Houston Energy Transition Initiative (HETI), The Greater Houston Partnership.
Presentation Topic: Navigating a Successful Career in a Changing Energy Industry

Sindhu Balan. Investment principal, Chevron Technology Ventures (CTV).
Presentation Topic: Many Routes to a Career Destination

Dates: Fridays February 9 - March 29, 2024 (excluding March 8 & 15)
Time: 10am - 11am
Location: Webinar Series

Additional Presenters to be announced soon.
Notes for Certificate Candidates

Open to students enrolled students at institutions of higher education. Registration must include institution & student ID.

1. Use your unique, personal Zoom link for the webinars.
2. Activate course in Canvas.
3. Participate in at least 4 webinars in real time.
4. Limited waivers available to use recordings. Must be requested in advance.
5. Complete each test by 11:59 pm the Thursday after the webinar. Passing grade: 80%
Please stay muted with video off. Submit your questions for our guest speaker during the live Q&A using the chat function in Zoom.
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Today's Moderator

Gerardo Angulo
Vice-Chair of Student Affairs, UH Energy Coalition
UH Energy Scholars Program 2023-2024
Formula Coog Radio Show Host
BS Political Science, Energy & Sustainability '26
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OUR STORY

THE LARGEST ENERGY-FOCUSED STUDENT ORGANIZATION IN THE U.S.

8 COLLEGES
34 STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS
30 MAJORS
Upcoming Events

• Networking Events with Energy Professionals
• Career Readiness Sessions
• Hydrogen Symposium (Apr. 17th)
• Energy Banquet (Apr. 24th)
Register as a Volunteer for the Hydrogen Symposium

- Gulf Coast Hydrogen Ecosystem Symposium, April 17, 2024
- Four tracks: Technology, Business, Policy/Regulatory/Safety, Community Engagement
- Volunteers: Sign up & register for personalized name tag and official registration
Mark your calendars!

Register for the Energy Banquet happening soon!
Adapting to Change: Building a Resilient Career in the Energy Sector Amidst Dynamic Shifts

Dr. Tatiana Mitrova
Research Fellow at the Center on Global Energy Policy, Columbia University / SIPA and Founder and Director at the New Energy Advancement Hub (NEAH)
Adapting to Change: Building a Resilient Career in the Energy Sector Amidst Dynamic Shifts

Dr. Tatiana Mitrova

29 March 2023
Dr. Tatiana Mitrova

- 30 years of experience in global energy markets research.
- 20 years of experience in energy-related executive education
- 10 years of board experience in the leading international public energy companies.
- Strong expertise in energy transition - new energy technologies, market organization, corporate strategies and geopolitical consequences.
- Among world Top-30 female energy market analysts.
Adapting to changes is crucial in the energy sector

Challenges: energy sector’s dynamic nature

- **Technological advancements**: innovations (like hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling, renewable energy sources, smart grids, and energy storage) are reshaping the sector.

- **Regulatory changes**: changing policies that are influencing market trends and operational standards (climate regulation, goals for reducing carbon emissions and supporting renewables).

- **Shifts in global energy demand**: Changing consumer preferences and the global push for sustainability are altering energy production and consumption patterns.
Looks good, so why “adaptation”? 
Hmmm...

National => International
Hydrocarbons => Green energy
Research => Management
Personal: a character unsuitable for a career

- Unsociability, introversion
- Inability to work in an office
- The need to devote a lot of time to children
- Everything quickly becomes boring
- The necessity for constant change in types of activities
- A strong need for travel (nomadic gene)
Personal: poor starting point

- Started career 2000s as oil&gas academic researcher
- Up to 30 years old - a housewife with no work experience and lost socialization skills.
- A single mother of two sons: engaged 24/7, constant stress, and financial pressure.
- Working in the post-Soviet space: gender and age discrimination, very strict hierarchy, and barriers to advancement.
- Politics inside Russia: an independent political stance radically divergent from the official one.
- Geopolitics outside Russia: an individual with a passport from a sanctioned aggressor country.

Portfolio-career approach
The portfolio-career approach refers to a professional strategy where individuals build their careers by undertaking multiple roles or jobs simultaneously or sequentially, rather than following a single career path within one organization or sector. This approach can include a mix of part-time jobs, temporary roles, freelancing, consulting, entrepreneurial ventures, and voluntary work. Each component or role in the portfolio is seen as a separate project or element that contributes to the individual's overall career.

Key characteristics of a portfolio career include:

1. **Diversity and Flexibility**: The approach allows for a diversified career with flexibility in terms of time, location, and type of work. Individuals can adjust their portfolio based on changing personal interests, market demands, or life circumstances.

2. **Autonomy and Control**: It offers professionals more control over their work-life balance, as they can choose projects that align with their personal values, interests, and schedules.

3. **Continuous Learning**: Engaging in various roles across different industries or sectors fosters continuous learning and skill development. It enables individuals to stay adaptable and competitive in a rapidly changing job market.

4. **Networking**: Working in multiple capacities often expands one's professional network, opening up further opportunities and collaborations.

5. **Risk Management**: By not relying on a single source of income or career path, individuals can potentially lower their career risk. If one role or project ends, they have other work to fall back on.

The portfolio-career approach is particularly popular among freelancers, consultants, creative professionals, and those seeking greater work-life balance or pursuing passions in multiple fields. It aligns well with modern work trends, such as the gig economy and remote work, offering a viable alternative to traditional, linear career paths.
Navigating uncertainties in the energy sector

- Changes are inevitable, whether you expect them or not. The most risky strategy is to ignore and do nothing. In this case, you will definitely lose. Any meaningful action increases the chances of success. Develop and regularly review your career plan in a fluctuating industry landscape.

- With an average life expectancy of 90 years, you still have 60-70 years ahead. This is equivalent to 2-3 careers in old times. We are doomed to lifelong learning. Make it fun! It's foolish to waste your life on something you don't like - choose what interests you. Interest and joy are the best indicators of where to go.

- There is time to try and make mistakes. Test different hypotheses, try yourself in various fields. As practice shows, not a single skill, no matter how odd, ends up being unneeded in the end.

- It's all about people – develop your professional network. Connecting with experienced professionals and seeking mentorship can offer invaluable insights and open doors to new opportunities.
What are the key components of your successful journey?

1. Knowledge & hard skills
   - Systemic approach (sustainability, climate, energy – technologies, economics, regulation, finance)
   - Lifelong learning
   - Baby steps
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2. Soft skills
   - Critical thinking and problem-solving, fact checking, research methods
   - Writing for social media/research/publications, AI
   - Emotional resilience and adaptivity
   - Effective teamwork, conflict management and negotiations, sales
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3. Networking & outreach
   • Connections and networking with people and organizations working in the energy transition space
   • Personal brand, outreach and public presentation, navigating social networks and being visible there
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4. Clear personal strategic vision and persistence in everyday action
Vision and targets: Set clear professional goals - define your objectives and desired outcomes for integrating energy transition into a personal strategy. Determine what impact you want to make.

Define your niche: Choose an energy area where you can make a difference.

SWOT analyses: Assess your skills and resources - identify your strengths, weaknesses, and available resources.

Engage in advocacy: Discover your preferred way to make your voice matter.

Measure and track progress: Establish your own KPIs to measure the impact of your efforts.

Develop detailed implementation plan: Define everyday easy steps and create your own system of motivation and support.

Continuous learning and adaptation: Adapt your strategy and approaches based on new information, the response of the environment, and lessons learned.
This is your one and only unique life. Don't be afraid to experiment! Success comes to those who are ready to hack the system and impose their own rules on it.
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Thank You for Joining Us!