



Lego Grad Student

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<http://brickademics.com>

@legogradstudent    

As his social media accounts profess, Lego Grad Student (LGS) is “a hollow head struggling to make it through a blocky world.” He uses his LEGO® collection of approximately 20,100 pieces to document the small daily existential struggles of graduate school life. In doing so, he hopes that students realize that they should not feel alone in their problems, and that they can be more comfortable expressing their insecurities. For reasons he cannot fully comprehend, LGS has attracted a following of around 190,000 people. LGS—or really, the creator behind him—has a Ph.D. in the social sciences and lives somewhere on the West Coast of the United States. The creator is now an assistant professor and continues to wonder when this house of cards will collapse under his feet.

Follower Count (as of November 4, 2020)

Twitter: 76,458

Facebook: 93,940

Instagram: 23,327

Tumblr: 15,009

Note: Some duplicate followers exist across platforms.

Positions and Education

Unexpected Social Media Presence, Internet
June 2016 - Present

Assistant Professor, Somewhere on the West Coast
2018 - ?

Postdoctoral Fellow, Somewhere on the West Coast
2017 - 2018

Graduate Student, Somewhere on the West Coast
2011 - 2017

Invited Talks and Presentations

Title: “Why Am I Here? A Questionable Talk by Lego Grad Student”

Description: Whether you care to openly admit it or not, grad school has probably felt like a sledgehammer repeatedly slamming into your face and soul. Spend an hour with Lego Grad Student as he attempts to explain why this is a perfectly normal—but not inevitable—feeling, and offers painfully learned advice on how you can manage it. (Satisfaction absolutely not guaranteed.)

Locations and Dates:

Ohio State University. March 19, 2019.
University of South Carolina. February 6, 2019.
University of California, Riverside. January 31, 2019.
Penn State University. April 27, 2018.
University of Windsor. April 25, 2018.
University of Oregon. March 9, 2018.
CFS Ontario Graduate Symposium. February 23, 2018.
Western University. October 4, 2017.
Wilfrid Laurier University. September 6, 2017.

Main Posts (personal favorites and popular entries in italics)

Suffering, Waiting, *Sitting*, Stepping, Reeling, Turning, Sprawling, Clearing, Giving, Noticing, Managing, Opening, Packing, Arriving, Glaring, Starving, Picking up, Eating, Taking, Sifting, Revising, Exercising, Dropping, Walking, Finding, Complaining, Checking, Peering, Setting up, Taking, Coming, Listening, Tripping, Meeting, Explaining, Fearing, Having spent, *Feeling*, Lounging, Soaking, Overhearing, Flying, Saving, Spotting, Checking, Recognizing, Drawing, Attending, Conversing, Visiting, *Updating*, Mulling, Seeing, *Persuading*, Needing, Handing out, Scanning, Preparing, Being, Kicking off, Stopping by, Failing, Lying, Drowning, Refashioning, Borrowing, *Trying*, Wondering, Picking up, Hearing, Catching sight, Filling out, Enduring, Passing by, Showing up, *Wanting*, Locking, Voting, Watching, Using, Thinking, Listening, Sensing, Realizing, Finishing, Viewing, Eavesdropping, Beholding, Strolling, Volunteering, Rummaging, *Getting ready*, Digging, Lacking, Discovering, Expecting, Sighing, Completing, *Meandering*, Handing in, Inspecting, Rereading, Charging, Sharing, Being, Standing, *Purchasing*, Receiving, Returning, Scrambling, *Wandering*, Peeking, Ignoring, Introducing, Mulling, Cleaning, Approaching, Running, Printing, Learning, *Babbling*, Contemplating, Hanging, Drowning, Grading, Microwaving, Encountering, Struggling, *Avoiding*, Staying, Hearing, Deducing, Witnessing, Lopping off, Peering, Ascertaining, Drawing, *Racking*, Scrolling, Glancing, Bristling, Crumbling, Celebrating, *Depositing*, Writing, Washing up, Roaming, Leading, *Entering*, Comforting, Observing, Fending off, Weighing, Hosting, *Packing*, Collapsing, Reuniting, Describing, Leaving, Remaining, *Shopping*, Jumping on, Re-opening, Having spent, Watching, Crossing, Asking, Planning, Seeing, Brewing, *Catching*, Floundering, Hearing, Incorporating, Complimenting, Averting, Gritting, Flipping, Verifying, Gazing, *Streaming*, Smelling, Toiling, *Dining*, Anticipating, Attempting, Being told, *Submitting*, Facing, Serving, *Enjoying*, Swiping, Shaking, Hoping, *Going*, *Overcooking*, Rehearsing, Composing, Laying out, Counting on, Greeting, Remembering, *Reorganizing*, Detesting, Jamming, Attending, *Spotting*, Accepting, Having, Running into, Chugging, Bumbling, *Making*, *Carving*, Ordering, Garnering, Exiting, Editing, Grabbing, Staying, *Logging on*, Processing, Videoconferencing, Receiving, *Experiencing*, and Exercising.

Publications

2017. "Reflections of an Unintentional and Underqualified Social Media Micro-influencer." *Flow Journal* 24(1).

2017. "Connecting with Legos." *ASBMB Today* 16(1): 34-36.

Media Appearances

"Lean PhD programmes, and a conversation with Lego Grad Student." *Naturejobs Podcast*. October 23, 2018.

"LEGO Grad Student On The Hobby That Helped Him Get Through Grad School." WPSU at Penn State. July 27, 2018.

"How Higher Education Can Make You Feel Low." WPSU at Penn State. May 25, 2018.

"Lego Grad Student Is Now an Assistant Professor." *Inside Higher Ed*. February 22, 2018.

"A Questionable Conversation with Lego Grad Student." Gradcast Radio at Western University. January 10, 2018.

"Building angst: Lego Grad Student's plastic artworks express soul's torment." *San Francisco Chronicle*. December 8, 2017.

Appearance on *Sense of Place with Minelle Mahtani*. Roundhouse Radio 89.3 FM Vancouver. August 1, 2017.

"Work-Lego Balance." *Graduates Anonymous Podcast*. June 30, 2017.

"Vive la procrastination!" *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*. March 10, 2017.

"10 Amazing LEGO Artists." *Mental Floss*. January 5, 2017.

"Lego Grad Student offers fun glimpse into the turmoil of academic life." *Ottawa Citizen*. December 23, 2016.

"Lego Grad Student's Instagram is Super Relatable For Anyone Who Has Been Through Higher Learning." *Bustle*. September 2, 2016.

"Lego Grad Student might be too real for this world." *Daily Dot*. September 1, 2016.

"Lego-inspired social media character reveals the gallows humor of grad school life." *Inside Higher Ed*. August 31, 2016.

Honors and Awards

Reception of Any Positive Feedback. June 2016 - present.

Stress Relief Fund to Purchase LEGO® Pieces. Approximately \$1,900 (self-awarded). 2014 - present.

Service

Collaborating with University of Toronto's School of Graduate Studies to support the Graduate Student Wellness Portal.

Raised \$14,000 for charities and political causes by selling posters, postcards, photo prints, coins, and a calendar.

Skills

Avoiding academic work.

Stumbling through the social media landscape.

Taking too many pictures to compensate for lack of photography training.

Re-purposing a children's toy to capture an adult's distress in higher education.

Disclaimer

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