Alt-Ac Questions for Maureen McGough

Thursday September 10 2pm ET/11am PT

Maureen McGough Biography:

Maureen is the Chief of Staff for the Policing Project at NYU law, where she oversees national efforts to improve accountability and transparency in policing. She joined the Policing Project from the National Police Foundation, where she led the non-profit's research, training, and technical assistance efforts as Director of National Programs. Prior to joining the National Police Foundation, Maureen spent a decade with the federal government in various roles with the US Department of Justice and US Department of State. She served as Senior Policy Advisor to the Director of the National Institute of Justice – the USDOJ's research, development, and evaluation agency – where she led agency efforts to advance evidence-based policing, improve the representation of women in policing, and implement systems-level criminal justice reform initiatives. Additional federal experience includes serving as counsel on terrorism prevention to the Deputy Attorney General, Special Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia, and coordinator for federal AIDS relief efforts through the U.S. Embassy in Kigali, Rwanda. Maureen is a member of the FBI's Law Enforcement Education and Training Council, an executive board member for the American Society of Evidence-Based Policing, and is a recent public leadership executive fellow with the Brookings Institution. Maureen is an attorney and earned her J.D. from the George Washington University Law School.

Maureen McGough Contact Information

Maureen McGough, JD
Chief of Staff, Policing Project at NYU Law
110 W 3rd Street, Suite 210
New York, NY 10012
(202) 487 – 1625 | maureen.mcgough@nyu.edu

Questions Asked during Meet & Greet

Your experiences:

1. Talk to us a little bit about what you're up to now, your role and how your center uses and thinks about research inside of a law school
2. Previously you were at the Police Foundation, can you talk to us about how you categorize that space ("professional organization" v "advocacy" v something else?). What does research look like in this space?
3. You spent a decade doing federal service, can you talk to us about what you were doing at NIJ/BJA/State and how you championed research there? What does "research" look like in this space?
4. With all this experience, how do they compare? For researchers, is there a thread that holds them all together? Does the same researcher work well in all of these spaces? Is there any particular ordering of the spaces that might be most beneficial, knowing what you know now?

Skills:

1. What are the skills that make a successful researcher in your current and prior positions? Are there similarities? Is anything space-specific?
2. You have experience hiring researchers, so how do you see new hires fitting into an existing research team/project? What sort of "value" do you need them to add right away?

3. Overall, is there a preference for "generalist knowledge" versus "subject matter expertise"? Does it matter based upon the space?
4. What skills are important for working with practitioners? If I have never been a practitioner, do you have any advice for developing contextual knowledge? Is that important?

Hiring & Job Market Materials:
1. What experiences do you see on resumes/CV that signal someone has had the right kind of background for what you need?
2. What are some "red flags" either in written materials or in-person, and what do they mean to you?
3. When you're confronted with two people that are otherwise similarly situated, how do you pick between them? What are you really deciding about?

Professional Development:
1. You once told me to go for positions that may be a bit above your qualifications because new positions are sometimes made for star candidates. Can you talk a little bit about that and what you consider important to the job-hunting process?
2. In Doctoral programs, there's almost an unspoken preoccupation with finding a job or applying to jobs that require a PhD. Are there research jobs that exist without these qualifications? How can we spot them? Do we need to be preoccupied with the degree requirements?
3. Can we expect to find something we love out-the-gate? And, if not, how do we go hunting for it? How we find our worth and own our skills to advocate for ourselves?