I needed to think through a problem

I don't believe in doing a PhD because one wants to be an academic. I don't think this is a lifestyle choice. I did a PhD because I needed to think through a problem, and the only way I could think through that problem was to have four, five, or six years away from doing policy work to study and read and learn how to think in a more critical, complex way. Because you're not taught to think in those ways when you're doing policy work. And I question everything. I was somebody who just questioned all of the fundamental assumptions flying around me in that policy work.

I got through the PhD in four years, and as a result, the kinds of students I recruit are students who are older, who are coming back because there is a particular problem they want to solve, and a PhD can help them do that. Because this is not a good time to just decide to be an academic, right? It's a terrible job market; the university is being defunded by the public. It's actually a really dangerous economic and social space for people to be in, so I think one needs to be very, very careful about coming into this. So I ended up here totally by chance. And I about coming into this. So I ended up here totally by chance.

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