

Adam Smiley Poswolsky

Bestselling Author, Keynote Speaker, Workplace Belonging Expert

Please contact a GDA agent for information.

Topics

- Communication
- Human Resources / Workforce Issues
- Virtual

About Adam Smiley Poswolsky

Adam Smiley Poswolsky is a millennial workplace expert, internationally renowned keynote speaker, and author of three books: *The Quarter-Life Breakthrough*, *The Breakthrough Speaker*, and *Friendship in the Age of Loneliness*.

Smiley helps companies attract, retain, and empower the next generation, and he has inspired thousands of professionals to be more connected at work, through speaking at companies like Google, Apple, Facebook, Unilever, Deloitte, and Verizon. Smiley's TED talk on "the quarter-life crisis" has been viewed over 1.5 million times, and he has spoken in front of 50,000 people in 25 countries. Smiley has guest lectured at Stanford Graduate School of Business and UC Berkeley Haas School of Business. Smiley has advised heads of state and foreign leaders about millennial talent, multigenerational engagement, and fostering belonging in the digital age.

Smiley's work has been featured in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Fast Company*, *CNN*, and the World Economic Forum, among many other outlets. Smiley is a 13-time camp counselor at Camp Grounded: Summer Camp for Adults and advisory board member for Digital Detox.

In 2017, Smiley launched The Women, BIPOC and Inclusivity Speaker Initiative, a community that aims to increase the number of women and people of color speaking at conferences and companies, as well as ensure that women and other underrepresented speakers are paid competitively as compared to their colleagues. The group now has over 4,000 members.

Smiley is a proud graduate of Wesleyan University, and lives in San Francisco, California.

Select Keynotes

- **Belonging in a Hybrid Workforce: Fostering Human Connection & Community in Challenging Times**

As we emerge from the pandemic, the necessity of remote/hybrid work and social distancing have increased the lack of human connection at work. More than 60 percent of Americans are feeling lonely, with loneliness and anxiety skyrocketing among young people and working parents. Only 30 percent of employees feel connected to their teams, and only 30 percent report that they have a best friend at work; even though data shows that employees who have a best friend at work are 7 times more engaged with their work. In this inspiring and timely presentation, Smiley will share how we can retain and engage top talent, increase human connection, and create more belonging, by building supportive communities inside the workplace. We'll discuss practical tools to stay engaged in a hybrid workplace, how to make hybrid meetings more inclusive, and ways to bring more connection to employee experience, from onboarding, to L&D, to recognition and appreciation. Smiley will share best practices for fostering psychological safety in a hybrid environment, and how to re-imagine a collaborative, inclusive, purpose-driven culture, shifting this time from The Great Resignation to The Great Reconnection.

- **Creating a Purpose-Driven Workplace: How to Attract, Retain, and Engage Top Talent During the Great Resignation**

A thriving workplace begins with an engaged and collaborative workforce; one that empowers next generation talent. In this inspiring presentation, bestselling author and millennial workplace expert Adam Smiley Poswolsky will help you attract, retain, and engage the talent of the future by leading with purpose. We'll breakthrough common stereotypes about Millennial and Gen-Z employees, share case studies for increasing employee engagement across all generations in the age of uncertainty and remote/hybrid work, and learn proven strategies and practical tools to foster collaboration, connection, and engagement in the multigenerational workplace, which will help you build a purpose-driven



culture and become an industry leader in these challenging times.

• **The Future of Community: Fostering Innovation & Connection in the Digital Age**

The rise of technology and social media has helped contribute to a growing loneliness epidemic across the world. Today, only 30 percent of people report that they have a best friend at work, and 10 percent say they have zero friends in the workplace. Meanwhile, the next generation is spending more money than ever on in-person, transformational experiences. A Harris study found that nearly 80 percent of millennials would prefer to spend money on an experience or live event over buying something desirable. From Soul Cycle to Airbnb, experiences have replaced modern-day religion for the next generation. What qualities define a transformational community and what role do innovative experiences have in the digital age? How can we apply these experience design principles to employee experience, event planning, marketing, and customer happiness? Smiley will share how we can increase human connection, inspire creativity, and create a better world by building experiential community inside and outside of the workplace.

Select Book Titles

- **2021:** FRIENDSHIP IN THE AGE OF LONELINESS
- **2018:** THE BREAKTHROUGH SPEAKER A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION TO BREAK INTO PUBLIC SPEAKING
- **2016:** THE QUARTER-LIFE BREAKTHROUGH

Select Articles

- [How to foster human connection in a hybrid workforce](#)

The author of Friendship in the Age of Loneliness says our new workplace reality has many of us more lonely than ever. Here's what leaders can do to help.

Select Testimonials

"Smiley delivered an engaging virtual talk on Public Speaking reaching over 300 Googlers on live stream! With his practical, inspiring presentation, we would welcome Smiley back to Google for future sessions."

— *Bianca Fernandez, Google*

"Smiley is entertaining, high-energy, engaging, motivational, thought-provoking, behavior changing and an expert on millennial workplace issues. His presentation was delivered with humor and authenticity. Smiley spoke at two HR Leadership events in the Bay Area and had stellar reviews."

— *Gina Ayllon, CAE, SHRM Executive Director Northern California*

"I saw Smiley speak about Multigenerational Communications and Management; Smiley offered fascinating observations and lessons to implement around the challenges of working in and leading companies with 5 different generations present, challenging the myths of those different generations, finding the purpose in your work and life, and so much more. Still thinking about his talk 10 hours later. So many good takeaways."

— *Heidi Davidson, co-founder and CEO, Galvanize Worldwide*

"Smiley provided key takeaways on the cross-generational workforce and engagement for the future in a clear, actionable way. One of our best speakers on this topic!"

— *Tina Marie Wehmeir, CMP, CAE, Chief Executive Officer, AMC Institute*