

Beacon Press
Internship Reflection
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A New Beacon Book Every Day

After each workday at Beacon Press, I left to catch the T for Allston, a new book tucked safely under my arm. That was my favorite part of the job: at Beacon Press, each employee is uniquely passionate about the books and authors they work with and will not hesitate to hand you an extra copy of their favorite pub before heading home. My summer as an Editorial and Marketing Intern with Beacon Press resulted in a stack of books at least fifteen spines high, and an extra-special non-fiction TBR list curated by industry experts.

Beacon Press is a place for individuals dedicated to protecting the education of our communities and fighting for real change through social justice titles. Working at Beacon, I felt incredibly motivated and invigorated by this community of people who shared my values of equality and freedom. The office was a safe space – warm and welcoming, but serious about their mission. My co-workers challenged me to think critically and discuss the most fundamental issues of today: race, gender, sexuality, environment, education, relearning, and more.

In my first four weeks as an Editorial Intern, I worked under Editorial Director Amy Caldwell and Assistant Editor Nicole-Anne Keyton. Among filing, rejection email drafting, and learning to use Circana BookScan and Biblio, I particularly enjoyed writing reader's reports and discussing new proposals with my supervisors. These thoughtful conversations made me adept at thinking editorially and analyzing manuscripts for voice, tone, content, and structure. Each new proposal, whether or not my report offered a recommendation for acquisition, was exciting to read and stimulated my intellectual curiosity. The more manuscripts I read, the stronger my newly ignited love for nonfiction grew. I learned the ins and outs of the acquisition process, and was surprised and excited to find out much that I had not previously known about the publishing industry, including details about how to evaluate an author's platform and how to estimate whether or not a book will be a Beacon success. Amy and Nicole could not have been more engaging and helpful. Both were extremely supportive and open to my many questions, and a joy to work with.

During my second four weeks as Marketing Intern, I worked under Associate Publisher Sanj Kharbanda, Sales and Marketing Coordinator Brittany Wallace, and Sales and Marketing Assistant Frankie Karnedy. I was stunned by the imagination of this energetic team, who taught me to love the fast-paced and creative marketing atmosphere. Marketing was much more hands-on and active: I found myself packing and sending boxes of sustainable food products to influencers as part of a fun launch campaign for Alicia Kennedy's *No Meat Required*, and dm-ing small-town Philly celebrities for M. Nzadi Keita's new poetry work, *Migration Letters*. I learned to flex my creative writing skills developing strategic copy for Mary Oliver's *New and Selected Poems, Volume One* and Theresa Perry's *Young, Gifted, and Black*. Finding ways to catch the eye of both a wide but astoundingly specific audience, while including blurbs, book specs, and key details in less than 250 words was an incredibly difficult but intellectually engaging process. Also exciting was the chance to employ my graphic design background

creating foreign rights catalog ads that will find their way to a Frankfurt Book Conference later this year. Working with the amazing Sanj, Brittany, and Frankie made me eager to learn more about the marketing industry, and prepared me with a solid foundational understanding of this complex industry.

My experience at Beacon Press was 100% fantastic, 150% educational, and 200% filled with the irreplaceable opportunity to connect with like-minded industry peers. I cannot thank my co-workers enough for all that they have taught me. Beacon is truly a special place – as a part of the press's community, you feel like you are truly a part of tangible societal change. I had one foot in the publishing industry when I entered Beacon's doors, and am now two feet in and all hands-on-deck dedicated to pursuing publishing as a career.