



Arts & Sciences
Writing Program

2024 SOCIAL SCIENCE SUMMER WRITING INTERNSHIP PROGRAM (SWIP)



INTERNSHIP PRESENTATIONS AND
INVITED TALKS ON JULY 23, 2024



NATHANIEL CLIZBE (CAS'25)



RAYEA JAIN (COM'26)



ANNE JOSEPH (CAS'25)



DEVIN RAUSCHER (CAS'26)



MIKA YAO (CAS'25)



AGENDA

Time	Presentation	Speaker
10:00 AM	Welcome & Introductions	Deborah Carr, Director, CISS
10:10 AM	SWIP Introduction	David Shawn, Associate Director for Writing in the Disciplines
10:15 AM	Remarks	Amy Giffin, Senior Writer, BU Today
10:25 AM	Remarks	Sydney Gross, Assistant Dean of Communications
10:35 AM	Moderator	Stephen Hodin, Senior Lecturer
10:40 AM	Intern Presentations	Nathaniel Clizbe, Rayea Jain, Anne Joseph, Devin Rauscher, Mika Yao
11:10 AM	Q&A	
11: 25 AM	Wrap Up & Thank Yous	Deborah Carr, Director, CISS
11:30 AM	Lunch	





INTRODUCTION

The brand-new Social Science Summer Writing Internship Program (SWIP) recruited five undergraduate interns for its inaugural Summer 2024 cohort. The program is generously supported by University and CAS Advisory Board Member and Alumna, Jennifer Simpson (CAS'00), and the Psalm 103 Foundation.

SWIP interns were placed at a social science research institute on the BU campus for a ten-week period.

- The interns worked approximately 15 hours per week and attended a 90-minute weekly writing workshop/seminar led by instructor Stephen Hodin once a week. Each intern received a stipend.
- Placement sites included Center for Innovation for Social Science, Center on Forced Displacement, and Center for Mind & Culture.
- Interns worked closely with their site supervisors, and carried out tasks including:
 - Writing news, feature, and personality profile articles that describe the research, teaching or outreach activities carried out at their site. The student intern developed story ideas through their own research and through consultation with their site supervisor.
 - Interviewing faculty and students affiliated with their site, and producing short videos or podcasts (hosted on the site's website) that showcase the research, teaching or service activities of the featured personnel.
 - Assisting with the institute's website updates, including writing brief news items, summaries of recent research publications, brief statements publicizing events and achievements, and more.
- In consultation with their supervisor and SWIP instructor Stephen Hodin, the interns were also encouraged to design and compose a summer writing project based on their own social science research interests.
- Where appropriate, some student interns transformed a course paper or research paper into a scholarly journal article to be submitted to one of the BU student-run academic journals such as Armchair. In addition to academic journals, students were encouraged to apply for UROP grants.



NATHANIEL CLIZBE

CAS 2025



“Communicating and Researching History Through Interdisciplinary Lenses”

Internship Placement: Center for Mind and Culture

Nathaniel Clizbe is a rising senior from Bangall, New York majoring in Computer Science and minoring in History, with research interests related to American history and relational databases. Outside of the Summer Writing Internship Program (SWIP), he is an intern at the China Historical Christian Database (CHCD), where he optimizes search queries.

This summer, Nathaniel is contributing to the Lawson Interviews of Seventh Day Adventists (LISDA) project, which seeks to create a cohesive and comprehensive work on sociologist Dr. Ronald Lawson’s interviews. Between 1984 and 2014, Dr. Lawson completed more than 4,000 interviews with Seventh Day Adventists across the United States.

In the SWIP workshop, he revised an essay from Professor Brown’s HI151 United States History to 1865 course, which examined the life of Reverend George Burroughs, a man executed at the Salem Witch Trials, as a counterexample to Stephen Nissenbaum and Paul Boyer’s *Salem Possessed*. During revisions, he analyzed Reverend Burroughs as an example of the Puritan Church resisting liberalization. Beyond SWIP, Nathaniel plans to use this project as the basis for Directed Study at Boston University.

Excerpt from: “Witch Hunt’: From Salem to Modern Politics”

“Used in the context of a deep ideological divide, the z of a witch hunt is especially effective as a rhetorical tool, and as such the term has become pervasive in modern politics. By examining an instance which emphasizes the role of personal vendettas and resistance to cultural change in the Salem executions, this work helps us understand why the term is so effective within our current political landscape.”

RAYEA JAIN

COM 2026



“Understanding Ethnic Self-Segregation in Lowell, MA”

Internship Placement: Center for Innovation in Social Science

Rayea Jain is a rising junior from Tenafly, New Jersey, studying Journalism with a minor in Anthropology. On campus, Rayea is a news writer and anchor for WTBU Radio, where she hosts her weekly radio show “Trash Talk,” delivering engaging news content to a broad audience. Her strong radio personality and accurate reporting earned her “Best Talk Show” in 2023. Rayea not only made her mark in radio communications but also as the 2024 Communications Intern for the College of Arts and Science and the Center for Innovation in Social Science (CISS).

Rayea has gained experience reporting on and off campus, including her time conducting long-form reporting on the Cambodian community in Lowell, Massachusetts, the second-largest Cambodian population in the United States. In her reporting, Rayea found the media perception of the Lowell Cambodian community to be largely homogenous, rarely considering the diversity within. As Rayea awaits for her report to be published in the *Massachusetts Latino News*, her interest in the Lowell Cambodian community has not diminished. While working with the largely concentrated Cambodian population, Rayea discovered several cultural pockets often overlooked through general reporting. As a Summer Writing Internship Program (SWIP) fellow, Rayea uses her previous experience working on multi-media platforms to develop her own research project. With the support of the SWIP, Rayea plans to apply for the Boston University Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) to continue her reporting project on changing the media perception of the Cambodian community to focus on cultural pockets and differences.

Excerpt from: “Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Community Impact Award Celebrates Students Serving Marginalized Communities”

“The Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program (WGS) has created a new Community Impact Award to honor students serving marginalized communities through their advocacy and research. This award celebrates individuals who exemplify the values of social justice, inclusivity, and dedication to the well-being and advancement of marginalized communities,” said Sarah Miller, senior lecturer in sociology and director of undergraduate studies in the Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies Program. It is funded by external donors, as well as proceeds from the program’s annual Book Fair.”

ANNE JOSEPH

CAS 2025



“Mapping Queer Placemaking in Dorchester, MA”

Internship Placement: Center for Innovation in Social Science

Anne Joseph is a rising senior studying Sociology and African American & Black Diaspora Studies. Anne has an impressive background advocating for liberation movements at Boston University working as Leader of the Arts and Science Anti-Racist Initiative. In this position, she has facilitated meetings and launched initiatives that have led to major changes on campus. Most recently, Anne co-wrote an open letter to the President and Board of Trustees signed by over 170 student organizations to rename 610 Beacon Street to Wituwamat Memorial Hall. They were also the former Director of Operations for Charcoal Magazine, a student-run magazine that highlights and uplifts student artists of color.

This summer she has been working with the Center of Innovation in Social Science (CISS) office to publish articles on faculty, graduate, and undergraduate research in social science. Anne’s personal research interests have taken many forms, from studying the diasporic spread of African American religions to understanding the phenomenon of student involvement in liberation movements. As Anne enters into her senior year, she plans to pursue a thesis centering on mapping the spaces that queer residents of Dorchester have cultivated and sustained as a means of strengthening bonds between community members. Anne is particularly interested in whether threats of displacement are impacting the ability for queer residents to maintain these spaces. As a queer student of color, Anne has struggled to identify queer spaces in Boston, thus they plan to create a mapping of the places that Dorchester residents have used to cultivate community to be available to the public as a resource for any queer person in Boston lacking the guidance to engage with these spaces. Applying to the BU UROP grant has been the focus of Anne’s writing workshop experience in the SWIP program and she is so grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with other students and Professor Hodin to better define her project in a feasible and digestible manner.

Excerpt from: "Coming Out or Kicked Out: Preserving Queer Community Spaces in Dorchester"

“I will conduct interviews with queer business owners, community members, and community activists with the objective of creating a presentation and visual online mapping of the city. This mapping will display interviewees’ preferred community spaces that have been or currently are resisting displacement, along with each respondent’s de-identified reflections shared over interview ...Given the limited ethnographic information available regarding this community, we must prioritize studying the experience of community members who live within the intersectionality of queer and BIPOC identities and sustain these spaces as a means of resistance.”

DEVIN RAUSCHER

CAS 2026



“Tracing the Evolution of Sex Work Policy and Perception in Massachusetts”

Internship Placement: Center on Forced Displacement

Devin Rauscher is a rising junior in the College of Arts and Sciences studying History with a concentration in American History. Originally from Ocean Gate, New Jersey, he has found himself at home and active at BU.

He is a member of the Harriet E. Richards Cooperative House and a writer for *The Beacon*, a social literary journal and creative community. As to his academic writing, he has aspirations to research labor and incarceration, environmental justice, and identity. This summer, he worked at the Center on Forced Displacement (CFD), helping edit the *Critical Forced Displacement* magazine, writing communication pieces highlighting new research and developments at the CFD, and writing graduate fellow profiles to be published on the center’s website. He also works with BU Sustainability on the Data Analysis and Zero Waste teams working towards accomplishing the BU Zero Waste Plan. Devin utilized the writing workshop to prepare an Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) proposal centered on the connection between the Prostitute’s Union of Massachusetts (PUMA) and contemporary sex work policies and perception. He intends to complete this research within UROP’s Fall 2024 season.

Excerpt from: “The Legacy of PUMA: Sex Workers’ Protest Movements, and the AIDS Crisis”

“While researching the history of the state’s sex worker policy, I found little information on PUMA, despite it being a local movement active in the 1970s and 80s. For this project, I am focusing on PUMA’s final years of activity during the rise of the AIDS crisis and its impact on contemporary policy and public perception. Even today, many Americans hold unfair prejudices against sex workers and their labor, and this stigmatization silences important conversations surrounding legalization and decriminalization, safety, and stability. In this project, I will interrogate PUMA’s role in shaping the debate around sex work as well as future policy.”

MIKA YAO

CAS 2025



“Analyzing Legal Inequities and Obstacles of the US Immigration System for Asylees”

Internship Placement: Center on Forced Displacement

Mika Yao is a rising senior from Toronto, Canada studying Political Science and International Relations with a minor in Chinese. Mika has been a passionate advocate for immigration rights and social movements organized by migrants to the US, and these interests have influenced her aspirations to become a lawyer and pursue research in law. As a SWIP intern this summer, Mika has been working with the Center on Forced Displacement (CFD) where her responsibilities centered on writing pieces for the CFD website, editing the institute’s magazine, and creating profiles for grad students and affiliates. On campus, Mika is the President of the BU Mock Trial Organization, a club that not only prepares her with knowledge on court and trial procedures and the rules of evidence, but is also a great opportunity to cultivate her steadfast sense of justice.

Mika’s writing project this summer supported her in anticipation for her senior thesis as she plans to apply for the UROP research grant in the fall. Drawing on a previous research paper where she investigated 2017 “Day Without Immigrants” and the Remain in Mexico policies under the Trump Administration, Mika plans to frame her thesis around the nuances of court procedures for migrant cases. Through studying the existing collection of oral histories and personal testimonies, she examines why the burden of proof normally falls on the prosecutors or state in non-migrant cases, yet with migrant defendants, the burden of proof is their own responsibility. Through the support of the SWIP program workshop, Mika is excited to get started on her project, “A Burden to Prove: Obstacles of Pleasing the US Immigration Court,” for next year!

Excerpt from: “A Burden to Prove: Obstacles of Pleasing the US Immigration Court”

“Legal studies have shaped many of my academic goals and interests. During college, I found an equal drive to work in foreign security and policy, specifically with an interest in the US immigration court proceedings. While researching for a previous project titled “Justice Deferred: The Hard-Fought Legal Battle to End Migrant Protection Protocols,” I found that the burden of proof in immigration law varies drastically from US domestic court procedures. Unfortunately, innocent until proven guilty does not apply to immigrant defendants. Instead, a migrant will always walk into the court “guilty,” with it being their sole responsibility to prove otherwise, a burden US defendants will never bear. Looking forward, I hope to explore how the US immigration system unfairly burdens asylum seekers in legal proceedings and the subsequent social obstacles faced.”



Arts & Sciences
Writing Program

WRITING IN THE DISCIPLINES

WWW.BU.EDU/WRITINGPROGRAM/WRITING-IN-THE-DISCIPLINES/

The Writing in the Disciplines (WID) program supports writing across all undergraduate BU schools and colleges, as students move from their First-Year Writing courses into academic experiences that involve more sophisticated communication within particular disciplinary contexts. The WID program works from a perspective that is informed by current writing studies scholarship and supports undergraduate writing in a variety of ways, including collaborating with faculty to create unit-based writing plans; organizing faculty co-teaching of Writing-Intensive Courses; mentoring and supervising unit-based peer writing tutoring; and consulting with faculty to implement best practices for teaching writing. While writers across many disciplines may share common concerns and expectations about writing, each discipline has its own writing genres, writing conventions, citation styles, disciplinary histories, ways of using evidence, and views of what constitutes knowledge and knowledge production. The WID program is a resource to help both students in developing their writing skills & confidence and faculty in providing effective pedagogical approaches to teaching writing.



Center on Forced Displacement

CENTER ON FORCED DISPLACEMENT

WWW.BU.EDU/CFD/

CFD serves as a platform for educators, students, researchers, activists, and policymakers to engage in interdisciplinary research, discussion, and education about forced displacement. Through interdisciplinary, international collaboration, we identify, research, and work to resolve challenges of forced displacement, one of the major moral imperatives of our time. By connecting with local communities in Boston and the USA, as well as our partners in Uganda, Colombia, Lebanon, and the Western Balkans, CFD learns directly from and with the communities grappling with the challenges of forced displacement and creates venues for new ways of thinking, research, and program and project design.



Arts & Sciences
Center for Innovation in Social Science

**CENTER FOR INNOVATION IN
SOCIAL SCIENCE**
WWW.BU.EDU/CISS/

The Center for Innovation in Social Science (CISS), located in the College of Arts and Sciences at Boston University, provides an intellectual home for faculty and students engaged in social science research across the BU campus. The Center is dedicated to forging collaborative multidisciplinary faculty research and training future generations of undergraduate and graduate students in the social sciences and related fields by using state-of-the-art methods and approaches and demonstrating the promise of the social sciences to improve human lives.



Center for Mind and Culture
Creative research for complex problems

CENTER FOR MIND & CULTURE
WWW.MINDANDCULTURE.ORG/

The Center for Mind and Culture (CMAC) is a non-profit research center that innovates creative solutions for urgent social problems arising within complex networks of evolving minds in dynamic cultures. Committed to a radically interdisciplinary, non-partisan approach, centered on computational and data sciences, CMAC mobilizes an international network of experts to develop and disseminate visionary insights to public and professional stakeholders.

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