

Eric Fan

xf2218@columbia.edu | (470) 779-6733 | www.ericfan.me | [LinkedIn](#) | [GitHub](#)

EXPERIENCE

The Brown Institute for Media Innovation

New York, N.Y.

Senior Research and Data Fellow at the Documenting COVID-19 Project

Feb 2021 – Present

Investigated COVID-19 deaths across U.S. hot spots by partnering with local newsrooms, analyzing public records, and creating visualizations. Won the SPJ's Sunshine Award as a team of seven. Project now expanded to investigate other public records.

- Built a timeline of how COVID deaths spread in Chicago using geo-coding and D3.js visualization. Uncovered disproportionate effects on communities of color. Story published on the front page of the Chicago Sun-Times.
- Developed a Python program to automatically file records requests online, significantly improving newsroom efficiency.
- Investigating big tech executives, fossil fuel holdings and nonprofit connections in the Biden administration, by parsing financial disclosures and fuzzy-matching entity names using R. Stories published on Forbes.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Atlanta, Ga. & New York, N.Y.

Data Reporter & Visualization Developer

June 2021 – Present

Cleaning, analyzing and visualizing data for the AJC's investigations team. Highlights include:

- Led a month-long investigation into hospital price transparency in Georgia. Collected data from 14 hospitals, designed and built interactive report cards using JavaScript, jQuery, gulp.js and Bootstrap. Story published on a Sunday A1.
- Created D3.js visualization of Georgia's changing demographics since 1990.
- Designed and developed interactive maps to visualize tax breaks in Atlanta, using Leaflet.js and Mapbox.
- Developed a Python program to parse PDF campaign disclosure forms into datasets. Using R and SQL, extracted results of the 2020 general election across 500+ local contests, turning separate XML files into a unified database in MySQL.
- Wrote an R script to identified "double-dippers" that profited from multiple government programs during the pandemic.
- Analyzed data from the CDC's Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System. Using R, performed exploratory analysis on rare myocarditis and pericarditis cases in Georgia.
- Updated the AJC's Atlanta School Database and now building a database of apartment crimes across 14 local jurisdictions.

Dow Jones News Fund

Atlanta, Ga.

Data Journalism Intern at Georgia Public Broadcasting

June 2020 – Aug 2020

Covered the 2020 Georgia primary election and Georgia's management of CARES Act funding. Highlights include:

- Extracted data from 500+ pages of government records using R, including voter demographics, polling location changes and absentee ballot applications, obtained through official databases and FOIA requests.
- Designed and built an interactive map informing voters of last-minute precinct changes, using Tableau.
- Interviewed 15+ elected officials and local business owners who managed CARES Act funding or participated in the Paycheck Protection Program.
- Compiled and transcribed, in real-time, photos and interviews from field reporters into live updates on the primary day.

Georgia News Lab

Atlanta, Ga.

Investigative Data Reporter

July 2019 – May 2020

- Built and maintained a database of state-wide voter turnout across 5000+ precincts and four election cycles.
- Conducted financial and legal research using LexisNexis, PACER, property records from the Tax Assessor's Office and business records from the Secretary of State Office.
- Analyzed local government meeting records and uncovered 6 violations of the *Georgia Open Meetings Act*.

SKILLS

Languages: Python, R, JavaScript, Java, SQL, C# (for Unity games), Mandarin Chinese

Data/Text Analysis: Tidyverse, pandas, NumPy, Gensim, spaCy, scikit-learn, Altair, matplotlib, plotly

Web Development: Flask, jQuery, D3.js, React.js, Node.js, gulp.js, Leaflet.js, HTML5, CSS, SCSS, Bootstrap, Mapbox, Selenium

Other: MySQL, PostgreSQL, Neo4j, QGIS, Git, Postman, Google Cloud, Ubuntu, LaTeX, Figma, Observable, Tesseract, Tableau

Communities: Investigative Reporters and Editors, Online News Association, Chinese Storytellers, News Nerdery

EDUCATION

Columbia University

New York, N.Y.

Dual M.S., Computer Science and Journalism (GPA: 3.95/4.0)

Expected May 2022

Awarded "honors in class" in Reporting & Writing and Investigative Techniques. Coursework in Databases, Adv. Software Engineering, Data Visualization, User Interface Design. One of four students admitted to the selective dual-degree program.

Emory University

Atlanta, Ga.

B.S., Statistics and Political Science (GPA: 3.96/4.0)

May 2020

Chief Editor & Co-Founder of the *Emory Journal of Asian Studies*. Co-chair of the Political Science Student Advisory Council.

Coursework in Statistical Modeling, Regression Analysis, Computational Linguistics, Econometrics, Technical Writing.