GOWTHAM ASOKAN

Boston, MA 02215 • (617) 697-1407 • [GitHub](#) • [Personal website](#) • gashokan@bu.edu

EDUCATION & AFFILIATIONS

BOSTON UNIVERSITY, COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

M.S. Computer Science   JAN 2021

COURSES: SOFTWARE DESIGN, DATA STRUCTURES AND ALGORITHMS, COMPUTER ARCHITECTURE, OPERATING SYSTEMS, DATA SCIENCE WITH PYTHON, DATA ANALYSIS AND VISUALIZATION WITH R, DATABASE MANAGEMENT.

B.A. Economics and Political Science   MAY 2019

COURSES: EMPIRICAL ECONOMICS, EUROPEAN POLITICS, QUANTITATIVE VOTING BEHAVIOR, HEALTHCARE ECONOMICS, INDUSTRY & MARKET ORGANIZATION

ISTANBUL INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY SCHOOL   MAY 2015

VOLUNTEERING

Living assistance volunteer - Bomonti Old Age Home in Istanbul   April 2014
CFO - Boston Area Model United Nations Conference   October 2017

WORK EXPERIENCE

BOSTON PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY, Boston, MA | January 2021 – Present
Data Science Research Intern
- Scraping and wrangling data from public API sources from Bing, Yelp, and Yellowpages to build a public business dataset for the City of Boston's BPDA.
- Working with a cross-functional team of urban planners, economists, and policy analysts to deliver analysis about neighborhood characteristics in Boston – demographics, foot traffic, and profile of businesses.
- Cleaning and pre-processing the data by standardizing addresses, reverse geocoding, removing fuzzy duplicates using haversine distances and string similarities with Python's Dask for improved parallelized performance on large datasets (40k+ entries).

BU SPARK!, Boston, MA | November 2019 – Present
Data Science Project Manager
- Leading 6 teams focused on interdisciplinary data science projects serving local governments, non-profits, and publications such as the City of Boston, NAACP, WGBH, ACLU, and the Associated Press.
- Lead the delivery of a data report on Boston Police overtime abuse in collaboration with the ACLU that was used to inform City council hearings.
- Conducting analysis on racial media bias using neural nets to build semantic understanding, campaign finance contributions, topic modelling, and web scraping tools.
- Coordinating client meetings to translate their technical needs and contextual goals to the Data Science teams.

CERES INSTITUTE, WHEELOCK COLLEGE - Boston, MA | June 2020 – August 2020
Research Manager
- Worked with an interdisciplinary team examining youth recidivism in the MA Department of Youth Services' YES program using caseworker notes and youth demographic information.
- Managed a team of 2 researchers to produce data visualizations, LDA topic clustering to determine causes for youth engagement in the YES support program.

THE AMICUS CURIAE NETWORKS PROJECT, Boston, MA | January 2019 – August 2019
Research Assistant
- Assisted Boston University Professor Dino Christenson in National Science Foundation funded project to catalogue non-state signers on Amicus Curiae briefs to measure their social influence with network theory.
- Implemented Python NLTK library to search Amicus curiae using word vectorization.

AXON, Seattle, WA | June 2018 – August 2018
Public Relations Intern
- Designed European marketing plan for Germany, France, UK, and Italy in collaboration with cross-functional teams across Gov. affairs, Product marketing, and Europe.
- Synthesized European market concerns and needs such as AI, Cloud security, GDPR, and upgraded law enforcement technologies into report as foundational support for the upcoming 5-year business operations.
- Produced messaging map for the Taser 7 by leveraging engineering specifications for public messaging.
- Organized and managed interview between the President of Axon and the Phoenix Business Journal to boost company brand profile in preparation for Software recruitment event.

THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS REVIEW Boston, MA | Fall 2016 – Spring 2019
Co-Editor-in-Chief
Scholastic award-winning journal that has been featured in the Library of Congress.
- Project managed and organized team of digital and layout editors to design and create a 60 page bi-annual publication with 2000+ student readership.
- Hired and mentored 30+ student journalists in writing, editing, and media technician roles and monitored prepress process using the Adobe Creative Cloud.
- Produced and anchored 20 segments on current global affairs such as the Indian farmer crisis and healthcare systems in Central Africa.

SKILLS

Python – Natural Language Processing, Pandas, NumPy, Matplotlib, NLTK, C++, R, SQL, Stata, Web Development, Video Editing and Production, Public Speaking, Fluent Tamil, Fluent Turkish, Elementary French, IT customer service