

# Jake Neenan

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## EDUCATION

**Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism** | New York, N.Y. | August 2023

*Master of Science, Data Journalism*, with advanced training in investigative and computational techniques of data acquisition and analysis to tell data-driven stories. Projects include:

- Investigation into overdose deaths in New York State prisons for [New York Focus](#). Used Python to analyze years of state mortality reports and statistical tests to confirm findings.
- Reporting on hackers using WordPress exploits to place ads for illicit goods on government websites.

**Boston University** | Boston, Mass. | May 2022

*Bachelor of Arts, Physics*. Rigorous grounding in experimental and mathematical methods of classical and modern physics.

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## EXPERIENCE

**Reporter**, Broadband Breakfast, Boston, MA., Aug. 2023 – Present

Covering telecommunications policy with a focus on broadband infrastructure. Pitching and filing 5-10 stories per week on tight deadlines while pursuing long-term accountability projects and maintaining databases relied upon by industry professionals. Projects and scoops include:

- The Trump administration unilaterally canceled \$2.75 billion in broadband adoption funding.
- The Trump administration is quietly requiring states to shift federal broadband funding to satellite services.
- Database of preliminary spending under a \$42.45 billion broadband expansion program.
- A \$10 billion broadband subsidy program got 3.7 million Americans [inadequate](#) internet, all while enriching the country's biggest telecom companies.
- After taking billions to expand infrastructure through 2021, ISPs are [ripping up](#) formerly subsidized equipment.

**Research Fellow**, Sunlight Research, Los Angeles, CA, Dec. 2023 – July 2024

Built chronologies of congressional candidates to assist newsrooms, verifying claims about employment, education, and more. Used public records and open-source information including property and business records, financial disclosures, tax records, satellite imagery, and more.

**Journalism Intern**, Boston University Spark!, Boston, Mass., Jan. 2021 – May 2022

Worked on multiple data-driven journalistic projects for media outlets that partnered with BU's start-up incubator, including:

- Reported and wrote an investigative [piece](#) on the Massachusetts Department of Correction that was published on the front page of the Boston Globe. Requested and used Python to analyze thousands of pages of inmate grievance forms.
- Used Python to analyze 2009-2019 Boston voter and census data for correlations between voting patterns and demographic changes. Analysis formed the basis for a [story](#) in the Bay State Banner, a local Boston newspaper that serves the city's Black and Latino residents.

**Student Journalist**, The Boston Globe, Boston, Mass., Sept. 2021 – Jan. 2022

Partnered with Boston University and The Boston Globe to report daily and enterprise stories on news events in the Boston suburb of Newton. Published stories on topics including how parents [adjusted](#) to the pandemic and the [restoration](#) of a historic church tower.

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## SKILLS

**Programming:** Python, Java, R, Playwright, Pandas, Beautiful Soup, Tika/tesseract, SQL, Scraping, Regex, QGIS

**Investigative:** Court records, FOIA, State record laws, PACER, Excel, Advanced Google search

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## REFERENCES

Brooke Williams | Professor, Computational Journalism, Boston University | [brooke@bu.edu](mailto:brooke@bu.edu)

Joe Neff | Reporter, The Marshall Project | [jneff@themarshallproject.org](mailto:jneff@themarshallproject.org)