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.
- Investigation into New York State's use of prison labor and the conditions of incarcerated workers.

Boston University | Boston, Mass. | May 2022

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

EXPERIENCE

Reporter, Broadband Breakfast, Los Angeles, CA., Aug. 2023 – Present

Covered tech policy with a focus on broadband infrastructure. Pitched and filed 5-10 stories per week on tight deadlines while pursuing long-term accountability projects. Projects include:

- A $10 billion broadband subsidy program got 3.7 million Americans inadequate internet. Used Python and QGIS to analyze data on millions of locations across the US.

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.
- Read and classified 1000+ federal appellate decisions and newspaper archives to train machine learning models to identify instances of prosecutorial misconduct.
- Aided in the design of textual analysis algorithms to develop a tool for identifying racial bias in local news coverage for the NAACP and GBH, a Boston NPR affiliate.
- 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.

Intern, Boston University Physical Electronics Lab, Boston, Mass., Jan. – May 2020

Built and used C to program a gaussmeter capable of accurately measuring magnetic fields thousands of times weaker than a kitchen magnet. Organized and ensured delivery of components for students and researchers to complete remote lab work.

SKILLS

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

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