

# Jake Neenan

Email: [j.neenan@columbia.edu](mailto:j.neenan@columbia.edu) // GitHub: [jakeneenan](https://github.com/jakeneenan) // Portfolio: [jakeneenan.github.io](https://jakeneenan.github.io)

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## EDUCATION

**Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism** | New York, N.Y. | Expected 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. Master's project: Currently working on an investigation into overdose deaths in New York State prisons. Projects so far include:

- 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
- Statistical analysis of 10 years of Boston Police Department disciplinary and promotion records

**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

**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 physics students and researchers to complete remote lab work.

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## 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

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## REFERENCES

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

Jonathan Soma | Director of Data Journalism, Columbia Journalism School | [js4571@columbia.edu](mailto:js4571@columbia.edu)

Justin Elliot | Reporter, ProPublica | [justin@propublica.org](mailto:justin@propublica.org)