Jason Kao

Visual portoflio at jasonkao.me

jason.kao@columbia.edu

Experience

The New York Times

Graphics Fellow June 2022 – June 2023

- Revealed massive voting shifts among New York's Asian Americans in a data- and visuals-driven story. The story led The Morning and was printed in a two-page spread.
- Core multimedia and data journalist on a large collaboration about the negative health effects of chronic noise exposure. Built and designed the story page, and conducted on-the-ground reporting and data analysis.
- Using both traditional and OSINT reporting, produced breaking visual coverage and analysis of the police killing of Tyre Nichols, Hurricane Ian, and the midterm elections.

The New York Times

Graphics Intern May 2019 – August 2019 and April 2021 – May 2021

- Revealed the scale of asylum seekers in Mexico by obtaining leaked Senate Judiciary Committee data and by sourcing NGOs, shelters, researchers, and photographers in ten border cities.
- Visual investigation of U.S. immigration and protests in Hong Kong and Puerto Rico.

The Texas Tribune

Fellow June 2021 – August 2021

- Investigated a class cancelation caused by "critical race theory" law.
- Conducted beat reporting on race in education and the C.R.T. debates, interviewing more than two dozen teachers and students.

Bloomberg News

News Intern June 2020 – August 2020

- Interrogated and combined large datasets to cover the intersection of race, labor and climate.
- Processed flood risk rasters to report on systemic bias in FEMA flood risk assessments.
- With location data, wrote a visual story on disparities in the pandemic's recovery.

Projects

Intersectional Bias in Artificial Intelligence that Grades Interviews Fall '21

- Found bias across skin tone and gender in a platform that uses artificial intelligence to automatically judge video interviews.
- Reverse-engineered the A.I. platform and wrote a program that sent a large, diverse dataset of video interviews into it. Scraped down the scores and analyzed them, finding bias.

Legacy of Redlining on Urban Heat Inequity Course: Machine Learning and Climate, Spring '22

- Used Google Earth Engine to derive temperature data from satellite imagery across 200 cities over 40 years.
- Analyzed the relationship between redlining infrastructure and heat.
- Built interactive and filterable maps to facilitate data exploration.

Education

Columbia University (B.S. Computer Science, 2022) — I studied computer science, ethnic studies, data science, and comparative legal studies.

Tools

Data analysis:	Python, R, Google Cloud and AWS, scraping, shell scripting
Visualization and front-end:	Svelte, React, D3, WebGL, Illustrator, Mapbox, Blender
Spatial analysis:	R, GDAL, QGIS