

This is a transcription as I had my hands full with my camera, no ideas removed, but some slightly condensed.

Wednesday Oct 4 - 11:07 AM

Geese! Right off the Silber Way Overpass, nibbling at the grass

Reminds me of the bike ride I did this summer down into Boston through Cambridge, down the Esplanade, back onto the Cambridge side and out of the city.

Lots of people running, some working out on the public calisthenics equipment.

BU Beach joke, I can see the cars driving by as waves

Birds chirping up in the trees.

View to the northeast, bridges across the Charles



If I want to row with a club here I need to learn the names of the bridges and which arches to row under. Reminds me of back home in Portland, would go up and down the river under 6-7 bridges each practice.

Bike tour, group of ~8

Passing behind Kilachand and seeing the Kenmore Square exit off Storrow Drive.

Thinking about how nice it is to just go out in the middle of the day and get a walk before classes later.

Seeing the Prudential center

On the part of the path that gets close to the Charles, passing under a bridge offramp

Cicadas(?) chirping

Wondering if the rowing team was out earlier this morning with Head of the Charles soon, likely would've needed to be out ~ 6-7 to catch them.

Photo opportunity at the offramp, took a couple tries to get it exposed right



MIT bus crossing over the bridge

Thinking about the CDS building, I like how the building contrasts with the rest of campus, it sends the message that data science is important to BU, especially if BU is going to transition the Faculty of Data Science into a full School of Data Science. Didn't know it was meant to look like books, I see it though. Wish there was more space on the lower floors, or more space in general for undergraduates. But again, projection of power (same with the contrast).

Someone drove by with a wooden rowing shell in very nice condition, wish I had gotten a photo.

Aligned North-South with the Prue, seeing more of the office spaces on the Cambridge side.

Play area with percussion equipment: drums, xylophone, cymbals

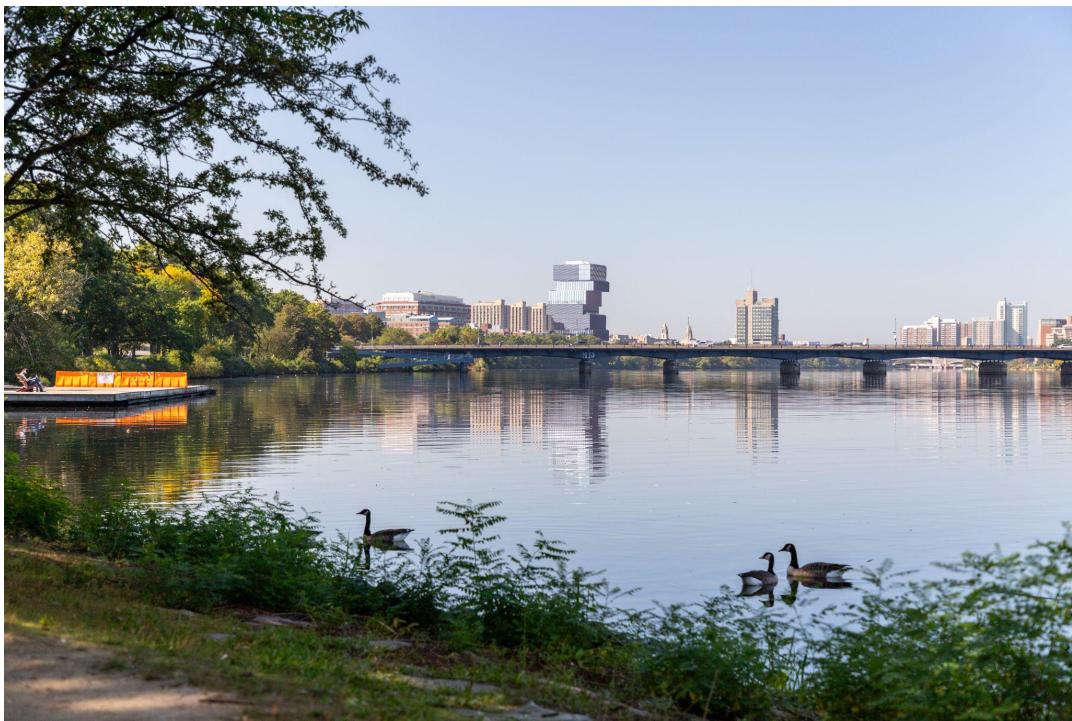
Not the most interesting shot without human subjects but just for location reference



Geese in the water, a little too far to get a clean photo



Now on the area where the esplanade splits, same geese from before, unfortunate construction barrier on the dock





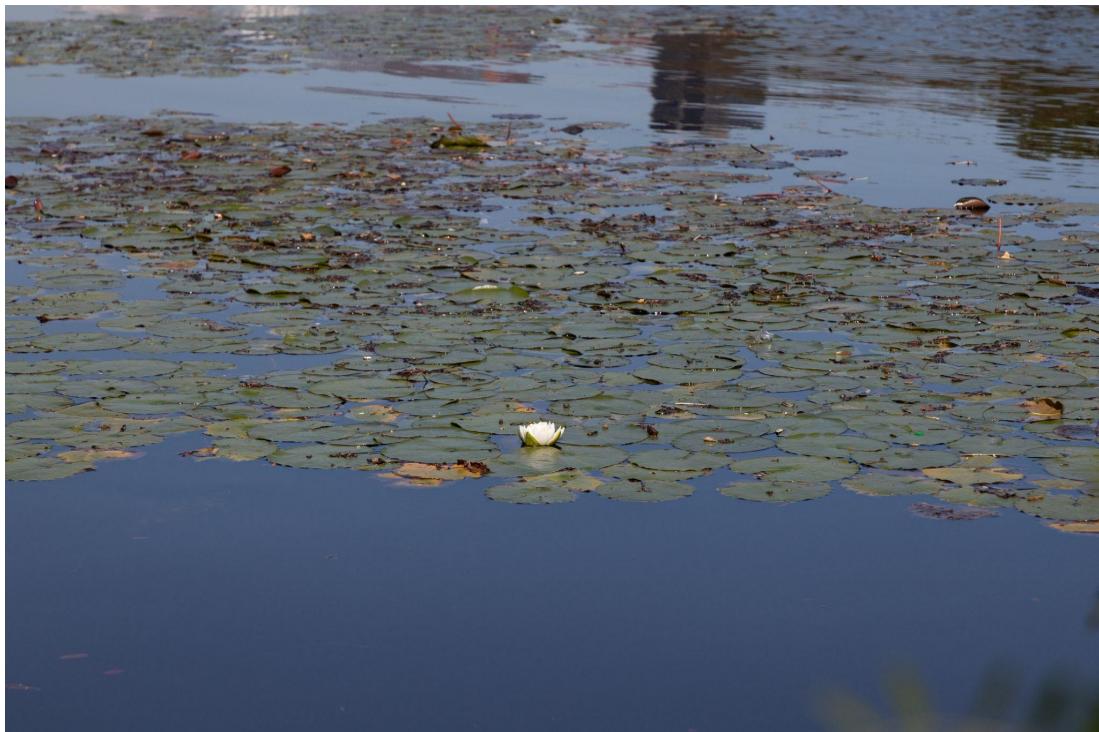
Someone approached the empty bench as I was in the middle of framing, got this quick shot and left, don't feel comfortable taking pictures of strangers w/o asking. (This launches into a whole discussion of *Nussenzweig v. diCorcia (2007)*)



Nussenzweig v. diCorcia: (this takes me a while so I've summarized it, some details added in transcription, learned about this in photo class in HS)
Religious rights vs artistic expression, photographer had set up flashes to illuminate a very specific spot on the street, photographer sat in a cafe 20ft away with a long zoom lens and took a shot whenever someone stood in that exact spot, an attempt to capture the people of NYC, 3000 photographs taken with 17 selected, the resulting photographs isolated the subjects face among a faceless crowd.

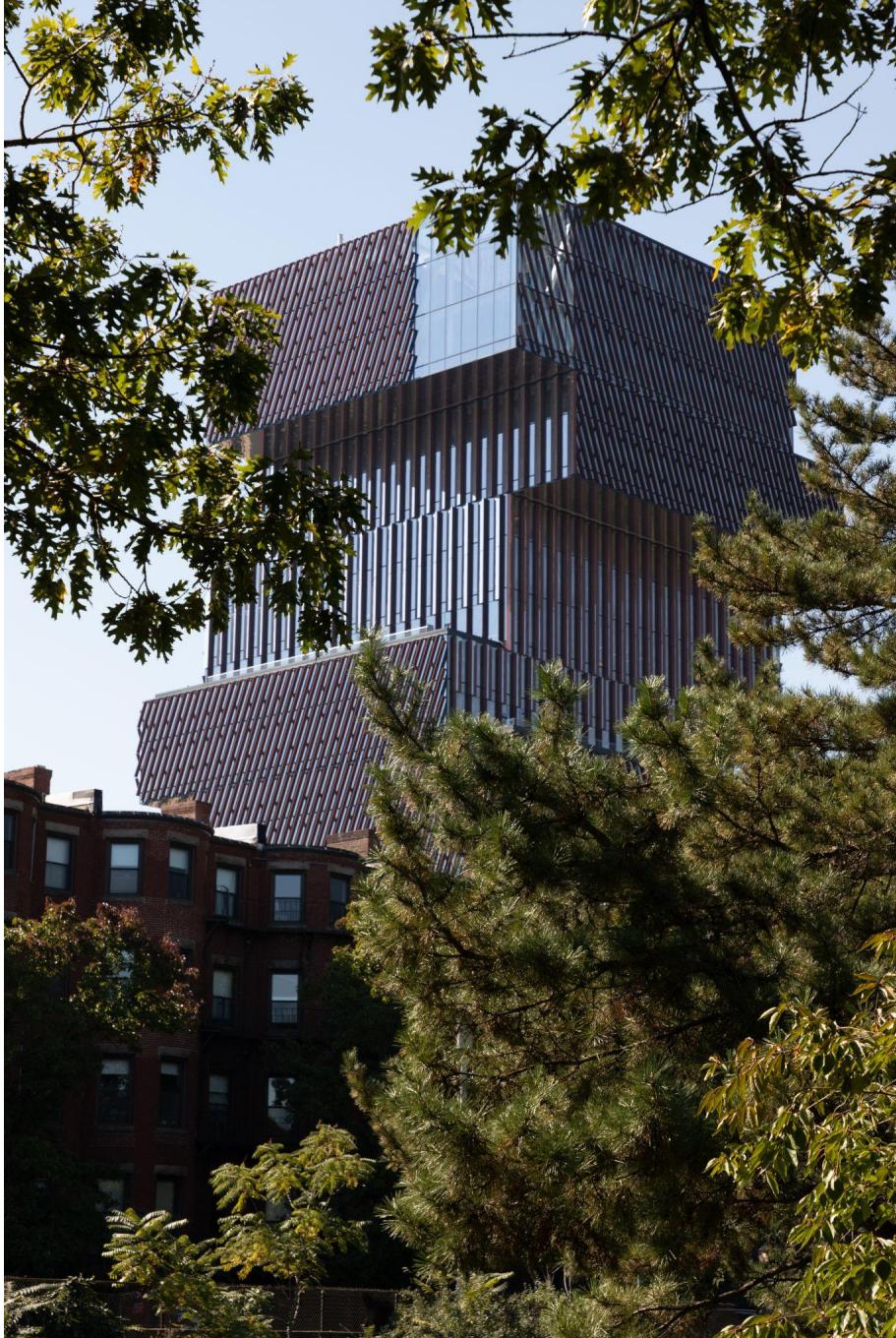
Nussenzweig sued diCorcia as it violated the Torah, diCorcia had created a graven image, diCorcia eventually won on artistic expression.

One of the tangents was taking this, though the focus sadly isn't clean on the tower as I had to manually focus.



Thinking about how I'll present these esplanade walk notes, planning to use an online transcript generator (*which did not work*). Noting how I've been switching from thought to thought.

One last shot as I returned to the overpass:



Final reflections:

Nice to get outside for a calm walk, not think about anything for academics, just let my legs carry me and run a stream of consciousness. Felt awake and energized!

1. In her TED talk, Grandin mentions verbal thinkers, visual thinkers, and pattern thinkers. If you had to choose **ONE** of these with which you **most** identify which **ONE** would you choose? Verbal thinker **OR** Visual thinker **OR** Pattern thinker

- Patterns are good
 - Recognition through music is interesting

2. Grandin states that autistic individuals are often detail-oriented thinkers. Are you a detail-oriented thinker **OR** a big picture thinker **OR** equal blend of both?

- Blend
- Some things where needs to be perfect, get caught up on imperfections
- Still takes a step back at certain points and reanalyzes the scope of activity

3. Grandin discusses the need to expose kids to a variety of topics/situations so they can find what they're interested in. Briefly describe a topic, area, or activity which you were grateful to be exposed to and why you became interested in it.

- A lot of things as a kid (sports, music)
- Dance as biggest

Enjoyed performance, practicing and showing what you worked hard for
Many aspects such as control over body

4. Do you openly/publicly identify as neurodiverse? YES **OR** NO

- Spectrum, everyone has their own place on it
- Don't claim neurotypicality, so yes, on the spectrum somewhere
 - Struggles with focusing, etc (common neurodivergent things)

5. In her cartoon that contrasts ADHD Storytelling with Non-ADHD Storytelling and in "Sharing Thoughts," Donovan depicts her perspectives on how individuals with ADHD share stories, thoughts, and ideas. If you were to create a cartoon of how you share with your closest friends what would it look like and why? (think about objects, shapes, colors, other aspects of visual style, etc.)

Gets very into the story (can go over the place and get into rabbit holes etc.)

6. Overall many humans tend to rely most on sight. Which sense **OTHER THAN SIGHT** is most important to you? Why? Hearing Smell Touch Taste

- Hearing

Multitasks through other conversations

Not necessarily keeping track of all convos but just taking little snippets

7. Which **ONE** of these non-human minds below would you most want to journey into? (if there are no risks in doing so) Briefly explain what fascinates you most about experiencing the world through the kind of non-human mind you choose.

Another mammal Bird Fish Reptile Mollusk Insect

- Bird
- Flying is key to happiness
- Birds eye view, etc

8. Birch et al. discuss five dimensions of consciousness in the context of non-human animals: p-richness, e-richness, integration at a time (unity), integration across time (temporality), self-consciousness (selfhood). Which **ONE** of these is most interesting to you? Why?

- P-richness
- Physical hardwired sense that humans don't have
- Electromagnetic senses (unbelievably cool)

9. Do you identify with a specific social class? YES **OR** NO

- No? Floats around (high school offered many different perspectives)

10. Do you consider yourself bi/multilingual? YES **OR** NO

- Yes (but sorta, Chinese needs work / is fading from when learned early life)

11. Do you identify with more than one culture? **YES**

My mother is Chinese and my father is an Ashkenazic Jew. My grandparents on my dad's side are practicing, but we do not. With my father having grown up in the States, I associate my father with more of a broadly American culture and tradition. I visit my Chinese grandparents yearly, and feel connected with them!

12. Name a culture or sub-culture you belong to/identify with.

Briefly describe an experience, set of interactions, or tradition that you enjoy and associate with that culture/sub-culture. Why do you find this experience, interactions, or tradition memorable? Culture and sub-culture for this question can be ethnic, national, regional, focused on an activity you enjoy, etc.

I suppose I love Chinese food! In Shanghai, where my grandparents are, the food is traditionally more sweet, whereas to the North in Beijing and to the West in Sichuan Province, the food is more salty or spicy. While I do like the sweeter food in Shanghai, I love the spicy food the most. (Check out Noah's Kitchen in Brookline for incredible Sichuan cuisine!)

13. In relation to your peers, how likely do you feel you are to take risks on a scale of 1-5, with 1 being extremely likely to take risks in most situations and 5 being extremely unlikely to take risks in most situations. **2**

I feel comfortable taking risks but usually only with some assurance of the likely outcome. Usually I only even consider taking more reasonable risks, which is why I self-evaluate a 2.

14. Describe a risk you are glad you took. What made the decision risky? Why are you grateful you decided to take a chance?

Doubling up on English classes and taking an Ethics course the last trimester of senior year. I was not a fan of English classes until around my Junior year, and taking two of them was definitely not in my plans. On top of that, one of the courses focused on James Joyce's Ulysses, and the other — taught by the department head — was on Shakespeare and its relation to the legal system! I was worried that I'd be in over my head (and at some points it felt that way), but I came out alright and got so much out of each class. I'm glad I took both, instead of taking easier electives and slacking off for my Senior Spring.

To connect to Q13, my assurances were:

1. Having taken the department head's legal english classes for the first two trimesters
2. The add-drop period

15. Choose 3 activities of the 12 creative activities below that you would be most interested in doing. **Rank them 1-3 in order of preference** (1 = most preferred)

1. Designing scientific experiments
2. Designing products or devices
3. Taking photographs/videos

16. Csikszentmihalyi argues for the importance of Interest, Perseverance, Dissatisfaction, and Social Context for being intrinsically motivated and making significant creative contributions. Think of a specific area/activity for which you have long felt a strong intrinsic motivation. Which of Csikszentmihalyi's four aspects do you think has been MOST important to your motivation in this area? They are likely all significant but CHOOSE JUST ONE that seems most important.
Interest OR Perseverance OR Dissatisfaction OR Social Context

Interest- enjoyed the content of the class, ex. Class with storytelling and legal things

17. What's your major or a potential major you think you might want to pursue?

Biomedical engineering (might change to mechanical)

18. Which 3 of Gardner's 9 Intelligences are strongest in you? Rank them 1-3.
Logical-mathematical, spatial, musical

19. Do you believe your thinking is affected by whether you are sitting or walking? YES OR NO If yes, how is it affected? If no, why do you think it is not?

Yes- just getting up from the desk helps to think differently instead of sitting at the desk for a long period

20. As Otis describes, cognitive neuroscientist Maria Kozhevnikov's studies showed that what has often been called visual thinking involves two distinct ways of processing information – spatial abilities which involve perceiving an object's distance, dimensions, direction, and speed and object skills which consist of recalling an object's shape, color, texture, and surface details. Evaluate your abilities in these areas. Do you think you have . . . Stronger Spatial Abilities OR Stronger Object Skills OR Are Equally Strong in Both

Stronger spatial ability- more interested in how an object interacts with the environment than the object itself

21. Name a potential job that interests you. Does this job connect directly to your major or potential major? YES OR NO

More Interested in industry such as group dynamic activities rather than theoretical work.

22. In what ways do you think that your interest in this job might link to the kind of mind you already have? In what ways do you think that working in this job might (re)shape your mind?

being able to manage and sense group dynamics and reporting information

23. What's the hardest thing you've ever had to learn? What was difficult about it/why was it difficult?

struggle with learning languages and memorization, but spent time learning to speak Chinese

24. Describe the kind of thinking that is most pleasurable for you. Why is that type of thinking so fun?

music- danced ballet for ten years, like thinking about the progression of classical music

25. If someone said to you, "Take a walk on Comm Ave" what specifically would you first picture if you imagined yourself doing that? Write 4-5 phrases or 1-2 sentences to describe what images initially come to your mind.

I would think of walking to West campus, just going along whichever side of the street I'm currently on until one of the lights just happens to change for me to swap over to the side I need. I think of the morning and night, walking to SK100 at Walter Brown on Tuesday mornings, and back from FitRec as it closes, the red lamp at Marsh Plaza showing me I'm (almost) home.