

Zakiriya Gladney

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Education

Harvard University

John Harvard Scholar, GPA **3.89**, BA, Social Studies and Statistics

Cambridge, MA

Expected 2027

Coursework: Theorizing Digital Capitalism, Global Rebellion: Race, Solidarity, & Decolonization, Intro to African American Studies, Intro to Social Studies, Hegel & Marx, Statistical Inference, Probability, Data Science, Multivariable Calculus, Differential Equations

Telluride Association Summer Seminar

Ithaca, NY

Fully-funded 6-week seminar at Cornell University, 72 selected / 2400.

2022

- Studied under professors Will Bridges (University of Rochester) and Greg Londe (Cornell University)
- Examined the intersection of art, technology, and futures, exploring how artists of color use speculative imagery to challenge historical narratives and promote social change

Awards and Honors

U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts - Selected by the White House based on “academic success, artistic and technical excellence, essays, school evaluations and transcripts, as well as a demonstrated commitment to community service and leadership.”

YoungArts Finalist - selected as one of 10 finalists from 800+ young applicants by the national artist committee, earned \$5,000 in award money

Artist Development Fellowship - chosen to receive \$8,000 in grant funding to support “the artistic development of students demonstrating unusual accomplishments and/or evidence of significant artistic promise” by a Harvard faculty committee, for a project on Tunis, Tunisia, Arab conceptions of modernity, and urban political formation

Work & Campus Experience

Initiative for Medicines, Access, and Knowledge

New York, NY

Researcher

June 2024 - Sep 2024

- Qualitative research and analysis on the evolution of intellectual property law and philosophy, identifying key implications on medical equity and access
- Presenting complex historical, legal, and philosophical findings in an accessible format to adapt and communicate nonprofit strategy

The Harvard Crimson, Editorial Board

Cambridge, MA

Editorial Executive & Staff Writer ([writer link](#))

Dec 2023 - Present

- Published 30+ [analytical editorial pieces](#), translating complex topics into compelling article form
- Researching, fact-checking, and maintaining journalistic integrity to strengthen board output
- Editing and proofing publications for rhetorical impact and clarity
- Led cross-functional collaboration on multimedia opinion content for The Harvard Crimson, merging written, video, and visual storytelling.

The Harvard Advocate

Art Board Editor

Cambridge, MA

April 2024 - Present

- Selected and organized visual art for publication in the nation's oldest continuously published collegiate literary magazine, with a focus on amplifying underrepresented and emerging artists

STEM Experience

Harvard Institute for Quantitative Social Science

May 2025 - Present

Research Assistant

- Assist professors Gary King & Casey Petroff on research examining scientific norms and pedagogy
- Performing data analysis and statistical modeling of citational data using R

Pathways, "Hacking Injustice" Hackathon w/ Engineering Hope (Ongoing)

Mar 2025 - Present

- Awarded first place, \$300, in a hackathon's "Forced Displacement" category for developing a web platform connecting volunteers with [IINE](#), a community organization supporting resettling refugees.
- Developing software using React and Tailwind CSS to streamline volunteer engagement and enhance community support, mutual aid infrastructure

MTA Bus Arrival Predictor (Project)

Nov - Dec 2024

- Developed a predictive model for NYC MTA bus arrival times using Machine Learning techniques
- Enhancing arrival time accuracy by incorporating weather data and random forest modeling in Python

Bit Buckets FIRST Robotics Team**Tucson, AZ**

Vice President (2021-22) and Programmer

Aug 2020 - May 2023

- Programmed using Java to create a competitive robot for local, regional, and national Robotics competitions, earning #2nd at Las Vegas Regional 2022
- Managing technical project workflows and version control systems to optimize collaborative development
- Direct team decision-making processes to organize a team of 24 student engineers

Center for Digital Humanities at the University of Arizona**Tucson, AZ**

Research Assistant

Mar - June 2022

- Designed and programmed navigation algorithms for hospital robots using Python
- Implemented optimization techniques for software performance
- Developed automated solutions for complex routing problems

University of Arizona Department of Pharmacology**Tucson, AZ**

Chemistry Lab Assistant

Mar - June 2022

- Assisted Dr. Wei Wang in developing novel photoredox catalytic pathways to produce pharmaceutical molecules
- Research provided low-emission alternatives to common pharmaceutical industry reactions
- Washed glassware and prepared solutions for 10 person lab
- Prepared, monitored progress, and isolated organic chemical products for over 20 new reactions

Art, Activism Experience

Harvard Undergraduate Palestine Solidarity Committee

Cambridge, MA

Protest Photographer

2023 - Present

- Documenting rallies, vigils, actions, and art installations for use by HUPSC and affiliate organizations
- Capture and archive critical activist moments, ensuring photos serve both advocacy and historical record
- Support media reach via high-impact imagery conveying urgency, emotion, and scale of the movement

Exhibiting Artist - *Ici et Ailleurs*

Cambridge, MA

At The Channel, Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts

November 2024

- Exhibited artwork in a group show, exploring themes of protest, activism, and global solidarity with a discussion by Palestinian artist Jumana Mana

Harvard Artists for Palestine

Cambridge, MA

Contributing Artist

2024 - Present

- Organizing prints for 3 showcases, funding mutual aid initiatives supporting Palestinian communities
- Engaging artistic activism and visual storytelling to promote solidarity, bridge art and political advocacy

Skills

French Language - Certified at B1 CEFR level equivalent, earned Arizona Seal of Biliteracy

Arabic Language - Two semesters of language study at Harvard, corresponding to A2 on the CEFR scale

Programming Languages - Python, Java, JavaScript, R

Frameworks/Tools - Pandas, NumPy, Matplotlib, Scikit-learn, Git

ART: Digital, medium format & 35mm **photography**, archival-quality digital **printing**, high-resolution film **scanning**, Adobe Lightroom & Photoshop, **art criticism**, journalism, and editorial writing.