Zoha Oamar

zoha.qamar@nytimes.com | zohaqamar.github.io

Education

Columbia University, Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science

New York, NY

Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, Minor in English & Comparative Literature

2015-2019

Selected Coursework: Narrating Rape, Gender & Violence in Literature, Writings on Genealogies of Feminism, Artificial Intelligence: Ethics & Policy, Natural Language Processing, Hacking for Defense, Programming Languages and Translators

Phillips Exeter Academy

High Academic Honors; GPA: 10.1/11.0; SAT I: 2310

Exeter, NH

- Gordon Editorial Award: Awarded to an Exeter student who displays through editorial journalism in publication emanating from the Academy, a passionate dedication to personal freedom, particularly freedom of conscience & its expression
- The Powell Prize: For recognition of a student or group of students who has conceived and carried out some creative idea which has resulted in a new and useful addition or benefit to the Academy community through his or her entrepreneurship, persuasiveness, innovation or leadership (For: Four-Part Series "Voices from the Middle East")

Relevant Skills

Programming: Python; Java; HTML; CSS; JavaScript (D3); MATLAB; SQL; BigQuery; Google Analytics; Chartio; Tableau

Work Experience

The New York Times

New York, NY

Data Analyst; prev. Data Analytics Intern

Jun. 2018 - Present

- Lead all multimedia analytics, taking the role of departed Senior Analysts; surpassed all benchmarks and accepted offered position to stay on team and work as a consultant throughout 2018-2019 school year
- Use MySQL and Python for quantitative analysis and determine engagement spikes relative to major historical events and news milestones
- Spearhead inaugural process of augmented reality, virtual reality, audio, and interactive news performance
- Work with the NYT masthead and desk editors to discuss overall site performance, as well as help fortify trust between data-driven instincts of Analytics team and traditional instincts of Newsroom reporters, all to foster effective, data-informed journalism
- Shadow reporters on the job, observing interviews and developing story assets for multimedia platforms
- Serve on critical cross-department team with Newsroom, Product, and Data Engineering for multimedia viewership experience enhancement, with specific role to design data experiments and present findings from exploratory analysis

VICE Media New York, NY Feb. 2018 - Apr. 2018 Digital News Intern

Wrote for daily news team, covering women's health, gun control, sexual assault, technology, & general news

Conducted and recorded interviews, later cutting into video segments to pair multimedia with VICE News written content

CNN Hong Kong, HK International News Intern Jun. 2017 - Sep. 2017

Assumed site analytics role when bureau opening called for one; presented homepage and site performance to editors daily

- Attended daily news meetings to discuss content, daily international assignments, and US President hostility toward CNN
- Pitched and wrote for breaking international news team, publishing about twenty articles on CNN.com
- Contributed to breaking news stories including Grenfell Tower fire and Cardinal George Pell sexual abuse charges

Breaking Silence (Film)

New York, NY Jul. 2015 - May. 2017

Assisted in interviews and moderated screenings for groundbreaking, award-winning documentary that followed the journeys of three Muslim women survivors recovering from sexual abuse and navigating community stigma

Selected Data Projects

Production and Distribution Intern

Analyzing the United States Opioid Crisis | Data Visualization, Columbia University

Co-produced with three peers

New York, NY Mar. 2019 - Apr. 2019

A visual, interactive data dive exploring the national opioid epidemic

ISIS vs. the Qur'an | Empirical Methods of Data Science, Columbia University

New York, NY

Independently produced

Apr. 2019 - May. 2017

A natural language processing project analyzing the similarities & discrepancies between the Qur'an & ISIS English Recruitment Materials

Further Media Ventures

National Geographic, America Inside Out by Katie Couric (Episode: "The Muslim Next Door")

Interviewed and featured by Katie Couric in documentary about current American political climate

New York, NY Aired Apr. 2018

New York, NY

Showcased in viral article and video series "Muslim American Girls Discuss Culture, Religion, and Politics"

Aired May 2016

University Involvement

Columbia University Senate

New York, NY

Senator for Undergraduate SEAS Student Body

Apr. 2017 - May 2019

- Elected by entire undergraduate student body to represent my peers in highest policy body at Columbia
- Sat on and chaired Senate boards incl. Executive Committee, Women's Commission, Diversity Commission, and Student Caucus
- Worked with President, deans, & students on initiatives, incl. socially responsible investing, free pads/tampons, discounted contraception
- Met with Columbia University Board of Trustees to discuss campus concerns and initiative updates

Skills and Interests

Languages/Programs: Urdu-Hindi, Turkish, Spanish; Adobe Premiere Pro, Photoshop, Illustrator, & InDesign; Microsoft Suite; Google Suite Interests: Squash; Distance Running; Creative Writing; Filmmaking; Contemporary Middle East History; Indian Partition History