

Marissa Joseph
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[LinkedIn](#) | [Writing Portfolio](#)

EDUCATION

Cambridge, MA **HARVARD UNIVERSITY**
May 2023 B.A. History and Literature
GPA: 3.92, Magna Cum Laude, Highest Honors in Field
Certificate in Latin American Studies

RESEARCH

Cambridge, MA **SENIOR HONORS THESIS**
May 2023 “Haitianas: Uncovering Migration, Memory, and (M)Others in Cuba’s Post-Revolutionary National Identity”
Senior honors thesis examines the historical role of haitianas, Haitian women living in Cuba, in producing, preserving, and defending Haitian diasporic identity in the decades directly following the Cuban Revolution. Page count: 99. Graded: Summa Cum Laude.

Cambridge, MA **MELLON MAYS UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP**
2021 – 2023 Harvard University Research Fellow
Crafted a course of study on identity and decolonial global voices under the advisement of Dr. Jennifer Alpert.
Conducted independent research focusing on the 19th and 20th-century intellectual and literary history of Haiti, investigating how Haitian radical thought and resistance shaped the political culture of the Caribbean. Performed archival research and utilized interdisciplinary approaches and theoretical frameworks across area studies, critical studies of archival power and form, Black and third-world feminism, postcolonial theory, and literary critical, cultural, and performance studies.
“Who’s[e] Ayiti, Intellectual Disturbances in Haiti’s Decolonial Imaginary”
Junior essay sourced and analyzed archival materials, including newspapers and political writings, alongside close readings of poetry, narrative fictions and visual media to outline conflicting discourses of self-determination reflected in political strategies of Caco revolutionaries and “Indigéniste” intellectuals during the U.S. occupation of Haiti, highlighting the ways these groups navigated and resisted foreign intervention. Page Count: 25. Graded: Highest Honors, Honors.

PUBLICATIONS

Joseph, Marissa. “Be(Com)ing Haitiano-Cubano: Haitianas As The Undesirable Mother In Alberto Pedro Díaz’s ‘Guanamaca.’” Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Journal, 2023.
Joseph, Marissa. [“Santiago de Cuba’s Memories of Haiti.”](#) ReVista, Harvard Review of Latin America, 2021.
Joseph, Marissa. [“#BlackGirlMagic In Toni Morrison’s Desdemona.”](#) *The Sundial*, Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, 2020.

PRESENTATIONS

Attendee, Haitian Studies Association Conference. New York City College of Technology, October 2024.
“Uncovering Migration, Memory, and (M)others in Cuba’s Post-Revolutionary National Identity.” Paper presented at the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Research Symposium. Yale University, March 2023.

“Who’s[e] Ayiti, Intellectual Disturbances in Haiti’s Decolonial Imaginary.” Paper presented on “Literature in the Black Atlantic” panel at the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Research Symposium. Dartmouth College, February 2022.

AWARDS AND GRANTS

Kwame Anthony Appiah Prize, Department of African and African American Studies, Harvard University, 2023.

This prize honors the graduating senior who has written the most outstanding thesis relating to the African Diaspora at Harvard University.

Senior Thesis Prize in Ethnicity, Migration, and Rights, Committee on Ethnicity Migration, and Rights, Harvard University, 2023.

EMR Senior Thesis Prize recognizes projects contributing to current scholarly discourses about ethnicity, migration, indigeneity, race, and/or rights. My winning thesis was praised by reviewers for its “theoretical subtlety,” with one reviewer noting its “essential contributions toward deepening understandings of Blackness in the Caribbean” and another deeming it the best thesis she has read in three years of reviewing Harvard student theses.

Edward Chandler Cumming Prize, Department of History and Literature, Harvard University, 2023.

Prize awarded to the senior thesis of the highest distinction in the Department of History and Literature. Reviewers applauded my thesis for “its rigorous engagement with extensive secondary scholarship,” evidencing “an intercultural critic whose imprints on academia are only just beginning.”

Harvard Caribbean Club Senior Award, Harvard University, 2023.

Awarded to the graduating senior who has greatly contributed to the Caribbean community at Harvard through scholarship, kinship, and service to the Harvard Caribbean Club.

Fellow, Mellon Mays Undergraduate Research Fellow, Harvard University, 2021 – 2023.

Fellowship aimed at supporting underrepresented minorities in the pursuit of doctoral study, recognizing those who have demonstrated exceptional potential to become future scholars and faculty in higher education. Selected as one of 10 undergraduate students in the Class of 2023 cohort to conduct independent humanities research in close collaboration with a faculty mentor.

Thesis Research Grant, Committee on Ethnicity Migration, and Rights, Harvard University, 2022.

Summer Research Award, Mellon Mays Undergraduate Research Fellowship, Harvard University, 2022.

Granted funds to support fieldwork and travel to Santiago de Cuba to conduct archival research and oral history interviews for senior honors thesis.

TEACHING

Weston, MA

EXPLO SUMMER SCHOOL

Jan. 2024 – Present

DEI Curriculum Advisor

Summer 2023

Residence Director (6th / 7th grade)

Design multi-model curriculum that aims to foster an inclusive environment through age-appropriate instruction on cultural awareness, social justice, and community building.

Oversaw student conduct, disciplinary procedures, and conflict resolution to establish and maintain a healthy, safe, and enriching living environment for students. Led and supervised a team of 8 Resident Advisors, providing regular performance feedback to cultivate a dynamic and inclusive living and learning community for 80+ students representing 13+ diverse countries. Maintained consistent communication with caregivers through weekly phone calls and emails.

Cambridge, MA

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Fall 2022

Course Assistant, Engineering Sciences 139: Innovation in Science and Entrepreneurship

Course integrates perspectives from leading innovators with collaborative practice and economic theory to teach students how problems are found, defined, and solved through entrepreneurship across industries and fields. Assisted with grading assignments, exams, and projects, maintaining accurate records of student performance. Held regular office hours to provide one-on-one assistance and academic guidance to students. Responded to student inquiries and provided timely feedback on coursework and assessments.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

New York, NY

ADOBE

Aug. 2023 – Present

Corporate Communications Specialist

Develop and execute proactive and reactive communications and public relations strategies centered around Adobe's Corporate Social Responsibility and Philanthropy initiatives. Provide tactical support with pitching, coverage tracking, identifying spokespeople, prepping briefing documents, and rapid response. Elevate key executives, CSR programs, and purpose messaging through speaking opportunities, awards, thought leadership, and features to fortify and differentiate Adobe's corporate reputation among external audiences. Foster relationships with media targets and secure coverage across tier-one, tech industry, and local outlets including Forbes, Fortune, Fast Company, Insider, TechCrunch, and more.

Cambridge, MA

HARVARD COLLEGE WRITING CENTER

2021 – 2023

Tutor

Delivered writing instruction and guidance to undergraduate students across all disciplines, fostering enhanced argumentation and analytical skills.

Cambridge, MA

THE HARVARD CRIMSON EDITORIAL BOARD

2021 – 2023

Staff Editorial Editor

Authored engaging monthly editorial features, sharing compelling, pertinent, and socially conscious perspectives on politics, race, and current events. Recruited 100+ talented individuals to join the Crimson Editorial Board and instructed aspiring staff on editorial writing and AP Style fundamentals.

SERVICE AND ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

2023 – Present

Volunteer Writing and Critical Thinking Coach, Minds Matter NYC

2024 – Present

Volunteer, Harvard College Alumni Interviewer

2019 – 2023

Mentor, Alberta V. Scott Mentorship Program, Harvard University

2020 – 2021

Special Events Chair, Associate of Black Harvard Women, Harvard University

2020 – 2021

Auxiliary Board Member, Harvard Caribbean Club

2019 – 2020

First-Year Representative, Association of Black Harvard Women, Harvard University

LANGUAGES

English: Native speaker.

Haitian Creole: Bilingual proficiency.

Spanish: Advanced proficiency, Harvard College Language Citation.

French: Limited working proficiency.