

Muizz Akhtar

Houston, Texas | muizzakhtar00@gmail.com | www.muizzakhtar.com

Professional Experience

Kinder Institute for Urban Research, Rice University | Digital Content Specialist | Houston, TX Feb. 2023 – Present

- Write stories for the Kinder Institute, a research organization that generates research to push for solutions to the most pressing policy issues in the fourth largest U.S. city. My articles focus on data and original research around [urban planning](#), [climate change](#), and [public health](#).
- Develop and implement social media and engagement strategy content across platforms. Under my management, social media engagement has increased by 35% and the organization's audience has grown by 7%.
- Directed, wrote, and produced an 8-minute [film](#) for an environmental filmmaking class. Successfully combined explanatory journalism with satellite imagery to tell a story about a community on the frontline of climate change that is being killed by a dependency on cars.

Vox | Fellow, Future Perfect | Remote Nov. 2021 – Nov. 2022

- Reported and wrote stories for Vox.com's [Future Perfect](#), a vertical focused on solutions-driven journalism to the biggest problems facing the globe.
- Wrote explainers, analyses, and features on [climate change](#), [public health](#), and [urban planning](#), as well as how these topics [intersect](#) in [China](#).
- Spoke publicly on podcasts, radio stations, and on live TV broadcasts across the U.S. regarding my work for Vox.

Stanford Center on China's Economy and Institutions | Academic Editor | Palo Alto, CA Feb. 2021 – Oct. 2021

- Provided editing and writing support to faculty and graduate students affiliated with the leading institute conducting policy research on the Chinese economy. Worked on academic papers, grant proposals, and outreach materials, on public health, ecological conservation, and poverty alleviation.
- Liaised with faculty and senior academic staff to draft policy briefs.
- Evaluated the effectiveness of educational technology in China as part of a team of consultants for The World Bank.

Texas Data Quality Coalition | Communications Director | Houston, TX Jan. 2021 – Oct. 2021

- Researched and wrote op-eds for a coalition of community organizations across Texas focused on public health. Articles focused on racial disparities as part of education campaign advocating for legislation that would improve public data collection and thus allocation of public funds
- Planned and executed informational workshops for diverse communities related to public health.
- Spearheaded social media content creation, including copy and graphics.

Freelance Editor and Researcher | Remote Jan. 2018 – Oct. 2021

- Edited an academic book published by University of Chicago press, [Mastery of Words and Swords](#), on gender and race in contemporary China.
- Conducted research for book proposal on race, economics, and demographic change in the United States.

West Wing Writers | Editorial Intern | New York, NY Jan. 2020 – May 2020

- Researched and wrote op-eds on policy issues; researched memos for Fortune 500 C-Suite executives; weekly newsletter for global music conglomerate.
- Edited and fact-checked articles, press releases, and book manuscripts.

Education

Texas A&M University | B.A. in International Studies, Minor in Chinese Language and Culture 2014 – 2017

- Honors | Magna Cum Laude, Dean's List (2015-2017), The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi (2018).
- Exchange student at the University of Nottingham Ningbo China (September 2016 – January 2017).
- Kathryn Wasserman Davis Fellow for Peace at Middlebury College, School of Chinese (Summer 2018).

Skills

Language: Mandarin Chinese (Conversational), Urdu (Conversational)

Creative: Project Management, Community Outreach, Event Planning

Technical: Adobe Premiere Pro, Adobe Photoshop, Canva, Datawrapper, AP Style, Academic Research, CMS (Various)

Memberships: Society of Environmental Journalists, Asian American Journalists Association, Trans Journalists Association