

**ALESSANDRA M. DIAZ** (she/her)  
[amd2379@columbia.edu](mailto:amd2379@columbia.edu)

**EDUCATION**

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**Columbia University in the City of New York** Aug 2024 to Present  
New York, NY  
B. A. in History  
Clubs and Societies:  
Columbia Housing Equity Project, Board Member  
Columbia Students for Sanctuary, Board Member  
Columbia Political Review, Staff Writer Fall 2024

**Townsend Harris High School** Sept 2020 to Jun 2024  
New York, NY

**PUBLICATIONS**

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| <a href="#">Disaster Response Prison Labor: Exploitative or Rehabilitative?</a>                  | Jan 2025   |
| <a href="#">Mississippi Governor James L. Alcorn's Impact on Education During Reconstruction</a> | April 2024 |
| <a href="#">The Foundations of Emancipation: Education and Colonization in the 19th Century</a>  | Jun 2023   |
| <a href="#">Finding Douglass: Uncovering the Life of Frederick Douglass</a>                      | May 2023   |

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

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**Mapping Freedom National Science Foundation-Research Experience for Undergraduates (NSF-REU)**  
In-Person  
*Student Researcher* May 2025 to Present

Successfully created a digital map on QGIS and a research paper draft on a topic relating to African American emancipation during the American Civil War and Reconstruction eras; extensively researched using letters housed in the Civil War and Reconstruction Governors of Mississippi Project (CWRGM); and collaborated with program leads and professors to present at a research symposium on July 18 showcasing our weeks of research.

**Columbia University Rare Books and Manuscripts Library**  
New York, NY  
*Intern* Sept 2024 to Present

Handle and organize delicate archival material in Columbia's collection; maintain a catalog of all items in the library in order to reshelve materials up to 40 lbs.; head a rehousing project of 1000+ boxes of material courtesy of the Human Rights Watch: Africa Watch and ARMS; successfully navigate Excel, AeonClient, and other digital tools necessary for archival work.

**Civil War & Reconstruction Governors of Mississippi Project**  
Remote  
*Undergraduate Research Assistant* Sept 2023 to Present

Draft and conduct quality review of transcriptions and subject tagging of historical documents, write in-depth blog posts for The Civil War & Reconstruction Governors of Mississippi digital documentary edition/digital history project, CWRGM.org.

**The New-York Historical Society**

New York, NY

*DiMenna Children's History Museum Intern*  
June 2024

Sept 2023 to

Work with Family Programs Staff to curate events, parties, and curriculum for children ages 3-9 that explore New York City history and culture.

*Teen Leader Intern*

Jul 2023 to August 2023

Co-scripted an animated video about a woman in American history in collaboration with N-YHS' Women and the American Story (WAMS) curriculum.

*Student Historian Intern*

Oct 2022 to Jun 2023

Co-wrote a paper based on a primary source from the museum's library and new exhibition; developed an interactive website on the personal and professional life of abolitionist Frederick Douglass; deepened understanding of United States History.

## COURSES

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### **Queens College Bridge Year Program**

HIST 210: History of the Byzantine Empire, 1025-1453

*Taught by Professor Warren Woodfin*

August 2023 to December 2023

Grade: A+

LALS 203: Introduction to Latinx Ethnic Identity

February 2024 to May 2024

*Taught by Professor Jose Acosta-Sedai*

Grade: A-

### **The Brooklyn Institute for Social Research**

"W.E.B. DuBois: Souls of Black Folk and Beyond"

*Taught by Professor Nara Roberta Silva*

October 18, 2022 to November 8, 2022

Explored DuBois' "Souls" and related works. Analyzed race, activism, and DuBois' concept of "the veil." Critiqued DuBois' stance on 19th century education and "the talented tenth."

"Racial Capitalism: Race, Class, and the Black Radical Tradition"

*Taught by Professor Nara Roberta Silva*

June 6, 2022 to June 21, 2022

Explored Cedric Robinson's racial capitalism and examined intersections with race and Marxism through readings of his book *Black Marxism*; discussed 21st-century Black Radical Traditions.

"Michel Foucault: Psychology, Abnormality, and Biopolitics"

*Taught by Professor Paige Sweet*

June 8th, 2022, to June 29th, 2022

Examined Foucault's post-"Discipline and Punish" shift. Explored normalization, governmentality, and the "abnormal individual." Investigated power dynamics in psychiatry, pre-crime interventions, and the body's role in signifying normality or abnormality.

"What is Afro Pessimism? Politics, Society, and Anti-Blackness"

*Taught by Joseph Earl Thomas*

July 12, 2022 to August 2nd, 2022

Explored Afropessimism's foundations and critiques. Analyzed anti-blackness as vital to societal functioning. Examined its intersections with Feminism, Critical Race Theory, and Queer Theory. Investigated the possibility of conjoining Afropessimism with liberation theories. Delved into the genealogies, ethics, and implications of Afropessimism through readings by scholars like Jennifer Nash, Frank Wilderson, Saidiya Hartman, Patrice Douglass, and others.

## CONFERENCES

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“A Student-Centered Approach: How to Build Inclusive and Effective Digital Publishing Teams”

*Roundtable Participant*

May 2025

Library Publishing Forum Virtual Conference

## AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

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High School Winner of Emoti-Con2023 Virtual Project Fair Competition presented by Microsoft

Fall 2024 Dean's List

Spring 2025 Dean's List

## VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

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### **Afrikana Center**

*Asylum Clinic Volunteer*

Oct 2024 to Present

Work weekly with asylum seekers to draft and complete I-589 forms for seeking asylum; collaborate with lawyers and 1Ls on terminology and the submission process; work through language barriers using Language Line and individual language skills; develop meaningful relationships with asylum seekers throughout the process.

### **Sandra Ung for City Council Campaign**

*Intern*

Sept 2023 to Nov 2023

Helped virtually spread Queens City Councilwoman Sandra Ung's campaign message through phone banking.

## SKILLS

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English, Native Proficiency; Spanish, Conversational Proficiency; Mandarin Chinese, Conversational Proficiency, Canva, Figma, StoryMap/ArcGIS/QuantumGIS, Gephi, Microsoft and Google Suite