

Name: Manpreet Singh

Being a part of Dr. Joseph's lab and working on *The New York Times* Genealogy Media Project was a very rewarding experience. I had the opportunity to read through archived newspaper articles from the 1940s which always made me feel like I was being transported back in time. I learned how to critically analyze archived material and meticulously keep track of detailed information I collected through maintaining a detailed weekly report. Every week, while reading these articles and attending team meetings with both the research team and Dr. Joseph, I always walked away learning something new. Dr. Joseph was very informative when I asked questions about topics I was unsure about, and the team was very respectful of one another when we were all discussing our respective research findings.

Along with the data analyzing skills I gained from this experience and having the opportunity to strengthen my writing skills while drafting detailed final reports, my experience in the research lab was very important for me as it influenced my research focus for graduate school. Most of my search terms focused on the female population in Syria, Turkey, and Palestine. The more I read about this population, the more my research focus was being developed which is to broadly focus on women's rights and government accountability of human rights violations. When drafting my personal statement for graduate school applications, I discussed how my experience in Dr. Joseph's lab led to my research focus. In receiving my acceptance letters from both Duke University and Boston University, both letters stated that my experience in Dr. Joseph's lab was a major factor that set me apart from other applicants and which led to my acceptance into their respective programs.

My experience in the lab was very rewarding and I know I will take the skills and experiences I have gained from the lab into my future as I conduct my own research at Boston

University and into my career as a researcher. Thank you to Dr. Joseph and to the amazing research team of 2021 that helped make this a very unique and rewarding experience.