

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

EDUCATION

Evanston, IL **NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY**
Ph.D. Student, Department of Black Studies
Fellow, Latin American and Caribbean Studies Mellon Interdisciplinary Cluster

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 ‘Guanamacá.’” Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Journal, 2023.

Joseph, Marissa. [“Santiago de Cuba’s Memories of Haiti.”](#) ReVista, Harvard Review of Latin America, 2022.

Joseph, Marissa. [“#BlackGirlMagic In Toni Morrison’s Desdemona.”](#) *The Sundial*, Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, 2020.

PRESENTATIONS

“Mothering Difference, Bearing Erasure: Tracing Haitian Women in Cuba and Counter-Memories of Diaspora.” Paper presented at The ALARI IV Continental Conference on Afro-Latin American Studies. Icesi University, July 2026.

“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

International Pre-Dissertation Research Travel Award, Roberta Buffett Institute for Global Affairs, Northwestern University, 2026.

Decoster Grant for Language Study, Language Resource Center, Northwestern University, 2026.
Kwame Anthony Appiah Prize, Department of African and African American Studies, Harvard University, 2023.

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

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

Harvard Caribbean Club Senior Award, Harvard University, 2023.

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

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

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

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.

SERVICE AND ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

2025 – Present	Founder, Co-Organizer, Caribbean Studies Working Group, Northwestern University
2025 – 2026	Social Chair, Black Studies Graduate Student Association, Northwestern University
2024 – Present	NYC Volunteer, Harvard College Alumni Interviewer
2023 – 2025	Volunteer, Writing and Critical Thinking Coach, Minds Matter
2019 – 2023	Mentor, Alberta V. Scott Mentorship Program, Harvard University

LANGUAGES

English: Native speaker.

Haitian Creole: Bilingual proficiency.

Spanish: Advanced proficiency, Harvard College Language Citation.

French: Limited working proficiency.