

Vidya Surti

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EDUCATION

University of Pittsburgh Honors College (2020-2024); GPA: 3.601; *Dean's List* (X3)

Major(s): Anthropology, English **Minor(s):** Chemistry **Certificate(s):** Global Health

EXPERIENCE

Undergraduate Humanities Research Fellow

University of Pittsburgh Humanities Center

Jan.-Dec. 2023

- Awarded \$5000 towards independent research project through the Humanities Center and Frederick Honors College
- Researching Redefining the Pain Clinic: Examining the Impact of a Local Cooperatively-Run, DIY Music Venue as a Healing Space
- Interested in publishing a scholarly article as the product of my research

Browne Leadership Fellow

University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work

Jan.-Aug. 2023

- Interdisciplinary fellowship aimed at preparing students to be engaged civic leaders working to advance economic and social justice

Chancellor's Undergraduate Teaching Fellow

University of Pittsburgh French and Italian Department

Aug.-Dec. 2022

- Awarded \$800 towards cultivating a Disability Studies Archive within FR 0088: Ailing Bodies: Narratives in Health and Illness
- Lectured 55 students while providing an overview of Critical Disability Studies
- Produced accessible accompanying modules/video lectures on Digital Humanities Techniques while providing a space for student feedback and concerns
- Advised 15 student-led projects within the archive, creating a curriculum and guided assignments incentivizing gradual completion

Patient Safety Activist Fellow

Jewish Healthcare Foundation

June.-July 2022

- Learned from regional and national experts, past public health initiatives, behavioral science principles, and how technology can be incorporated to foment change in the patient safety discipline
- *1/36 fellows selected; youngest student selected in the cohort

Constituent Services/Outreach Intern

Jan.-April 2022

Office of Senator Bob Casey

- Engaging in community outreach, correspondence, monitoring news outlets for daily developments, assisting with event staffing, and assigned special projects
- Writing research reports on issues affecting the SWPA region
- Track and respond to constituent calls on VA, disability, Social Security, and Taxes
- Conduct staff-level responsibilities such as staffing for specific virtual events

Salk Health Activist Fellow

Jewish Healthcare Foundation

Sep.-Nov. 2021

- Learned from regional and national experts, past public health initiatives, behavioral science principles, and how technology can be incorporated to foment change in the public health system
- Worked in a multidisciplinary team to formulate a plan for a proposed Community Resource Coalition within the local government of Allegheny County
- *1/27 fellows selected; only 2nd-year university student selected in its history

Resource Navigation Intern

Holly Hickling For Magistrate

Sep.-Nov. 2021

- Contributed to resource navigation and distribution strategy
- Created a resource list for the campaign (housing, food, health, crisis services, etc.)
- Worked on asset map utilizing ArcGIS of district
- Followed up with needs and requests discovered in the community and connect to applicable resources

Advocacy Team Lead

Voters Choose

Feb. 2021-Aug. 2022

- Lead Advocacy Team Meetings: plan agenda, formulate a strategy for applying Rank and Add to cities, advocate for Rank and Add and election reform in city governments
- Creating a curriculum for high school students surrounding electoral rights, reform, and alternative voting processes (disability friendly)
- Working with members to formulate/complete tasks for the research division of Voters Choose
- Create legal research and volunteering documents for members
- Provide feedback to research proposals

Senior Health Policy Analyst

Partners for Patients

Jan. 2021-Present

- Founder of Project Vidya, an Indigenous Peoples Pain Relief Initiative detailing novel educational practices, infrastructural support, and holistic treatment for indigenous individuals that suffer from Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Diseases (RMDs)
- Creating and leading LAIPDEP: Latin American Indigenous Digital Education Platform as a solution to indigenous chronic pain

Digital Atlas Design Intern

University of Pittsburgh Department of World History

Jan.-Apr. 2021

- [Topic: Reducing Harm from Pediatric Opioid Use in Allegheny County: Applying Nordic and Dutch Treatment Models to Allegheny County](#)
- Conducted independent historical analysis research project utilizing ArcGIS, QGIS, and ESRI StoryMaps around Novel Treatment Models for Pediatric Opioid Use

Research Intern

Children and Screens: Institute of Digital Media and Child Development Sept.-Dec. 2020

- Highlighted key recent research findings and topic experts for a range of projects, including media interviews and newsletters
- Prepared presentations on recent literature reviews, policies, grants, and findings related to digital media and child development
- Updated internal article database with new academic journal publications weekly
- Supported Postdoctoral Project Coordinator with scholarly publications and grants relating to recent retreat on digital media's effect on brain development
- Coordinated the development of Children and Screens' [Ocular Health in a Digital World Webinar](#)

VOLUNTEERING

Pittsburgh Human Rights City Alliance

Dec. 2020-Aug. 2021

- Drafting the Pittsburgh UPR (Universal Periodic Review) with other Human Rights Cities to provide local documentation and recommendations to shape ongoing conversations about human rights in our region
- Coordinated the Pittsburgh Human Rights City Alliance's Racial Justice Summit program

BraiNY Journal Club

July 2020-Present

- Presented a neuroscience publication to educate youth interested in neuroscience research
- Discussed the methodology, tests, and the future scientific significance of Xia et. al, Chronic Pain Impairs Memory Formation via Disruption of Neurogenesis Mediated by Meso Hippocampal Brain-Derived Neurotrophic Factor Signaling

CERTIFICATIONS**COVID-19 Contact Tracing Course (Johns Hopkins)**

Sept. 2020

Introduction to Neuroscience Course Completion (International Youth Neuroscience Association)

Aug. 2020

- Learned about different lecture topics on neuroscience: cell neuroscience, electrophysiology, neuroanatomy, sensory systems, homeostasis, memory, attention/consciousness, neurodegeneration
- Produced a capstone project essay on Neuroscience and Aging-related disorders.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS**2023 Sustainability in France Research Award**

- The Sustainable Body: Fashion, The Body, and Sustainability

Spring + Summer 2023 Humanities Fellowship Recipient

- The Dilemma of Communicating Pain (\$5000)

Fall 2022 Chancellor's Undergraduate Teaching Fellowship Award

- Constructing Disability in French and Francophone Contexts in the Digital Humanities (\$800)

Summer 2022 G. Alec Stewart Endowed Student Research Award

- Conducting Research on Greek Tragedies and the Performer's Expression of Pain (\$1000)

Fall 2021 University Honors College Research Award

- Writing A Greek Tragedy on Women's Pain and Suffering (\$1000)

Summer 2021 Brackenridge Fellowship Recipient

- LAIPDEP: Latin American Indigenous Pain Digital Education Platform (\$4000)

Spring + Summer 2022 Humanities Fellowship Recipient (DECLINED)

- LAIPDEP: Latin American Indigenous Pain Digital Education Platform (\$5000)

Pitt Institute of Politics Internship and Seminar (Spring 2022)

- *1/15 interns selected; fastest acceptance to the program in its history
- Awarded Constituent Services Internship at the Pittsburgh Office of Senator Bob Casey

HONORS AND AWARDS

2023 University of Pittsburgh Global Health Case Competition 2nd Place Nov. 2022

Mitsubishi Study in Japan Grant (\$500) Aug. 2021

- Awarded by the University of Pittsburgh’s Asian Studies Center to offset the cost of the international course: JPNSE 1902 Imagining Global Cities of the Future: Sustainable Development in Kobe and Pittsburgh

Harvard Policython Best Nonprofit-Related Policy Brief

Nov. 2020

- Composed the most exceptional and relevant solution-based policy brief, that incorporates the non-governmental organizational sector into said solution(s), of the Fall 2020 Pandemic Policython

PROJECTS

- French and Francophone Studies Disability Studies Archive
- pain.obdurodon.org
- (E)motion: The Blink of An Eye (FR 88, Fall 2021)
 - *accepted into the French and Francophone Studies Conference 2022
- The Human Beyond (Behind) the Scale (Docupoetry, Fall 2021)
- Community Resource Coalition Proposal (Salk Health Activist Fellowship, Fall 2021)
- West End Community Asset Map (Holly Hickling for Magistrate, Fall 2021)
- Dynia, Greek Tragedy on Pain and Suffering (UHC Research Fellowship, Fall 2021)
- LAIPDEP: Latin American Indigenous Pain Digital Education Platform (Brackenridge Fellowship, Summer 2021)
- [Reducing Harm from Pediatric Opioid Use in Allegheny County: Pediatric Opioid Overdoses in Allegheny County vs. the Netherlands and Norway from 2007 to 2021](#) (Digital Atlas Design Internship: Pitt Department of World History, Spring 2021)
- [Ocular Health in a Digital World Webinar](#) (Children and Screens, Fall 2020)

AFFILIATIONS

[World Economic Forum Pittsburgh Global Shaper](#) (2020-Present)

National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) Board of Directors Member (2022, 1 Year Term)

- Student Affairs Committee (2022-2023)
- DEI Committee (2023-2024)

Salk Health Activist Fellowship Alumni (Jewish Healthcare Foundation)

Patient Safety Fellowship Alumni (Jewish Healthcare Foundation)

Pittsburgh American Lung Association Young Leaders Council (2022-Present)

Committee on Student-Focused Public Safety Concerns (CSPSC) Member

Frederick Honors College Planning and Budgeting Committee Student Representative AY 2022-23

Student Health Advisory Board Member (2022-Present)

Radiant Hall Board of Directors (2023-2026)

- Real Estate Committee (2023-Present)
- Membership Committee (2023-Present)

Flourish Labs Student Advisory Council (2023-Present)

Allegheny Regional Asset District Citizen Advisory Board (2023-Present)

Student Government Board Disability Resources Ad-Hoc Committee (2023-Present)

Conferences (Non-Academic)

AcademyHealth Patient Scholarship (\$2000): 2022 National Health Policy Conference/Health DataPalooza (Attendance)

AcademyHealth Patient Scholarship (\$2000): 2022 Annual Research Meeting (Attendance)

Conferences (Academic)

2022 Frederick Honors College Research Conference (Presenter)

2022 39th Annual 20th and 21st French and Francophone Studies Conference Undergraduate Sessions (Presenter)

2022 NCHC Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Forum presentation: Exploring and Cultivating “Belonging” in Honors Programs (Panelist)

2022 NCHC Being Well in Honors - NCHC Roundtable (Panelist)

2023 University of Pittsburgh French and Italian Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference: Staging Care and Wellbeing (Presenter)

Language(s): English, Spanish, French **Software:** Microsoft Office, QGIS, ArcGIS Online, ESRI StoryMaps, XML, XPath, XLST, Javascript, Python