

Rhyme and Research

URAF
Fall 2023

Harvard Summer Undergrad Research Village (HSURV) Niya Chagantipati '26 on Mapping Asian American Poetry



Project Overview

In her project, Niya dove into the works of poets identifying as Asian American. After closely studying these poets' writings, she assembled a spreadsheet with biographies and timelines for each poet. The next step involved turning her collected data into a map using coding and AI tools – skills she learned for this project.

The finished product is a United States map tracking published works, allowing identification and examination of Asian-American poetry communities.



"... when you talk to other people, that is where so much of the work happens, and where the majority of ideas are formed"

Community Shaping Connections

HSURV is completed in 5 different cohorts, and Niya participated in the SHARP (Summer Humanities and Arts Research Program) Cohort with 14 other students. In her reflections, Niya continuously emphasized the impacts that her cohort had on her as a learner, sharing the ways in which her and other students would discuss common themes in their learning. Those crucial discussions, she said, made the cohort feel almost like a family.



Research Reflections

When asked about any challenges, Niya said that research could be an isolating field: independent and often meticulous tasks, and long hours. However, she emphasized that once researchers begin to reach out to peers, colleagues, and mentors, it becomes far less isolating. She encouraged others to seek out different ideas, experiences, or perspectives to make their research more informed and fulfilling.



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