Position:  Research Assistant, Truth Racial Healing and Transformation Mapping and Outreach (Internship)

About the Organization

The Bridging Divides Initiative (BDI) is a non-partisan research initiative that tracks and mitigates political violence in the United States. BDI supports efforts to grow and build local community resilience through elections and other periods of heightened risk, laying the groundwork for longer-term to bridge the divides we face as a nation.

We do this by 1) producing action oriented and responsive research to fill existing gaps and empower local leaders; 2) enabling cross sector collaboration, so individuals and organizations are better prepared to mitigate risk and response to crisis when it does arise; and 3) helping to drive the policy and community response. Over the last two years, BDI played an essential role in supporting a wide range of actors preparing for and responding to political violence and democratic crisis. Our data, analysis and tools continue to help a diverse coalition of national and local decision makers better target their interventions. BDI is based at the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA), co-hosted by the Empirical Studies of Conflict. Please visit https://bridgingdivides.princeton.edu/ for more information.

Position Overview

Princeton’s Bridging Divides Initiative is seeking an intern to support its collaboration with the Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation (TRHT) movement and endorsing organizations, to support and help further the movement's mapping initiative. The intern will collaborate both with the TRHT group and supporting partners including #BreatheWithMeRevolution, The Department of African American Studies at UCLA, The National Collaborative for Health Equity (NCHE), and The John Mitchell, Jr., Program for History, Justice, and Race. As of August 9, 2021, the TRHT has at least 324 organizations that have endorsed and signed on to support the establishment of a United States Commission on Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation. The intern will engage with the broad movement and advance a key project at the core of BDI’s efforts to lay a foundation for longer-term work to bridge the divides we face as a nation.

The intern may also be collaborating with other TRHT data partners on this critical mapping initiative, which may include layers of data on local truth or racial healing initiatives already created by teams of researchers and organizers at The New England School of Law – Boston, The Mary Hoch Center for Reconciliation, and Restorative Justice for Oakland Youth.

As a result of this internship, the intern will develop skills in data management and inter-organizational communication, as well as have the opportunity to network with professionals involved in the TRHT movement.
The intern will be expected to work remotely with the BDI team, which will support the intern as they lead and manage the following efforts:

**Responsibilities:**

*Stakeholders engagement*

- Ensure regular, responsive communication with movement leadership, including working with the BDI team to provide project updates by email and in coordination meetings.
- Work collaboratively with the BDI team and movement leaders to keep data collection and outreach moving forward.
- Help coordinate relationships with other organizations gathering data on existing TRHT and reparations efforts around the US, already engaged in conversations about the project.

*Data Collection*

- Reach out to existing organizations on a list of endorsers of TRHT to solicit their organizational data for inclusion in the mapping initiative.
- Obtain and clean (standardize) data to prepare for mapping.
- Design intake form for chapters of various national organizations to add their information to our database for mapping. Examples of national organizations with local chapters include League of Women Voters and the Association of Research Libraries.

*Data Management*

- Organize and consolidate the collected datasets with appropriate tags. Ensure any future intake and coding processes are clear and consistent.

**Qualifications:**

The Intern should have demonstrated experience in many or all of the following core competencies required to successfully complete the project:

- Interpersonal and communication skills
- Transparency and accountability
- Collaborative and consensus-building decision making
- Ability to build relationships with individuals, communities, and organizations or work in collaboration to engage with communities and organizations.
- Analytical and critical thinking skills that promote sustainable organizational growth.
- Familiarity with Microsoft Office suite (Word and Excel)
- Familiarity with Google Drive (Docs, Sheets, and Forms)
- Knowledge of R for data processing and interest in interactive web mapping is **not necessary**, but can form a part of the internship if the intern is interested.
Timeline

Start date for the position is asap, to begin ideally no later than the end of December 2021. The role is envisioned as a 2-month engagement over the winter break and early 2021, but applicants interested in supporting the project longer term during the semester should note their availability in their application.

How to apply

Send a resume and email expressing 1) your interest in the project and 2) availability to bdi@princeton.edu

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Posted: December 8, 2021

No matter who you are, BDI is a place you can call home. We know that our unique perspectives make us stronger, smarter, and well-positioned for success. We value and rely on the collective voices of our team to help guide our work on challenging issues. That’s why we’re proud Princeton is an equal opportunity employer and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to age, race, color, religion, sex orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law.