



Jeremy Levenson

Jeremy Levenson grew up in New Haven, CT, aware of social injustices there that informed his understanding of the world. In high school, he served as the co-director for the school's umbrella service organization and sat on the school's faculty-student diversity committee. Jeremy also traveled to Otse, Botswana where he lived with a family and volunteered at Camp Hill, a home for disabled youth. At Penn, Jeremy's activities have been deeply intertwined with his academic scholarship and have changed often. Jeremy's most notable service engagements include working as assistant supervisor for the Agatston Urban Nutrition Initiative, mentor for College Access Career Readiness, Big Brother to the one and only Zahir Thomas, and co-leader of the Civic Scholars Service Project at Lea Elementary. On campus, Jeremy has been a member of the Student Labor Action Project (SLAP), leader for the Penn Green pre-orientation program, chair of the Netter Center Student Advisory Board, intern at the Kelly Writers House and participant in the Herbert Marcuse Reading Group. He also participated in the Ibrahim Leadership and Dialogue Project and was a founding facilitator for the Fellowship for Building Intercultural Communities. Accepted into the Mount Sinai Humanities and Medicine program, he majored in Urban Studies. As part of his coursework, Jeremy lived with families in South Africa, Vietnam and Brazil with the International Honors Program: Health and Community. Jeremy currently works with Professor Philippe Bourgois on making visible the routinized suffering of the War on Drugs and mass incarceration.

CAPSTONE PROJECT

Pouring Water on a Drowning Man: Medicine, the State of New York and the Attica Prison Uprising

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Eric Schneider, School of Arts and Sciences, Urban Studies Program

In 1971, prisoners at the Attica State Prison revolted and held thirty-three hostages for four days before state troopers recaptured the prison, killing twenty-nine inmates and ten hostages. Where was the medical profession in this, the deadliest prison uprising in U.S. history? Though their place has been overlooked, doctors played a pivotal role before, during, and immediately after the uprising. With the prison under the nation's spotlight, the provision of medical care at Attica became highly politicized. This politicization provides a window into the structure of power in prisons. This essay argues that medicine occupied a powerful and yet ambiguous position at Attica, with doctors both aiding the imposition of state power as well as resisting its reach.