

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## The Conversation U.S. Welcomes Summer Fellows and Intern

BOSTON (May 5, 2021) – The Conversation U.S. (TCUS) is thrilled to welcome three outstanding individuals to the team this summer: Tamar Lichter Blanks, Thalia Plata and Vanessa Vieites. Blanks and Vieites are joining as part of the competitive American Association for the Advancement of Science Mass Media Science & Engineering Fellowship Program. Plata was selected from a field of undergraduate candidates as summer intern. Learn more about each of the new team members below.

**Tamar Lichter Blanks** is a Ph.D. candidate in mathematics at Rutgers University. Her research is in abstract algebra, a branch of mathematics that is about understanding symmetry and structure. Blanks is passionate about sharing the conceptual side of math – which she says is really a jumble of puzzles, patterns and logical thinking – and about helping people feel welcome in math and science in general.

**Thalia Plata** is a journalist based in Boston, Mass., who recently graduated from Emerson College with a B.S. in journalism and minors in history and political science. Originally from southeastern North Carolina, she is passionate about diversity in media, making news accessible to the general public and telling stories in an engaging way.

**Vanessa Vieites, Ph.D.**, recently completed her doctorate in psychology with a specialization in developmental science at Florida International University, where she studied neurological and cognitive predictors of individual differences in young children’s learning and memory abilities. She also earned a minor in quantitative methods and a certificate in women’s and gender studies. But, she says, writing is her first love. Vieites feels fortunate to have been introduced to the AAAS Mass Media Fellowship, where she can combine her affinity for writing with her quest for knowledge and share both with others.

“It was important for us to design a program that is mutually beneficial for the incoming fellows and intern and our team,” said TCUS Editor and General Manager Beth Daley.

Blanks, Plata and Vieites will be trained as editors in The Conversation’s unique model and work on stories, editorial research and more.

# THE CONVERSATION

Academic rigor, journalistic flair

## **About The Conversation**

The Conversation U.S. is an independent source of news commentary and analysis from academics and researchers delivered directly to the public. A team of professional editors work with academic scholars to translate their research for the wider public. Access to trusted, independent, high-quality and authenticated explanatory journalism is critical to a functioning democracy. Our goal is to promote better understanding of current affairs and complex issues, leading to a better quality of public discourse. Visit [theconversation.com/us](http://theconversation.com/us).

## **About American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)**

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) is the world's largest general scientific society and publisher of the journal *Science*, as well as *Science Translational Medicine*; *Science Signaling*; a digital, open-access journal, *Science Advances*; *Science Immunology*; and *Science Robotics*. AAAS was founded in 1848 and includes more than 250 affiliated societies and academies of science, serving 10 million individuals. *Science* has the largest paid circulation of any peer-reviewed general science journal in the world. The nonprofit AAAS is open to all and fulfills its mission to “advance science and serve society” through initiatives in science policy, international programs, science education, public engagement and more. For additional information about AAAS, see [www.aaas.org](http://www.aaas.org).

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