



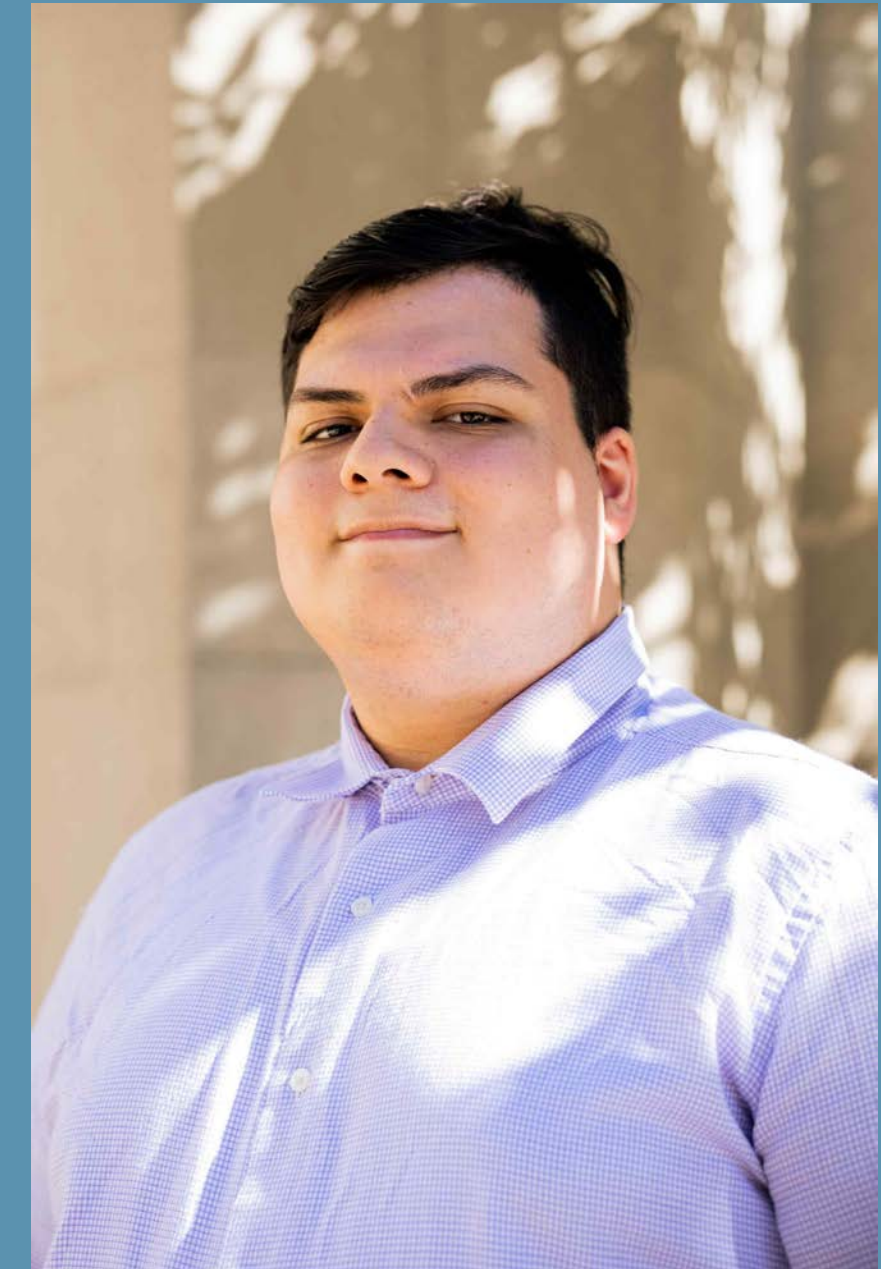
# SPRING 2023 AT THE WOODROW WILSON HOUSE

Elio Rodriguez Zeda  
Spring 2023 Cohort

# About Me

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- Hello, my name is Elio.
- I am a New Jersey native , who was born in Puerto Rico
- Will soon be graduating from Boston University with a Political and International Relations double major (and History Minor)
- I love learning about American presidential history, and Latin American politics.



# Work I've Done

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## On-Site

- **Helping Mr. Pucher move tables and chairs, and rearrange rooms for special events**
- **Helped set up the gift shop's new register**
- **Worked with others to take down collection pieces for restoration**

## Remote/Independent Research

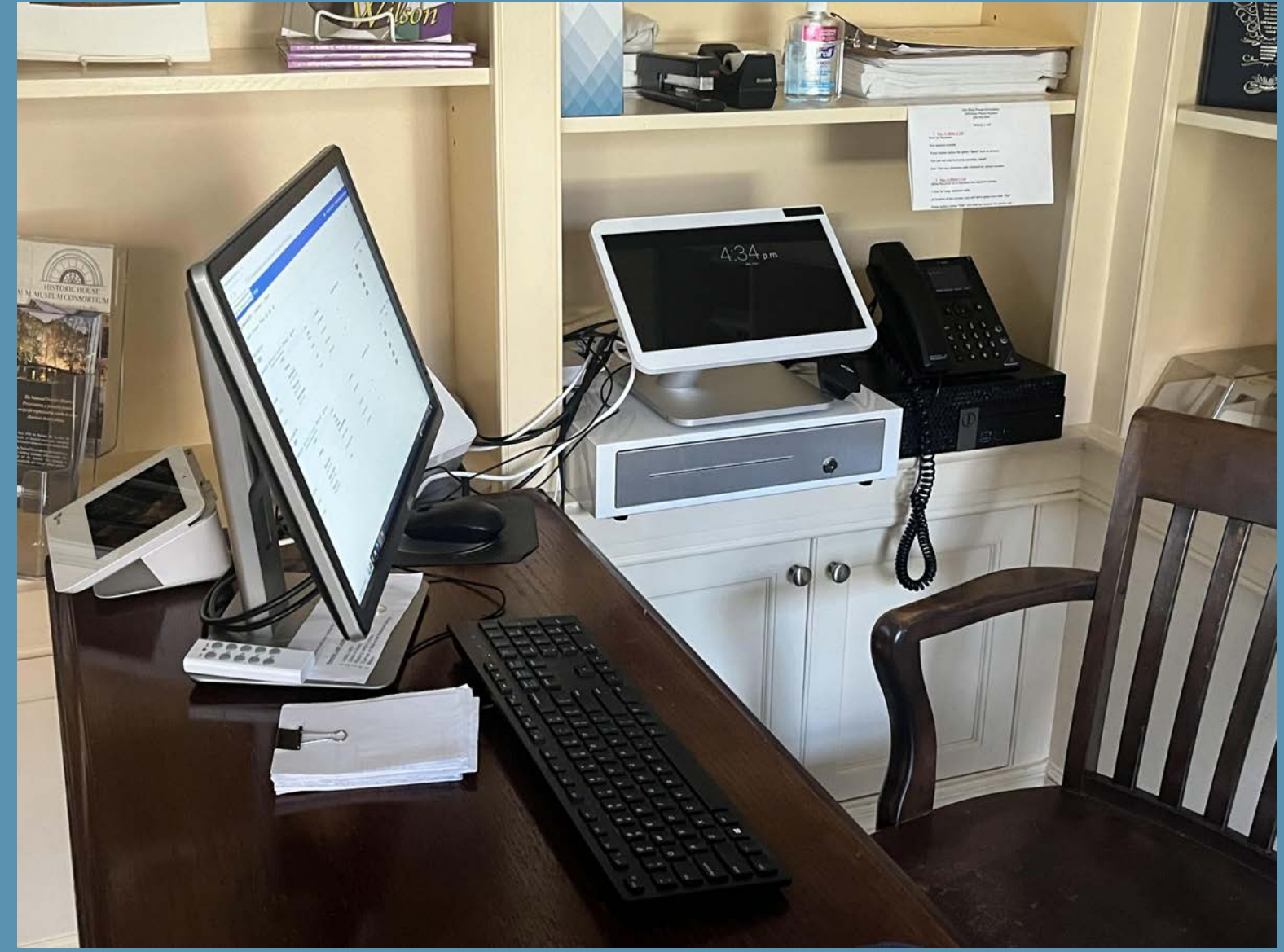
- **Researched and wrote about the Wilson administration's role in Puerto Rico and the Jones Act (1917)**
- **Visited the Library of Congress**

# On-Site: Event Logistics

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# On-Site: New Register Set-Up



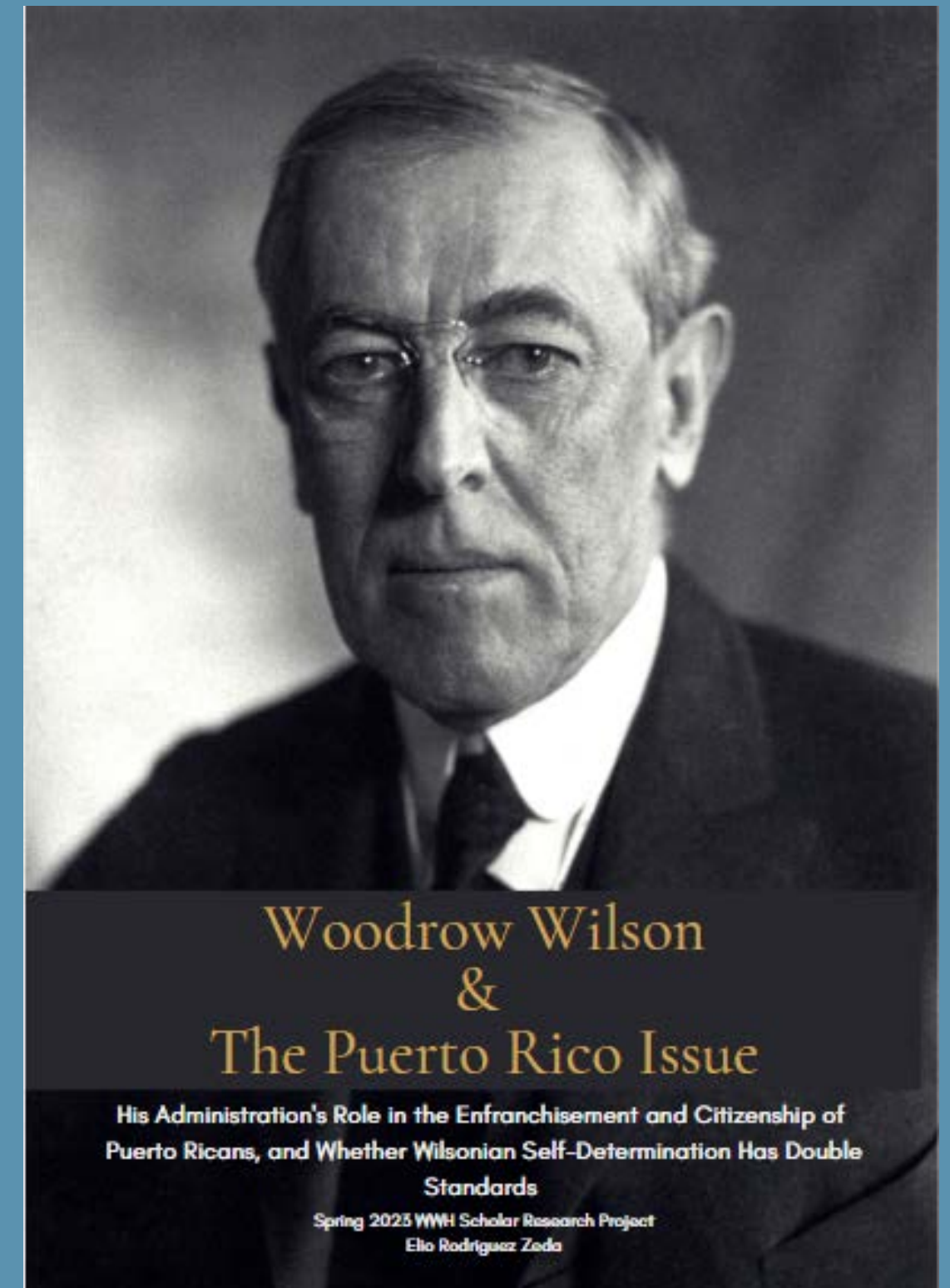
# On-Site: Collection Take-Down

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# Remote: Research

- As a proud Puerto Rican-born citizen, I wanted to explore the roots of Puerto Rico's U.S. citizenship ... roots founded within the Wilson Administration (Jones-Shafroth Act of 1917)
- At the Wilson House, I was able to concentrate that interest into a program-long research project on President Wilson's ultimate role in the policy



# Remote: Why This Topic?

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- Personal Intrigue
- Conversations around Puerto Rico's status continue to be salient
  - Statehood vs independence vs current commonwealth ([self-determination](#))
  - Connection to socio-political problems (hurricane seasons and FEMA responses, P.R. debt crisis, lack of representation in federal laws, diaspora)
- General education/combating occasional ignorance
  - Jones Act gave Puerto Ricans U.S. citizenship (not immigrants and not "illegal"; don't have a country to "go back to")
- Relevance to Woodrow Wilson
  - How does Wilsonian Self-Determination (Fourteen Points) apply to a more domestic issue of Puerto Rican enfranchisement? Is it [hypocritical](#)?



# Remote: Visiting the Library of Congress



Alcove in the Hispanic Reading Room (LOC)

**THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH  
FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY!!**

