

JAN RYDZAK

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Bio: Multilingual policy professional advancing research-based policy on human rights and technology, connectivity, and development across sectors and industries.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

RESEARCH SCHOLAR & ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR PROGRAM

Aug 2018 –

STANFORD GLOBAL DIGITAL POLICY INCUBATOR • STANFORD, CA

Co-directing a hybrid program on technology and human rights. Responsible for program-building, partnerships, research. Project lead for collaborative initiatives. Analyzed regulatory initiatives on disinformation and content moderation, mechanics of (dis)information flows in various languages and countries, other topics. Helped establish collaboration with UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Assembly. Organizer/speaker at numerous events (Social Media Councils workshop; Human-Centered AI; launches for Ranking Digital Rights and Freedom House; RightsCon; Stanford-ICNL Tech Camp). Co-author and visual lead for reports ("Social Media Councils: From Concept to Reality").

GOOGLE POLICY FELLOW

Jun – Aug 2016

GLOBAL NETWORK INITIATIVE • WASHINGTON, DC

Tech policy analysis and research in a multi-stakeholder initiative comprising the world's largest tech companies, civil society stakeholders, academia, and investors, integrating human rights standards into business. Published report on human-rights implications of shutdowns based on mixed-methods research (June 2018). Other research on free expression and human rights. Numerous interviews with technologists, NGOs, international orgs, and investors. Research presented at Committee to Protect Journalists, Internet Governance Forum, RightsCon, and others.

MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS TRAINEE

Oct 2015 – Feb 2016

EUROPEAN COMMISSION (DG COMMUNICATION) • WROCLAW, POLAND

Blue Book Program. Reported on freedom of expression and nationalism in Europe. Organized and led large events on digital rights, connectivity, international development. Coordinated media campaigns and activities (press/radio/social media) as communication liaison. Forged partnerships with corporate actors interested in human rights (e.g., initiative against hate speech with Facebook Poland).

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS INTERN

May–Jul 2014

UNITED NATIONS (DEPT. OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS) • NEW YORK, NY

Assisted with daily work of NGO Branch and Committee, organized and participated in events and conferences (e.g. ECOSOC Youth Forum), managed NGO database, communicated with NGO applicants for Consultative Status.

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Jan–May 2014

UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR FOR INDIGENOUS RIGHTS – SUPPORT TEAM

Investigated alleged human rights violations in resource conflicts with indigenous groups. Regional focus: Latin America (Peru, Ecuador, Mexico). Analysis of aerial/spatial imagery of oil sites in the Peruvian Amazon to determine overlap with indigenous territory. Communicated with NGOs on the ground. Drafted multiple research reports that directly contributed to UNSR's final evaluations.

GRADUATE INSTRUCTOR & GRADUATE ASSISTANT

Aug 2013 – Aug 2018

UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA • TUCSON, AZ

Fully organized, structured, taught, and graded four undergraduate courses (online + offline). Teaching evaluations reflect average teaching effectiveness of 4.92 / 5.00.

LANGUAGE INSTRUCTOR / EU PROJECT ASSISTANT

Sep 2010 – Mar 2011

EUROPEAN COMMISSION LIFELONG LEARNING PROGRAMME • CHARLEROI, BELGIUM

FREELANCE TRANSLATOR, INTERPRETER, AND EDITOR

Aug 2007 –

POLISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCE, VARIOUS UNIVERSITIES, AND OTHERS

Translated hundreds of research articles, reports, official documents, and other texts for a variety of clients (Polish, English, Spanish, Portuguese).

LANGUAGES	ENGLISH native	POLISH native	SPANISH fluent	PORTUGUESE fluent	FRENCH fluent	MANDARIN beginner
EDUCATION	<p>PH. D. GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC POLICY, MINOR IN JOURNALISM 2018 UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA, TUCSON, AZ Dissertation title: <i>A Total Eclipse of the Net: The Dynamics of Network Shutdowns and Collective Action Responses</i>. Researched tech policy, digital rights, social media, international development, humanitarian technology. Fulbright Program. Master's degree awarded in 2014. GPA: 3.88/4.0.</p> <p>MA MODERN LANGUAGES (SPANISH, PORTUGUESE, FRENCH) 2011 MARIA CURIE-SKŁODOWSKA UNIVERSITY, LUBLIN, POLAND Accelerated Master's. Thesis title: <i>Decolonizing the Language: The Nativization of Portuguese in Mozambique</i>. GPA: 4.98/5.0. Summa cum laude (Best Graduating University Student award).</p> <p>ERASMUS PROGRAM 2009 UNIVERSITY OF THE ALGARVE, FARO, PORTUGAL Scholarship concluded with distinction.</p>					
DISTINCTIONS/ FELLOWSHIPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oxford Internet Institute Summer Doctoral Programme, University of Oxford, 2016. Participant; co-organizer of session on technology and forced migration • Google Policy Fellowship, Global Network Initiative, 2016 • Citizen Lab Summer Institute 2015, University of Toronto, 2015 • Fulbright Fellowship: Fulbright Commission, Ph.D. study, 2012/13 • Summer Research Fellowship, School of Govt. & Public Policy, University of Arizona, 2013. Summer research project: "Chimeras in Transition: Media Systems in Developing States" • Best Graduating Student Award, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, 2011 • Comenius Assistantship, European Commission, Charleroi (Belgium), 2010/11 • National Scholarship of the Polish Minister of Science, 2010/11 					
SKILLS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spatial analysis / GIS / Remote Sensing: ArcGIS, ERDAS • Data analysis: Stata, UCINet • Graphic design & multimedia: Adobe InDesign & Photoshop CS5, Final Cut Pro 					
PUBLICATIONS, CONFERENCES, AND INVITED TALKS (SELECTED)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panel (2x): <i>Studying Shutdowns' Impact from the Lens of Gender, Conflict and Ethnicity; Warning! Access to the Internet Is Suspended for Security Reasons – A Policy Discussion on the Effectiveness of Internet Shutdowns</i>. Speaker. RightsCon, Jun 2019. • Report (w/ Eileen Donahoe et al.): "Social Media Councils: From Concept to Reality". Conference report. Stanford Global Digital Policy Incubator / ARTICLE 19 / UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion and Expression, May 2019. Available here. • Op-ed (w/ Rohini Lakshane): "Internet Shutdowns in India Only Fuel the Fires of Violence." <i>The Hindustan Times</i>, Apr 2019. Available here. • Op-ed: "Shutting Down Social Media Does Not Reduce Violence, but Rather Fuels It." <i>The Conversation</i>, Apr 2019. Available here. • Presentation: "Of Blackouts and Bandhs: The Strategy and Structure of Disconnected Protest in India." Midwest Political Science Ass'n, Apr 2019. • Workshop: <i>The Internet as a Research Tool: Bridging Politics and Technology in the Study of Internet Shutdowns</i>. Invited participant. All-day workshop. International Studies Ass'n, Mar 2019. • Panel: <i>India in Focus: Roundtable on Disinformation before India's Election</i>. Invited speaker. UC Berkeley Human Rights Center, Mar 2019. • Paper: "Of Blackouts and Bandhs: The Strategy and Structure of Disconnected Protest in India." Stanford GDPi Working Paper, Feb 2019. Available here. Press coverage: BBC (interview, 3x), <i>The Verge</i> (interview), <i>New York Times</i> (interview), NBC (interview), Global News Radio Toronto (interview), Reuters (interview), CNN, <i>Washington Post</i>, <i>WIRED</i> (2x), <i>Los Angeles Times</i>, <i>Huffington Post</i> (2x), CNBC, ACLU, Axios, <i>The Irish Times</i>, <i>The Conversation</i>, <i>New Scientist</i>, Radio Canada, FranceInfo, others. SSRN Top 10% Most Viewed/Downloaded Papers (annual). • Presentation: "Network Shutdowns as a Threat to Free Assembly Online and Offline." Event: <i>Defending Free Assembly in a Digital World: Conversation with UN Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Assembly & Association</i>, Stanford GDPi, Jan 2019. 					

OTHER SERVICE AND
EXPERIENCE

- **Invited talk:** "A Partial Eclipse of the Net: Iran's Social Media Blackout in Global Perspective." Invited talk. Stanford Iranian Studies Program, Jan 2019.
- **Dissertation:** *A Total Eclipse of the Net: The Dynamics of Network Shutdowns and Collective Action Responses*. PhD dissertation. University of Arizona, Aug 2018.
- **Report:** "Disconnected: A Human-Rights Approach to Network Shutdowns." Washington, D.C.: Global Network Initiative, Jun 2018. Available [here](#). **Press coverage:** [The Independent](#).
- **Panel:** *Paralysis through Disruption: Understanding the Full Human Impacts of Network Shutdowns*. Co-organizer (w/ Global Network Initiative) and moderator. RightsCon, May 2018.
- **Presentation:** "Disconnective Action: The Dynamics of Mass Protest in Network Shutdowns." Presented at New York Law School Internet Law Works-in-Progress (Mar 2018); Midwest Political Science Ass'n (Apr 2018); Theorizing the Web (Apr 2018).
- **Paper:** "The Digital Dilemma in War and Peace: Internet Connectivity and Network Interference." Working paper. Presented at International Studies Ass'n (Feb 2017) and others.
- **Panel:** *Analyzing the Causes & Impacts of Network Shutdowns*. Invited participant. Presentation: "Network Shutdowns: State of the (Dark) Art," Internet Governance Forum, Dec 2016.
- **Op-ed:** "Now Poland's Government Is Coming After the Internet." *Foreign Policy*, Jun 2016. 3,000+ shares across social media.
- **Consultant, United Nations Information Management Unit (2019):** Primary consultant for a set of workshops on technological trends that affect current and potential peace operations, targeted toward the Depts. of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) and Peace Operations (DPO).
- **RightsCon 2019:** Co-chair of Shutdowns and Connectivity track. RightsCon is the world's leading conference on human rights in the digital age.
- **International Student Association, University of Arizona:** President (JAN 2013 – NOV 2014), Event Planner, Marketing Director, Officer (VARIOUS TIMES). Promoting international students' engagement through educational, cultural, and community service events; partnerships with local businesses.
- **Standby Task Force / Tomnod:** Volunteer-based digital humanitarian initiatives. Aerial imagery damage assessment and social media analysis. Participated in deployments during Hurricanes Irma and Maria (2017) and Cyclone Gita (2018).
- **Reviewer:** *Journal of Communication, China Science Data, International Journal of Communication*.

REFERENCES

Eileen Donahoe

Executive Director, Stanford Global Digital Policy Incubator (GDPI)
Eileen.Donahoe@stanford.edu / +1 (650) 721-5345
Relationship: Supervisor

Larry Diamond

Senior Fellow, Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies / Principal Investigator, GDPI
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Relationship: Supervisor

Rebecca MacKinnon

Director, Ranking Digital Rights, New America
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Relationship: Colleague

Judith Lichtenberg

Executive Director, Global Network Initiative
judith@globalnetworkinitiative.org / +1 (202) 793-3053
Relationship: Former Google Policy Fellowship mentor

David Kaye

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Relationship: Colleague

Peter Micek

General Counsel, Access Now
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Relationship: Colleague