Emilia Ruzicka

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Summary

Detail-oriented data journalist, researcher, and editor with a strong foundation in data visualization and storytelling. Recently completed an M.A. in Media, Culture, and Technology investigating how AI and data tools play a role in journalism. Hands-on experience in data-driven reporting, editing, qualitative research, and design. Proficient in managing cross-disciplinary teams and translating complex information into engaging, accessible content.

Core Skills

Data & Coding: R, Excel, Airtable, Datawrapper, HTML, CSS, p5.js, Tableau, Python, SAS, Java, MATLAB, ArcGIS
Design & Creative Editing: Adobe Illustrator, Photoshop, InDesign, Audition

Professional Experience

Trans Journalists Association

Trans News Initiative Data Management Specialist (Jan 2026 – Present)
- Oversees the systematic review of historic data for the Trans News Initiative, cleaning data errors, ensuring stylistic consistency, and aligning data labels and clusters with real-world events and topics.
- Cleans newly scraped data monthly to ensure data accuracy prior to publication.

Data Highlights Author (Dec 2025)
- Wrote Data Highlights section of Trans News Initiative white paper to showcase insights publicly.

Data Visualization Society

Writer (Nov 2019 – Present)
- Authors articles for "Nightingale" on data science, visualization, journalism, and recent related literature 2-5 times annually. Designs accompanying graphics from concept to final visual.

University of Virginia

Research Assistant, Sloane Lab (Oct 2023 – Jan 2026)
- Leads research on how data and AI tools are used in journalism, coordinating 70+ interviews, 4 newsroom observations, and 5 conference observations. Processes and analyzes qualitative data, distilling key themes into reports, presentations, and potential academic outputs.
- Designed a database to organize pitches and publication for the "Co-Opting AI" book series.

Research Assistant, Dr. Aaron Martin (Sep 2023 – Dec 2024)
- Developed community-friendly materials on data governance and digital risk, including visualizations, posters, and presentations.
- Edited a collaborative book project to ensure stylistic consistency, clear structure, and factual accuracy across 10 contributing authors' works.

Media Law Grader (Aug 2023 – Dec 2023)
- Evaluated 60 students' understanding of copyright, privacy, First Amendment, and defamation basics.

Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism

Lede Program for Data Journalism Project Mentor (Jun 2023 – Aug 2023)
- Advised 20 students about data journalism best practices, including data collection, analysis, contextualization, visualization, and accessibility.

Stacker

Data Reporter (Jun 2021 – Jul 2023)
- Sourced datasets, proposed story ideas, performed primary analyses, and produced data-driven articles

about public health, science, and technology. Outputs included cleaned datasets, distilled statistics, written articles, and public-facing data visualizations for 6-12 stories weekly.
- Co-managed national and local content calendars monthly to maximize audience engagement. Supported story distribution and product launches by experimenting with new formats, tools, and workflows.

Contract Roles

Data Visualization Specialist, National Federation of Community Broadcasters　　　(Feb 2025 – Mar 2025)
- Designed data visualizations for presentations and social media using data from annual member survey.

Author, Urban Institute Do No Harm Guide　　　(Oct 2023 – Feb 2024)
- Wrote "Practical Tactics for Gender Inclusivity in Data Reporting" for *Crafting Equitable Data Narratives.*

Author, DataJournalism.com　　　(Oct 2022 – Dec 2022)
- Wrote "How to create data visualisations that serve the public: Making data visualisations accessible to everyone."

Data Design Specialist, Dr. Emily Oster　　　(Jan 2018 – May 2018)
- Designed data visualizations for *Cribsheet: A Data-Driven Guide to Better, More Relaxed Parenting, from Birth to Preschool* based on charts and graphs from academic research.

Brown University

Writer & Content Editor, Data Science Newsletter　　　(Jun 2021 – Sep 2021)
- Produced and edited feature content on data science topics.

Teaching Assistant, DATA 1150　　　(Dec 2020 – May 2021)
- Developed curriculum and mentored students in data science and consulting.

Data Science Fellow　　　(Sep 2020 – May 2020)
- Designed educational modules for graduate and undergraduate courses on data, ethics, and visualization.

GIS Research Assistant　　　(Sep 2018 – Dec 2018)
- Used ArcGIS to reconstruct city maps from the 1930 Census using 1920 and 1940 Census data.

Student Media & Internships

WTJU Radio, Data Journalism Volunteer and Intern　　　(Jun 2020 – Jun 2021)
- Produced social media graphics, blog posts, and short audio scripts.
- Wrote, hosted, and produced the *Postmarks* podcast.

Brown Political Review, Data Associate and Data Director　　　(Feb 2019 – Dec 2020)
- Collected data and designed infographics to accompany writers' articles in biannual magazines.
- Managed workflows for ~20 projects annually, facilitating collaboration between data associates and magazine writers. Trained 10 associates, conducting ~10 hours of educational sessions annually.

Brown Daily Herald, Op-Ed Contributor and Staff Opinions Columnist　　　(Oct 2019 – Nov 2020)
- Wrote ad-hoc opinion articles about issues relevant to the Brown University community.
- Wrote a biweekly column about Brown University policies during the COVID-19 pandemic.

RVA Magazine, Contributor　　　(Jun 2020 – Sep 2020)
- Wrote community-driven feature articles about education and culture.

Education

University of Virginia: M.A., Media, Culture, and Technology; Graduate Certificate, Digital Humanities
Brown University: B.S., Data Journalism
Additional Training: Mapping Information Course, Rhode Island School of Design; Summer Institute in Biostatistics, University of Minnesota