

Emilia Ruzicka

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Core Skills

Data & Coding: R, Excel, Airtable, Datawrapper, HTML, CSS, p5.js, Tableau, Python, Atlas.ti, Java, MATLAB, ArcGIS

Design & Creative Editing: Adobe Illustrator, Photoshop, InDesign, Audition, Otter.ai

Professional Experience

Brown University, Data Science Institute

Adjunct Faculty

(Aug 2026 – Present)

- Teach DSIO 2100: Basic AI Policy & Ethics, including weekly synchronous sessions, office hours, grading, and managing a teaching assistant.
- Provide an introduction to the ethical and policy considerations surrounding AI, including data privacy, bias, accountability, and the societal and historical contexts that have shaped current AI governance.
- Cover how AI systems are developed, including data collection, usage, and the model training process.
- Facilitate students' foundational understanding of interactions between AI technologies and societal impacts to engage in future discussions about AI governance and responsible innovation.

MuckRock, Sunlight Research Desk

Investigative Research Contractor

(Jul 2026 – Present)

- Collaborate with reporters and editors from partner newsrooms to identify research needs to support investigative stories with fact-finding, document analysis, and sourcing leads.
- Conduct deep background research using public records, online databases, and open-source tools to track down essential documents and analyze complex data sets.
- Review and provide feedback on research conducted by colleagues, including fact-checking and editing.

Trans Journalists Association

Trans News Initiative Data Management Specialist

(Jan 2026 – Present)

- Oversee 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.
- Clean newly scraped data monthly to ensure data accuracy prior to publication in Google Sheets.

Data Highlights Author

(Dec 2025)

- Wrote Data Highlights section of Trans News Initiative white paper to showcase insights publicly.

Organization for Accessible Journalism

Board of Directors Member

(Jul 2026 – Present)

- Advance and advocate for OAJ's mission to increase accessibility in the U.S. journalism industry and in public-facing news products.
- Govern OAJ's operations in compliance with legal and ethical standards and provide financial oversight and management, including fundraising, donations, contracts, fees, grants, and insurance.

Accessibility Journalism and Data Consultant

(Oct 2025 – Present)

- Design and analyze OAJ's Accessibility Survey to understand the state of accessibility in U.S. journalism.
- Collaborate with OAJ staff to design, refine, and execute both lecture and hands-on trainings about digital accessibility for newsrooms and journalism professionals.
- Training topics include WCAG guidelines; color contrast ratios and color blindness accommodations; alt text writing for photos, data visualizations, maps, and infographics; and skip links and web navigation with a keyboard and screen reader.

Data Visualization Society

Writer

(Nov 2019 – Present)

- Author articles for “Nightingale” on data science, visualization, journalism, and recent related literature two to five times annually.
- Design accompanying graphics from concept to final visual in Google Sheets and Illustrator.

Multiple Organizations

Contractor

(Oct 2017 – Present)

- Write articles and design graphics for organizations including the Urban Institute, DataJournalism.com, the National Federation of Community Broadcasters, and the Center for News, Technology, and Innovation.
- Topics include data visualization accessibility, gender inclusivity in data reporting, technology experimentation in news, and more.

Columbia University, Graduate School of Journalism

Lede Program for Data Journalism Project Mentor

(Jun 2023 – Aug 2023, Jun 2026 – 2026)

- Advise 20-30 students about data journalism best practices, including data collection, analysis, contextualization, visualization, and accessibility.
- Support students throughout ten-week summer intensive.

University of Virginia

Research Assistant, Sloane Lab

(Oct 2023 – Jan 2026)

- Led research about how data and AI tools are used in journalism, coordinating 70+ interviews, four newsroom observations, and five conference observations.
- Processed and analyzed qualitative data using Otter.ai, Excel, and Atlas.ti, distilling key themes into reports, presentations, and potential academic outputs.
- Designed a database in Airtable to organize pitches and publication for the “Co-Opting AI” book series, published with University of California Press.

Research Assistant, Dr. Aaron Martin

(Sep 2023 – Dec 2024)

- Developed community-friendly materials on data governance and digital risk, including visualizations, posters, and presentations in Illustrator and InDesign.
- Edited a collaborative book project to ensure stylistic consistency, clear structure, and factual accuracy across ten contributing authors’ works.

Stacker

Data Reporter

(Jun 2021 – Jul 2023)

- Sourced public datasets via download and webscraping, proposed story ideas, performed primary analyses in Google Sheets and R, and produced data-driven articles about public health, science, and technology.
- Outputs included cleaned datasets, distilled statistics, written articles, and public-facing data visualizations made with Datawrapper, Google Sheets, and Adobe Illustrator for six to 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.

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