Emilia Ruzicka

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they/them

Education

University of Virginia
Master's of Arts, Media, Culture, and Technology; Graduate Certificate, Digital Humanities
Brown University
Bachelor's of Science, Data Journalism
Rhode Island School of Design
Mapping Information Course
University of Minnesota
Summer Institute in Biostatistics

Technical Skills

Data & Coding
R, Excel, Airtable, Datawrapper, HTML, CSS, p5.js, Tableau, Python, Atlas.ti, ArcGIS
Design & Multimedia Editing
Adobe Illustrator, Photoshop, InDesign, Audition, Otter.ai

Professional Affiliations

Data Visualization Society
2019 – Present
Investigative Reporters and Editors
2020 – Present
Trans Journalists Association
2023 – Present

Speaking

Pitch, moderate, and contribute to panels about data journalism best practices, investigative tactics, accessibility, and gender inclusivity at **NICAR**, **IRE**, **AccessFest**, **SRCCON**, **NLGJA**, **Outlier**, and more. More details about sessions and collaborators available online.

Professional Experience

Reuters, *Election Night Research Associate* Oct 2026 – Nov 2026
* Collaborated on a team of five to monitor live sources for CA, FL, KY, MO, NH, NY, OK, OR, TN, and WY on election night and reported vote changes promptly.
* Researched and resolved data quality issues live on election night.
* Verified data for live and ongoing elections reporting for Reuters and USA TODAY.

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.
* Introduce the ethical and policy considerations surrounding AI and the societal and historical contexts that have shaped current AI governance.
* Cover how AI systems are developed, including the basics of data collection, usage, and the training process for machine learning models.
* Prepare students to understand interactions between AI technologies and societal impacts for future discussions about AI governance and responsible innovation.

MuckRock, *Sunlight Research Desk Contractor* Jul 2026 – Present
* Collaborate with 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 research conducted by colleagues, including fact-checking and editing.

Trans Journalists Association, *Trans News Initiative Data Management Specialist* Jan 2026 – Present
* Systematically review historic data for the Trans News Initiative, cleaning errors, ensuring consistency, and aligning labels and clusters with news events and topics.
* Clean new data monthly to ensure accuracy before publication in Google Sheets.

Contractor, *Multiple Organizations* Oct 2017 – Present
* Write articles and design graphics for organizations including the Urban Institute, DataJournalism.com, Source, the National Federation of Community Broadcasters, Nightingale, IRE Journal, and the Center for News, Technology, and Innovation.
* Topics include personal data visualization, graphics and newsletter accessibility, gender inclusivity in data reporting, technology experimentation in news, and more.

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 graphics for Mona Sloane's *Predicted: How AI Is Restructuring Social Life*.
* Created a database in Airtable to organize pitches and publication for the "Co-Opting AI" book series, published with University of California Press.

Stacker, *Data Reporter* Jun 2021 – Jul 2023
* Sourced public datasets via download and webscraping, proposed story ideas, performed analyses in Google Sheets and R, and produced data-driven articles.
* Outputs included clean datasets, statistics, articles, and data visualizations made with Datawrapper, Google Sheets, and 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.
* Reporting highlights included stories about sex education and community health outcomes, union activity and public opinion, and reproductive health and data privacy.