

# HEATHER DANNYELLE THOMPSON

*Manager of Digital Democracy | Master of Public Policy*

## CONTACT

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## SKILLS

- Data Analysis      Policy analysis
- Evidence informed policymaking
- Public speaking      Econometrics
- Advocacy and Negotiation
- Writing & Reporting
- Fundraising & proposal writing
- Partnership development

## EDUCATION

2019-2021  
The Hertie School | Berlin, Germany  
Master of Public Policy  
Concentration: Policy Analysis

2011-2014  
Carnegie Mellon University |  
Pittsburgh, PA, USA  
B.Sc. in Materials Science &  
Engineering,  
Engineering & Public Policy

## PROFILE

As an inter-disciplinary professional, my career combines science, technology, social justice, policy, advocacy, writing, and robust networks to address emerging tech policy. I have a demonstrated track record of leading a team in research, advocacy, and building networks. I bring first-hand experience in research, writing, public speaking, strategic leadership, and inclusive practices to each role.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Manager of Digital Democracy**  
Democracy Reporting International | Berlin, Germany  
March 2022 - present

- Lead the development of a formal Digital Democracy team of 8 cross-disciplinary researchers and coordinators to conduct research and contribute to policy advocacy in the field of digital democracy;
- Represented DRI at important external stakeholder meetings on online information disorders such as disinformation, hate speech, and polarisation, such as the European Commission's Code of Practice on Disinformation in participation with the EU Commission and social media platform representatives;
- Lead on the development and implementation strategic priorities, creating financial goals and advocacy milestones;
- Supervision and quality assurance of written research publications, external events, and other project activities;
- Fostered strategic relationships with donors and major stakeholders within the European civil society community such as the German Federal Foreign Office, the EU Commission, social media platforms, donors and foundations, civil society, researchers, and experts;
- Holistic management of human resources, including personal development, capacity building, managing conflict, developing

## LANGUAGES

ENGLISH | Native

FRENCH | Intermediate (B2)

SPANISH | Intermediate (B2)

GERMAN | Beginner (A1)

## RECOGNITION

2021

The Hertie School | Berlin,  
Germany  
Extraordinary Thesis Award

2020

The Hertie School | Berlin,  
Germany  
Anti-Discrimination Taskforce  
Appointee

## REFERENCES

Mark Hallerberg, Professor of Public Management and Political Economy/  
Berlin, Germany

Emilia Roig, Founder and Director of the Center for Intersectional Justice (CIJ) | Berlin, Germany

## PUBLICATIONS

available on my website

Berlin spat shows German Students facing racism lack support (*feature*)

“Don’t call me Hispanic, I’m Cuban”: How ‘Hispanic’ became a race in the United States

Hands up, don’t shoot: Is police violence higher in American suburbs? *Master’s Thesis*

A Plastic Bag Tax for Pennsylvania? and Local News in Pittsburgh in the Internet Age Research

The lasting effect of chattel slavery on the US American labor market economy

proper business processes, and fostering inter-unit collaboration;

- Representing DRI at speaking events and multi-stakeholder meetings;
- Securing funding: in 2 years, I have secured over €2M in program funding from diverse donors such as the German Federal Foreign Office and prolific German and European foundations such as EuropeAid, the Alfred Landecker Foundation, and the Mercator Foundation.

### Lead Researcher | Data & Research

enpact e.V. | Berlin, Germany

2019-2021

- Revitalized the work of the Data & Research sector by launching the ‘empower’ magazine, an enpact branded report to appeal to policy makers, entrepreneurs, and startup ecosystem builders
- Creator, product designer, editor, and lead author of edition #1 commissioned by the Berlin Senate as part of the AsiaBerlin program;
- Responsible for leading a team of 5-6 writers, analysts, country coordinators, marketers, editors, and designers to produce quantitative and qualitative reports on startup ecosystems in emerging economies globally

### Business Analyst

Think Lions | Remote

2019-2020

- Coordinated a team of designers, software developers, and researchers to deliver high-quality business plans and low-fidelity MVPs for entrepreneurs to develop their business, go to market, and secure funding.
- Secured high client success rates including a 13% conversion click through rates on their websites and to raise \$150,000 of seed funding for untested ideas.

### Travel Sabbatical

2018

### Senior Cognitive Business Consultant

IBM | Washington, DC & Los Angeles, CA

2014-2018

- Contributed to process improvement projects, leveraging cognitive AI B2B solutions using IBM’s Watson technology
- Gained exposure to a broad range of vertical and horizontal business sections such as big data, cognitive systems and processes, automotive financing, cloud technology and servers, supply chain, insurance, automotive, biological sciences, and telecommunications
- Lead team member and team leader in projects involving AI chat bots, project management, financial billing, and business strategy processes.
- Contributed to process improvement and project management;
- Curated relationships with clients and corresponded on their needs, developed metrics to measure performance, and created memos and reports to document our progress.