JAVIER RUIZ-SOLER, Ph.D.

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Collaborative and solutions-focused leader with an extensive international career background leading major projects in Technology, Digital Policy, Online Communications, and Politics in Europe and North America. Excellent project management and leadership skills, with broad experience overseeing all stages of planning and delivery for complex research projects. Proven ability to foster and maintain a strong industry network, including building relationships with external partners, organizing engaging events, and delivering informative conference presentations. Passionate about the development of a more democratic, inclusive, and transparent society, with a focus on new communication and civic engagement technologies.

CORE COMPETENCIES:

- Digital Policy & Technology
- Digital Democracy & Government
- Artificial Intelligence
- Platform Governance

- Research Management
- Quantitative & Qualitative Research
- Presentations & Public Speaking
- Networking & Building Relationships

- Project Management
- Leadership & Team Building
- Big Data Analytics
- Data Governance & Privacy

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

DIGITAL DEMOCRACIES INSTITUTE ▪ Vancouver, BC   09/2019 to Present

Direct multiple research projects focused on a wide range of digital policies and Internet-related issues, including misinformation, artificial intelligence, content moderation, data privacy and platform governance.

Senior Researcher & Project Manager

Oversee up to four complex research projects simultaneously under the umbrella of the Social Science Research Council (SSRC) and the Government of Canada's Joint Initiative for Digital Citizen Research, including leading team members, developing project strategy, and maintaining data integrity and research quality requirements.

- Appointed as Research Manager for the Canadian Working Group of the Global Disinformation Index, an international think tank operating across several countries, in order to lead a team to conduct research, monitoring, and reporting on media quality and disinformation.
- Develop and implement new research methods in cooperation with industry partners including IBM, Google, Goodly Labs.
- Oversee teams to conduct data analysis and visualizations utilizing software including R, Tableau, and Python in order to reveal, monitor, and report on big data trends and patterns.
- Lead a team of up to eight researchers, including overseeing performance management, training, mentoring, and coaching, to support ongoing learning and development.
- Publish detailed reports and policy recommendations for the federal government and associated agencies to inform strategy and policy development to manage misinformation, social media platform regulations, and data governance.
- Expand brand awareness and build a broad professional network for the Institute's expertise in digital democracy through participation in international conferences and collaboration with global stakeholders across industry and government.
- Establish the Canadian Disinformation Network with different research partners.
- Visiting Scholar at the Berman Klein Center for Internet & Society at Harvard University.

EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE ▪ Florence, Italy   09/2015 – 06/2019

Performed and managed extensive research projects, including overseeing planning, analysis, monitoring, reporting, presentation of findings, and project evaluation.

Researcher

Oversaw research focused on digital policies in relation to European politics, online communications, social media, including analyzing big data sets in order to develop data-informed insights and recommendations.

- Conducted qualitative and quantitative analysis, including collecting big data, monitoring social media, and collaborating with stakeholders, including government agencies, digital platforms, and think tanks.

- Presented at ~30 major conferences regarding social media and online communication, big data, privacy, platform governance, and digital policy recommendations.
- Prepared comprehensive reports with research outcomes and policy recommendations for EU governmental institutions.
- Recommended and drafted strategies to support EU institutions in engaging with citizens on EU topics of political relevance.
- Published in specialized top journals and press topics of digital democracy and digital civic engagement.
- Advised EU Election Watch during the EU elections in 2019, including monitoring social media campaigns, advising on digital policies, and providing recommendations to manage online disinformation and preventing international interference.
- Advocated EU institutions regarding innovative policies such as the Digital Service Act and Europe Data Governance, as well as the development of codes of conduct for social media platforms in data privacy and access.
- Visiting Scholar at the Annenberg School for Communications at the University of Pennsylvania.

TEDx STOCKHOLM ▪ Stockholm, Sweden   06/2012 – 09/2013

Directed all areas of communications strategy, including marketing, media relations, event planning & management, social media, and public relations.

Head of Communications

Led a team of twelve communications and marketing professionals, including establishing goals aligned with corporate objectives, monitoring progress, providing constructive feedback, and achieving objectives in line with quality and timeframe requirements.

- Managed media planning and relations, including developing a comprehensive strategy, building positive relationships with the press, and scheduling various interviews and appearances to increase brand awareness and promote upcoming events.
- Established a prominent online presence within 1 year, including creating engaging social media profiles, managing online advertising, and developing a new website, to generate online engagement and positively impact event attendance.
- Oversaw the planning, design, and implementation of major events with up to 500 attendees, including organizing speakers, securing venues, coordinating teams, and evaluating performance.

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Political and Social Sciences ▪ European University Institute, Florence, Italy (2019)
- *Award: Best Thesis in Political Communication, Spanish Association of Political Communication (ACOP).*

LANGUAGES

- Fluent in English, Spanish, Catalan, Italian.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Research & Analysis: Network Analysis: Gephi, iGraph in R, Content & Sentiment Analysis: Quanteda and iSA, Data Analytics: Tableau, R, & Python.

Project Management: Project Management Methodologies, Project Planning, Resource Management, Staff Management, Project Management Tools: Asana, Slack, SharePoint.