

EXPERIENCE

CITY OF NEW YORK – OFFICE OF TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

Research & Collaboration Unit

2022- present

Leading the creation of new unit to oversee emerging technology testing, implementation, use, and reporting for NYC government’s first agency to oversee the entirety of City government technology issues.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY – SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL & PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Adjunct Associate Professor of International & Public Affairs

2011 - present

Researcher & Writer

2013 - present

Recruited to create & teach SIPA’s first government technology courses, continuously updated over decade of teaching; Guest faculty at Columbia Global Centers in Rio de Janeiro, Santiago, & Tunis; Advisor, mentor, frequent event speaker.

CITY OF NEW YORK – MAYOR’S OFFICE OF THE CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER

Deputy Chief Technology Officer – Innovation

2019 - 2022

Director of Communications (Act.)

2020 - 2022

Deputy Chief Technology Officer – Broadband (Act.)

2020 - 2021

Lead NYC’s innovation efforts to prototype, test, validate, and scale emerging tech & practices in partnerships with communities, agencies, and tech ecosystem; co-founded award-winning NYC[x] Innovation Fellows and NYC[x] Tech & Innovation Awards; coordinated NYC’s early COVID-19 response through creation of PPE Dashboard.

CITY OF NEW YORK - DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS’ SERVICES

Associate Commissioner, Public Affairs

2017 - 19

Press Secretary & Senior Advisor to Commissioner

2016 - 17

Recruited by US Army General (ret.) / founding Commissioner to launch NYC’s first new agency in over 20 years; part of core leadership who recruited, hired & trained 90% of agency staff; drafted all public materials for Commissioner, Deputy Mayor, and Mayor on all veteran, military, and defense-related issues; testified on behalf of agency at City Council hearings and town halls; documented process in “DVS Start-Up Report.”

UNITED STATES PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS, US DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Director, Media Strategy & Analysis (GS-13; TS)

2013 - 15

Press Officer (GS-11; TS)

2011 - 13

Presidential Management Fellow (GS-9-11; TS)

2010 - 11

Created official diplomatic and on the record press materials for multiple American ambassadors, including two Cabinet-level officials; served as in-house expert on emerging digital media platforms & official content best practices; created coalitions with UN, NGOs, and tech sector (eg “TechCampNYC: Protection of Journalists in Conflict Zones”).

OFFICE OF eDIPLOMACY, DIPLOMATIC INNOVATION DIVISION, US DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Presidential Management Fellow (GS-9; TS)

2011

Developed of tools & trainings that equip State Department employees with digital collaboration tools to modernize diplomatic and foreign policy leadership; co-led Secretary Clinton’s “Civil Society 2.0” initiative, “Tech@State” events, and “Virtual Student Foreign Service.”

AMERICAN RED CROSS OF GREATER NEW YORK

Disaster Relief Field Responder

2000 - 01

Served on Sept 11th Ground Zero response team; conducted independent site visits via emergency response vehicle to assess severity of fire, flood, and other structural damage; coordinated with FDNY, NYPD, and other on-site first responders to determine habitability of residence; provided functional aid and transport to connect displaced residents to resources for immediate needs, such as food, clothing, shelter, and social services.

EDUCATION

PHD, INFORMATION SCIENCE: University at Albany, State University of New York (Albany, NY)

FULBRIGHT: Zhongshan University (Guangzhou, China)

BA, CHINESE (*completed in 3 years*): Connecticut College (New London, CT)

PUBLICATIONS

Wichowski, A. (2021). "Nations need ambassadors to Big Tech," *WIRED*

Wichowski, A. (2021). "Why Big Tech shouldn't govern citizens," *Tech Policy Press*

Wichowski, A. (2020). *The Information Trade: How Big Tech Conquers Countries, Challenges Our Rights, and Transforms Our World*, HarperCollins: New York.

Wichowski, A. (2020). "America needs a tech ambassador," *The Hill*

Wichowski, A. (2020). "The U.S. can't regulate Big Tech companies when they act like nations," *The Washington Post*

Wichowski, A. & Benjamin, K. (2020). "Public service as a service," *Medium*

Wichowski, A. (2020). "Let's polarize, together," *Public Books*

Wichowski, A. (2020). "What unites us': how the angry few hijacked public opinion and why institutions must intervene to save democracy," *Brazilian Association of Communication Researchers*

Wichowski, A. (2020). "How to forge partnerships during crises," *Apolitical*

Wichowski, A. (2020). "How Big Tech regulation-proofed themselves," *The Hill*

Wichowski, A. (2018). "Misery loves bureaucracy: why technology hasn't saved government (yet)" *GovExec*

Wichowski, A. (2017). "Net states rule the world. Ignore them at your peril," *WIRED*

Wichowski, A. (2017). "A user's guide getting things done in government (with or without tech)," *GovExec*

Wichowski, A. (2017). "How New York City invests in veterans," *Medium*

Wichowski, A. (2016). "Digital diplomats wear no clothes." *London School of Economics Review of Books*

Johnson, J. & Wichowski, A. (2015). "How to get lost in story (story not required)." *TechCrunch*

Wichowski, A. (2015). "'Secrecy is for losers': why diplomats should embrace openness to protect national security." In M. Holmes & C. Bjola (Eds.) *Digital Diplomacy*. London: Routledge.

Wichowski, A. (2013). "What government can and should learn from hacker culture." *The Atlantic*

Wichowski, A. (2013). "Social diplomacy: how diplomats learned to stop worrying & love the tweet,"

Foreign Affairs

Stromer-Galley, J. & Wichowski, A. (2011). "Political discourse online." In M. Consalvo, C. Ess, & R. Burnett (Eds.), *Blackwell Handbook of Internet Studies*. Blackwell

Wichowski, A. (2009). "Survival of the fittest tag: folksonomies, findability, and the evolution of information organization." *First Monday*, 14 (5-4)

KEY PRESENTATIONS

-United Kingdom Tech Envoy / Consul-General to Silicon Valley | "Tech diplomacy"

-State Department Speaker's Bureau, UAE Conference on Creative Economies | "Digital transformation"

-Swedish Foreign Ministry | "The future of the nation-state"

-United Nations Peacekeeping | "How to do new things in old institutions without freaking people out"

-Consul General of Canada to Silicon Valley & The Bridge | "Big Tech, Diplomacy, and Power"

-World Affairs Council | "How Big Tech is Transforming Our World"

-Google Brazil | "'The only thing that never fails': surviving uncertainty, fake science & misinformation"

-Columbia - Rio | "'There are no hard problems': Embracing Low and No Tech Solutions in Government"

-Columbia - Santiago | "The Perils and Promise of e-Policy"

-Google Brazil | "Hack the Bureaucracy"

-Civic Hall - Harmony Labs | "Media Impact"

-Tel Aviv & NYC CIOs | "Social Innovation & Resilient Cities"

-Personal Democracy Forum | "Digital Skills for Public Servants"

-The Atlantic Council | Cyber 9/12 Competition

- Council on Foreign Relations | “Foreign policy in social media age”
- Halifax International Security Forum | “@DigitalDiplomacy#Really?”
- World Summit on Innovation & Entrepreneurship | “Intrapreneurs Changing the World”
- Harvard University | “The Map is Not the Territory”
- SOAS University of London | “Nation-States & Net States”
- FBI Special Agent in Charge Fireside Chat | “Staying Ahead of the Threat”
- NYU GovLab | “Open Data and the United Nations”
- Government of Aruba | Development of e-Government platform (capstone advisor)
- US Congress | Technological authoritarianism in China (advisor)
- American University in Moscow | “Technology, National Security & the Citizen”
- Moscow Nuclear Research University | “Digital diplomacy in the US & Russia”

SELECT PRESS

- CNBC | “Most important 2020 election misinformation threat is not coming from overseas”
- CSPAN Book TV; BBC World News | Featured guest, “The Information Trade”
- NPR (2017, 2020) | “Facebook at the geopolitical table?”; “How Big Tech is taking on big government”
- Financial Times | “The Apple effect: Germany fears being left behind by Big Tech”
- Columbia Journal | “The unexpected product of mentorship at SIPA: A shout-out on Late Night TV”
- World Economic Forum | “Countries are so last century. Enter the ‘net state.’”
- Public Radio International | “Confronting the new geopolitics of 'net-states'”
- Korea JoongAng Daily | “A Big Tech Race”
- UM Brazil | “Diplomacy in Post-Truth Era”

RECOGNITION

- NYC[x] Tech & Innovation Awards, founder & awardee, “Meta Award,” City of New York
- “Top Five Course Award” (student vote), Columbia University
- Responsible Tech “All Tech is Human” Mentor
- Govern for America “League of Innovators” Mentor
- City of New York Department of Veteran’s Services: “Service 2 Service”
- Meritorious Honor Awards (3): US Mission to the UN; Office of eDiplomacy; US Department of State
- Presidential Management Fellowship: US Office of Personnel Management
- Distinguished Dissertation Award,” College of Engineering & Applied Sciences, SUNY Albany
- “Women in Technology Award,” SUNY Albany
- Fulbright-Hayes / State Education Council of China Fellowship, Guangzhou, China
- citations: 443 |h-index score: 7

CORE SKILLS

Traditional

- Communicator: Absorbing, synthesizing, & customizing new information to create messaging people remember
- Doer: Strategic & tactical program planner and implementer especially within complex systems
- Technologist: Deep knowledge of tech history / evolution, infrastructure, capabilities, & societal impact
- Researcher: Award-winning university professor, published author (peer-reviewed / general audience), and speaker
- Culturally fluid: Lived in Saudi Arabia, China, France, US; solo travel across the Americas, Europe, Middle East, Africa, Asia
- Novel*
- Bureaucracy-navigator: Experienced in overcoming institutional obstacles and risk-averse cultures
- Unspoken-rule decoder: Skilled observer of and adapter to situational norms and nonverbal cues of various communities
- Worldview-translator: Practices in creating discourse across participants from different cultures and lived experience
- Anything-explainer: Distiller of core principles into language readily understandable across wide-range of audiences
- Alliance-creator: Builder of productive partnerships among nontraditional groups and historical adversaries