

POSITION DESCRIPTION/SCOPE OF WORK

The Data & Society Institute is looking for an **Engagement Lead** to spearhead outreach and engagement efforts around its Media Manipulation Initiative. This position will be a crucial part of Data & Society's efforts to provide news organizations, civil society, platforms, and policymakers with insights into new forms of media manipulation to ensure a close and informed relationship between technical research and socio-political outcomes. The Engagement Lead will ensure that D&S's research is both directly informed by key stakeholders in the world of media manipulation and reaches them in actionable ways.

We are looking for someone who has demonstrated experience with community engagement practices and is steeped in emerging trends within the media industry. This role is equal parts community organizer, listener, instructor, partnership manager, and creative adviser. We want someone with a creative mind who understands the complex forces that shape our information ecosystems and knows how to organize and mobilize constructive conversations rooted in the themes addressed in D&S research. This is a two-year position with the possibility of renewal.

The **Media Manipulation Initiative** (MMI) examines how different groups use the participatory culture of the internet to turn the strengths of a free society into vulnerabilities, ultimately threatening expressive freedoms and civil rights. Efforts to exploit technical, social, economic, and institutional configurations of media can catalyze social change, sow dissent, and challenge the stability of social institutions. Broadly, this initiative takes a sociotechnical approach to understanding the social, political, and economic incentives to game information systems, websites, platforms, and search engines—especially in cases where the attackers intend to destabilize democratic, social, and economic institutions.

Responsibilities:

- Work with media manipulation Research Lead and communications team to identify core stakeholders, influencers, and practitioners for projects within the Media Manipulation Initiative. Identify collaborations and partnerships that can extend the reach, influence, and impact of the research.
- Build relationships with core stakeholders and develop opportunities that seek and incorporate input and feedback on the initiative.
- Develop resources and tools from D&S research that translate the work into actionable insights, best practices, and recommendations for media practitioners and influencers.
- Design and execute creative strategies to distribute D&S research to key stakeholders and practitioners across the media industry.
- Coordinate and produce events, online and off, that spark discussion and learning among industry stakeholders from D&S research.
- Create regular blog posts and social media campaigns that document the Media Manipulation Initiative and invite participation from stakeholders and media professionals.
- Regularly coordinate with other engagement leads across Data & Society, aligning on shared objectives.

Qualities of Job Candidate:

- A bachelor's degree is required.
- Experience managing complex professional relationships and partnerships between organizations or community groups.
- Exceptional communication skills.

- Direct experience organizing and facilitating events.
- At least three years of experience working in a newsroom or community-based organization. Experience in a newsroom setting or producing news is highly desirable.
- An active social media presence and understanding of different social media platforms.
- Ability to facilitate complex conversations.
- Understanding of how to build relationships between partners, local stakeholders, and communities of interest, both online and off.
- Deep networks in journalism, particularly in online and print media.
- Demonstrated record of developing effective resources for journalists.

Practical considerations:

- This is not a remote position; you must work full time from the Data & Society office in the Flatiron section of New York City.
- You will be offered a generous benefits package, paid time off, and a budget for travel and projects. Additionally, we are able to provide relocation assistance if necessary.
- You must be eligible to work in the United States; we are unable to sponsor visas.

To apply, please submit the following to jobs@datasociety.net.

- Two-page cover letter explaining your interest in this role, who referred you or how you learned about this opportunity, and why you would be the ideal candidate for this position.
- Your Curriculum Vitae or resume.
- Names, affiliations, and contact information for three professional references.
- Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis beginning April 15, 2018, and the position should be considered open until filled.
- Please contact jobs@datasociety.net with any questions about the position; inquiries will not be held against your eligibility as a candidate.