

MOHAR CHATTERJEE
Based in Washington D.C.

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AI analyst and strategist with eight years of experience turning complex technical and market developments into actionable insights for expert audiences. Combines hands-on proficiency in building machine learning tools and data pipelines with in-depth knowledge of state and federal AI regulations, institutional AI adoption strategies across sectors, and competitive frontier AI development. Graduate training in computer science and journalism (Columbia University); undergraduate training in mechanical engineering and business economics (Caltech).

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Barron's China — Independent U.S. Technology Policy Columnist

Remote | September 2026 — Present

- Research, report and write a 1,200-word monthly column for Asian investors on the economic, geopolitical and societal forces shaping the U.S.-China technology race, focused on AI, advanced semiconductors and compute power. Runs in English and Mandarin Chinese.

POLITICO — Artificial Intelligence & Special Projects Reporter

Washington D.C. | June 2022 — October 2025

POLITICO's first reporter dedicated to the national AI beat.

- Investigated AI adoption at the Pentagon, Department of Homeland Security and the Labor Department, identifying gaps between institutional strategy, technological capabilities and employee adoption.
- Built a source network across AI companies, federal agencies, Congress and White House staff to analyze emerging technologies, industry competition and the decisions shaping domestic AI development.
- Briefed newsroom leadership on emerging technology and industry trends that could impact organizational strategy.
- Published 200+ pieces of original reporting and analysis on deadline across two presidential administrations, including scoops of six major presidential executive orders on AI.

Brown Institute for Media Innovation — Senior Research Fellow

New York, NY | January 2021—August 2022

- Led computational research for newsrooms across the U.S., including NPR, KQED, The Detroit Free Press, WIRED, and The Atlantic. Scoped research questions, designed custom methodologies and delivered publishable findings.
- For a collection of California newsrooms including KQED and CalMatters, designed and built a reusable wildfire smoke exposure database covering every U.S. census tract, integrating NOAA satellite imaging and census demographic data, which reporters used to identify disproportionately affected communities.
- Analyzed thousands of FOIA'd death records to surface previously unreported fentanyl mortality trends across California counties.
- Mapped global supply chains for synthetic opioid precursor chemicals across 16,000+ darknet and clearnet market listings for a master's thesis completed during the fellowship. Identified an emerging market for a new class of synthetic opioids (nitazenes), whose U.S. presence forensic experts and law enforcement officials later confirmed.

The Washington Post — Newsroom Engineering Intern

Washington D.C. | May 2021—August 2021

- Designed and built a facial recognition system using Amazon Rekognition and FAISS clustering to index unique faces across a large video corpus for the visual investigations team.
- Shipped a newsroom-wide document forensics pipeline (OCR, metadata extraction, redaction handling, lossless compression) that verified document provenance at scale and scrubbed identifying data before publication.
- Maintained election modeling systems, delivering statistical outputs under tight deadlines and public scrutiny.

History Lab (Columbia University) — Research Assistant

New York, NY | September 2020—February 2021

- Built a scalable NLP pipeline to convert thousands of scanned, redacted CIA cables into structured, searchable data, as well as a machine learning tool to surface high-signal communiqués from the dataset.

Leslie Thornton / C.E.R.N. — Researcher & Producer, Artist-in-Residence

California, U.S. + Geneva, Switzerland | June 2019—May 2020

- Researched and produced documentary footage of particle physics experiments at C.E.R.N., Caltech and Stanford, translating technical findings for general audiences; one resulting film (*HANDMADE*) was exhibited at the Museum of Modern Art, New York (Nov 2023 — Nov 2024).

Embark Ventures — Business Analyst Intern

Santa Monica, CA | June 2018—August 2018

- Conducted investment due diligence on robotics, drone and additive manufacturing startups for a seed-stage venture firm, evaluating core technologies, competitive positioning, funding histories and growth opportunities.
- Interviewed founders and investors, translating technical and market research into analyses that informed \$1.5M in investment decisions by firm partners.

EDUCATION

Columbia University — *New York, NY | 2020—2022*

- Master of Science in **Computer Science**
- Master of Science in **Journalism**

California Institute of Technology (Caltech) — *Pasadena, CA | 2015—2019*

- Bachelor of Science in **Business Economics & Management**
- Bachelor of Science in **Mechanical Engineering**

SKILLS

Strategy & Communication — AI industry and competitive analysis, market research and benchmarking, stakeholder interviews, regulatory analysis, executive briefings, technical and nontechnical writing.

Research & Analysis — Quantitative and statistical analysis, survey design, case study compilation, data visualization.

Technical — Python, SQL/PostgreSQL, Excel/Google Sheets, Machine Learning (focus on computer vision and natural language processing), LLM workflows, data pipeline design, web scraping, Git.

SELECTED LEADERSHIP

- President, NLGJA Columbia Journalism School Chapter, 2020
- Co-President, Caltech Class of 2019
- Chair, Caltech Mechanical Engineering Student-Faculty Committee Caltech, 2018