Mohar Chatterjee

Contact: +1 (626) 365 6395, moharchat@gmail.com

WORK EXPERIENCE

POLITICO | Washington DC
Artificial Intelligence & Special Projects Reporter — June 2022–Oct 2025
I was POLITICO's national AI correspondent, delivering scoops, analysis and investigations on federal AI policy—deeply sourced among lobbyists, labor unions, digital rights activists, key political offices, current and former White House staff. Highlights include: breaking news on how Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency triggered a Pentagon tech talent exodus; a magazine feature and narrative audio investigation into an emerging cross-border market for AI clones of living psychologists; and a front-page feature plus 10-part podcast on how the Ukraine war disrupted Eastern European cybercrime.

The Washington Post | Washington, D.C.
Newsroom Engineering Team Intern — May 2021–Aug 2021
Designed novel software architecture for facial recognition and indexing across variable-quality videos. Developed newsroom-wide document forensics pipeline: OCR improvement, metadata extraction, lossless compression, web publication. Optimized election models and real-time results rendering; improved front-end Olympics reporting tools. Built Slack-to-Notion bot to streamline task documentation workflow.

The Documenting Project (Brown Institute, Columbia University) | New York, NY
Senior Research Fellow — Sept 2021–Aug 2022
Led collaborative computational journalism projects across local newsrooms. Tracked UK COVID-19 variant spread through the Michigan prison system using NLP on hundreds of FOIA'd emails (Detroit Free Press, Apr 2021). Uncovered hidden fentanyl fatality trends across California counties by programmatically extracting and analyzing thousands of FOIA'd death records (NPR-KQED, May 2021). Co-bylined data investigations on disproportionate Hispanic COVID deaths (NPR-KQED) and national COVID death underreporting (USA Today). Built a granular database with interactive choropleth maps of wildfire smoke exposure across every U.S. census tract over 10 years by analyzing NOAA satellite data (NPR-KQED).

History Lab (Computer Science Dept., Columbia University) | New York, NY
Research Assistant — Oct 2020–Feb 2021
Developed scalable document processing pipeline converting thousands of scanned, redacted government records into OCR'd text with extracted metadata stored in relational database for named entity recognition. Built ML tool to flag "important" emails using sentiment analysis, key-phrase search, and communication frequency analysis.

Filmmaking apprentice / C.E.R.N. Artist-in-Residence | various locations, including Geneva, Switzerland
Researcher & Producer — June 2019–May 2020
Documented scientific experiments at Caltech, Stanford, CERN, and ZHdK with American filmmaker Leslie Thornton. Interviewed experts, organized shoots at remote research institutions, authored winning grants. Final film from the collaboration ("HANDMADE") was exhibited at New York's Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in 2024.

Embark Ventures | Los Angeles, CA
Business Analyst Intern — June 2018–Aug 2018
Conducted technical due diligence on robotics, drone, and additive manufacturing startups for a seed-stage VC firm. Evaluated core products, interviewed founders and investors, analyzed market competition. Directly influenced $1.5M in investment decisions.

SELECTED TECHNICAL PROJECTS

Fossil Fuel Extraction Environmental Database: Full-stack web application with interactive mapping. Built custom PostgreSQL database with Flask backend and JavaScript/CSS frontend using Google Maps API. Users can visualize the environmental impact of petroleum and natural gas extraction and query data on wildlands, water, and air quality.

Computer vision & ML: Built three semi-autonomous rough-terrain robots using computer vision and Bluetooth for navigation, object detection and coordination; one fully autonomous blackjack-playing robotic arm with real-time decision-making algorithms.

EDUCATION

Columbia University | New York, NY | Aug 2020–May 2022
Master of Science in Journalism & Master of Science in Computer Science (Dual Degree)

California Institute of Technology (Caltech) | Pasadena, CA | Sept 2015–June 2019
Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering & Bachelor of Science in Business Economics & Management (Double Major)

SKILLS

Codebase development with open-source AI / ML models: Python native (proficient libraries include Pandas, Geopandas, NumPy, Keras, OpenCV, Pillow, Scikit-Learn, NLTK, Flask); **Database handling** with PostgreSQL, SQL Alchemy; **Web app development** with Django REST Framework, Ruby on Rails, AWS, Serverless, Heroku; **Statistical analysis and probability modeling** with R, Matlab; **Front-end experience** in JavaScript, NodeJS, React, C++, ROS; **Multimedia production** with Adobe Audition, Adobe Premiere Pro; **Multilingual:** Native fluency in English, Hindi, Bengali, conversant in Urdu

SELECTED AWARDS & LEADERSHIP

Columbia Journalism School NLGJA Chapter President (2020–21), NCTA + Alliance for Women in Media Scholarship (2020), McKinney Prize for Prose Fiction (2019), Caltech Class of 2019 Student President, Caltech ME72 Engineering Design & Strategy Award (2018)