

Think
new things
Make
new connections

Role: Ditchley Data and Technology Policy Lead

Short Description

The Ditchley Data and Technology Policy Lead will take the lead in mapping (through the methodology and technology Ditchley has developed) the data policy community and data policy issues across Europe, Australia and North America. She/he will draw on Ditchley's methodology and will manage the research of a series of interns. She/he will work closely with Ditchley's senior staff, principally the director, chief of staff and CTO and will be fully integrated in the planning of Ditchley's wider programme.

Timeline

This job posting will close at 5 pm BST on Friday, 23 July. Those selected to participate in interviews will be contacted on Monday, 26 July with interviews taking place soon after. The successful applicant will begin in September.

Overview

Ditchley discussions over recent years have highlighted how divergences on data policy between the EU, the US, the UK and other allies, could undermine the effectiveness of western coordination on national security but also economic security. On economic security, there is a risk to the cohesiveness and efficiency of Transatlantic markets and the environment for innovation on and around data, which feeds into innovation on AI. Overall, there needs to be a balance between the protection of personal privacy appropriate for democratic societies; the needs of national security; and the needs of economic security achieved through innovation.

This is more than a question of lost economic opportunities, or a tactical concern in response to specific security threats. Innovation in and around data is central in the 21st century to the global economic and strategic competitiveness of countries and alliances. The more that democratic and rule of law countries can find common ground and common principles in handling data, then the more likely they will be able to combine to provide a democratic counterweight to the influence of Chinese and other authoritarian models on data. Innovation on AI flowing from data will be a central feature of geostrategic and economic competition for decades to come.

There is a need for better informed and better sustained discussion between governments, companies and citizens on the 'terms of trade' for the use of data. At present this discussion is too often framed in terms of government and companies urging more access to data and citizen privacy advocates arguing for less. How could the debate be reframed in terms of a shared interest in the responsible sharing and use of data, for example

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through better government services? What elements would a new social contract on data include?

Data policy combines dry technical detail at the building block level with long term strategic implications. At the personal level, privacy is both important and emotive. This makes it difficult for governments, companies and civil society to find the right level for discussion, which is often either detailed and technical or too high level and strategic. This difficulty is compounded by there being many players and few clear leads.

Job description

- Map the issues that need to be defined and possible candidate solutions.
- Map the community of people and institutions who have influence over these issues.
- Convene a series of well framed discussions with the right mix of people and institutions to explore the issues and make progress.
- Integrate this data policy conversation with wider conversations on AI and ethics and cyber security and cyber deterrence.
- Integrate these technology focused discussions and communities with Ditchley's wider networks and series of discussions on democracy, democratic renewal, geopolitical competition and a green recovery from the pandemic.
- Examine different needs of national security, law enforcement and data driven innovation, in the context of appropriate protection as judged by law makers for both personal data and intellectual property.

Objectives

- Ensure that data policy issues and their strategic implications are better understood by decision-makers.
- Catalyse sufficient consensus on data policy between countries and companies in the political West, with the aim of arriving at a workable framework for cross border data traffic (addressing specifically the aim of an evolution of Privacy Shield but also other GDPR equivalence questions).
- Contribute specifically to the development of the UK's post Brexit approach to data and GDPR equivalence, balancing national security, law enforcement, innovation and the protection of privacy.
- Support EU, UK and US efforts to build a common approach to data that satisfies public opinion, lawmakers and the courts in its protections for the individual, whilst maintaining efficiency and competitiveness and a foundation for rapid innovation. This will contribute to the prosperity of the Transatlantic community and its democratic resilience.
- Contribute to the development of a new social contract around data for democratic countries. In addition to data exchanges between countries with democratic frameworks we will begin to explore the implications of data flows to and from jurisdictions with very different legal frameworks such as China, or areas where there is little or no framework in place, such as ungoverned spaces or failing states.

Requirements

- Five years of professional experience, or a relevant masters or doctoral degree (Public Policy, Law, Data Ethics, Social Data Science, Information Security, etc.).
- First-hand experience in policy development and delivery, with familiarity in UK, EU and American policy environments.
- Strong grasp of GDPR policy, law and ethics and its ongoing development following Brexit in the UK and in the EU and US more generally.
- Experience in organising cross-sectoral dialogues, such as in public/private sector stakeholder relations.
- An operations and outcomes-focused mindset.
- Team player, with exceptional listening skills. Needs to be interested in others' stories and life paths.
- Experience in roles with leadership responsibility, where there is a win/lose outcome (e.g. in a political campaign; entrepreneurship; breaking a story in journalism).
- Excellent writing abilities for expert as well as mainstream audiences.
- An interest in relationship-building as part of one's wider career trajectory and a belief in the importance of helping to foster meaningful connection between people.
- Highly disciplined worker, self-starting and entrepreneurial (creatively attempts to solve problems without relying strictly on guidance).

About Ditchley

Ditchley works with people from across the world to help sustain peace, freedom and order.

Ditchley's approach aims to build new common ground so that we can move toward solutions to complex problems. We believe that change is driven, and managed, by personal relationships, not reports or declarations. We engage local and global communities over time rather than chase headlines. We are not tied to the agenda of any government, political party or commercial interest.

We are dedicated to creating space and time for deep reflection, sharing ideas and making new connections across divides at a time when our systems find this difficult and our challenges are interconnected. In an inspiring place, we enable spirited but respectful discussion across divisions of expertise, geography, generations and political opinion. We work constantly to get better at this, harnessing the power of tradition and innovation in equal measure. No one leaves Ditchley without thinking new things.

By applying for this vacancy, you are giving permission for The Ditchley Foundation to contact you and retain your details. For more information, please contact Katie Williams, Major Events and Projects Lead, (info [at] ditchley.com) for a copy of The Foundation's Candidate Privacy Notice.