

# Curriculum vitae: Heather Ford

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Wikipedia: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heather\\_Ford](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heather_Ford)

Blog: [www.hblog.org](http://www.hblog.org)

Research interests: online collaboration, Middle East media, conflict in online communities, media objectivity and bias, open access, online identity, reputation, privacy, epistemology

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## Employment

2011 – 2012

### **Ushahidi Ethnographer**

- Analyzing the current systems that editors use to track and verify news sources on rapidly evolving pages of .en Wikipedia
- Studying verification in crowdsource/ peer production environments

2010 – 2011

### **Research Assistant for Professor Deidre Mulligan**

- Content analysis for privacy research, research questions design, literature reviews

Summer 2010

### **Google Policy Fellow**

- Researched global exceptions and limitations to copyright for innovation in online education on behalf of the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) in San Francisco

2009 – 2010

### **Brainstorm Magazine Freelance Journalist: Technology Transfer column**

- Wrote a monthly column on innovation and tech transfer in universities in South Africa and the United States

2006 – 2008

### **iCommons Ltd Executive Director**

- Fundraising from foundations (including Ford Foundation, Open Society Institute, International Development Research Center) and companies (including Google, Yahoo! and IBM).
- Directed three international iSummits in Rio de Janeiro, Dubrovnik and Sapporo.
- Wrote project proposals, developed budgets and provided financial oversight for an annual budget of about \$1mil.
- Managed a staff of ten people and coordinated around one hundred volunteers.
- Speaking engagements at conferences and workshops.
- Oversaw development of user-driven [icommons.org](http://icommons.org) platform and production of the iCommons Annual.
- Research and writing on issues around intellectual property reform, participatory design, innovation, online activism, and participatory design.
- Liaised with executive board and developed strategic partnerships.

2005 – 2006

### **Creative Commons South Africa Project Lead and Commons-sense Project Director at the University of the Witwatersrand LINK Centre**

- Raised funding for a one-year project to scope commons issues in Africa.
- Managed projects including hiring and managing contractors.
- Researched and wrote special commons edition of the South African Journal of Information and Communication and the Participants' Guide to the African Digital Commons.
- Launched Creative Commons in South Africa with a conference 'Towards an African Digital Commons'.

2003 – 2004

### **Reuters/Benetech Digital Vision Fellow: Stanford University**

- Streamlined the international porting process to include a national 'Public Lead' position and developed a localizable website framework that was replicated across Creative

Commons projects globally.

- 2003                            **Internet Policy Project Manager: GreenNet Educational Trust**
- Managed projects of European Internet rights website including website production and writing training materials around the impact of technology policy on privacy, data protection and intellectual property online.
  - Co-edited 'Silenced: an international report on censorship and control of the Internet'.
- 2002                            **ICT Policy Monitor Project Manager: Association for Progressive Communications**
- Managed and developed the Africa regional website for the ICT policy monitor.
- 2000 – 2002                    **Digital Information Manager: Electoral Institute of Southern Africa**
- Managed and developed organisational website and digital information products.

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Education

- 2012 – current    Oxford University, Oxford Internet Institute: DPhil Information, Communications and the Social Sciences
- 2009 – 2011        UC Berkeley School of Information: Masters in Information Management and Systems
- 2003 – 2004        Stanford University: Reuters Digital Vision Fellowship Program
- 2002                University of the Witwatersrand School of Management and Public Policy: Telecommunications Policy, Regulation and Management
- 2001                Gartner Institute: IT Project Management
- 1996 – 1999        Rhodes University: Bachelor of Journalism and Media Studies degree (majoring in "Cyber Publishing") – Distinction, Academic Colors

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Boards

- 2006 – current    African Commons Project Board Member (Founder), South Africa
- 2007 – 2009        Wikimedia Foundation Advisory Board Member, United States
- 2005 – 2006        iCommons Board Member, United Kingdom

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Committees

- Current            WikiSym: Wikipedia Track ACM Conference Co-Chair (Hong Kong, China)
- 2012                WikiSym 2012 ACM Conference Committee: Demo Chair (Linz, Austria)
- 2011                InfoCamp Berkeley 2011 (Berkeley, United States)
- 2011                GeekRetreat 2011 (Cape Town, South Africa)
- 2010                InfoCamp Berkeley 2010 (Co-founder) (Berkeley, United States)
- 2009                GeekRetreat co-Founder (Johannesburg, South Africa)

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Honours and awards

- 2012-2015        Clarendon Scholar and Desmond Tutu Award
- 2011                Named one of "Ten most influential women in science and technology in Africa" by IT News Africa
- 2011                James R. Chen Awards for Final Masters Projects, UC Berkeley Information School: Honourable Mention
- 2010                Google Policy Fellowship
- 2009                UC Berkeley School of Information Fellowship
- 2009/10            Book of South African Women: An annual register of South Africa's top women in business, technology
- 2009/10            300 Young South Africans to take to lunch: An annual supplement to the independent Mail and Guardian weekly newspaper
- 2004                Stanford BASES social entrepreneurship award for 'Bookbox' a web-based jukebox of digital books in languages from around the world

2003 Stanford Reuters Digital Vision Fellowship Program Scholarship  
2003 British Chevening Scholarship  
2000 Rhodes University Academic Colours and Distinction

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Selected academic publications

2012 Ford, H. (2012). [Crowd Wisdom](#). *Index on Censorship*, 41(4), 33-39.  
doi:10.1177/0306422012465800

2012 'Wikipedia Sources: Managing Sources in Rapidly Evolving Global News Articles on the English Wikipedia'. Ushahidi Working Paper, 2012.  
<http://ssrn.com/abstract=2127204>

2012 'Writing up rather than writing down: Becoming Wikipedia literate'. H. Ford and S. Geiger. Proc. WikiSym '12, 2012.  
<http://www.wikisym.org/ws2012/bin/download/Main/Program/p21wikisym2012.pdf>

2011 'Participation in Wikipedia's article deletion processes'. S. Geiger and H. Ford, Proc. WikiSym '11, 2011.  
[http://www.wikisym.org/ws2011/\\_media/proceedings:p201-geiger.pdf](http://www.wikisym.org/ws2011/_media/proceedings:p201-geiger.pdf)

2011 'The Spaces Between: Towards Private Spaces for Peer Learning' Masters Thesis, UC Berkeley School of Information.  
<http://blogs.ischool.berkeley.edu/masks/files/2011/05/The-Spaces-Between.pdf>

2011 'The Missing Wikipedians' in Geert Lovink and Nathaniel Tkacz (eds), *Critical Point of View: A Wikipedia Reader*, Amsterdam: Institute of Network Cultures, 2011. ISBN: 978-90-78146-13-1.

2006 'Africa and the Digital Information Commons: An Overview', *The Southern African Journal of Information and Communication*, Issue 7

2003 'Silenced: an international report on censorship and control of the Internet' Published by Privacy International and GreenNet Educational Trust

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Selected journalism

July, 2010 [A couple of geeks](#), Brainstorm Magazine: Mosiuoa Tsietsi is working on next generation network services that enable the deployment of Skype-like services on a telecoms network.

June, 2010 [The new face\(s\) of computing](#), Brainstorm Magazine: If Microsoft is going to be relevant to the next generation of computer users, who better to pay attention to than the leading expert on how the next generation is using social networks?

April, 2010 [Rocking the world to its core](#), Brainstorm Magazine: A Stellenbosch-based firm is set to reap the rewards of a growing market for superconductive circuit technology with its world-first design tool.

September, 2009 [Mapping the world class African city](#), Brainstorm Magazine: The City of Johannesburg is closing off its GIS data in a 'cost recovery' move that other South African municipalities are set to follow. This, say some industry players, is not in keeping with Joburg's plans to become 'a world-class African city'.

August, 2009 [Technology incubators: how successful are they really?](#) Incubators supporting start-ups with infrastructure and networking rather than cash are claiming success at every turn. But how much success are they really having?

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Selected presentations and keynotes

January, 2013 Microsoft Research Social Computing Symposium. '[Off the Radar: Stories, Insight, Action!](#)' panel

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| May, 2012       | 'Writing up rather than writing down: Becoming Wikipedia literate'. With S. Geiger. <i>WikiSym, 8<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Wikis &amp; Open Collaboration (Linz, Austria)</i>   |
| July, 2012      | 'Managing sources during high volume news events' in 'Wikipedia in the Twitter Age' panel, <i>Wikimania 2012, Washington D.C., United States</i> <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f6GeRTAsFxy&amp;feature=plcp">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f6GeRTAsFxy&amp;feature=plcp</a> |
| October, 2011   | 'Learning in a WikiWorld: How new media and open collaboration are changing what we know and how we know it' Panel presentation. <i>WikiSym, 7<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Wikis &amp; Open Collaboration (Mountain View, California)</i>                                  |
| March, 2010     | 'Can we have our cake and eat it too?' in panel entitled, 'Productive and Destructive Tensions in the use of Emerging Platforms' <i>Digital Media and Learning 2011 Conference (Long Beach, California)</i>  |
| January, 2010   | 'The globalisation of "open"' <i>WikiWars (Bangalore, India)</i>   |
| August, 2008    | Keynote: 'The future of the global commons', <i>iSummit 2008 (Sapporo, Japan)</i>  |
| December, 2007  | 'The Right to Remix' <i>I4D Film Festival at Global Knowledge Partnership Conference, GK3 (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia)</i>   |
| August, 2007    | 'Innovation, entrepreneurship and social change: Intellectual Property in the twenty first century' <i>Marcus Evans Intellectual Property conference (Johannesburg, South Africa)</i>  |
| February, 2006  | 'Building a Creative Commons for Africa' <i>Idleloll: Africa Open Source Conference (Nairobi, Kenya)</i>   |
| June, 2006      | Keynote: 'The African Digital Commons: Building Creative Industries, <i>Asia Commons Conference (Bangkok, Thailand)</i>  |
| July, 2006      | Participated in an Internet Governance Forum planning meeting <i>Consumer Project on Technology (CPTech) (Geneva, Switzerland)</i>   |
| September, 2006 | Keynote on the global digital commons, <i>Digital Garage's New Context Conference (Tokyo, Japan)</i>   |
| October, 2006   | 'Creative Commons and Education in South Africa', <i>Commonwealth of Learning Conference (Jamaica)</i>   |
| October, 2006   | 'A Creative Commons for African Film', <i>Sithengi Film Festival (Cape Town, South Africa)</i>   |
| February, 2005  | Presented intellectual property recommendations and held a workshop on Creative Commons in West Africa, <i>World Summit on the Information Society, Africa Preparatory Meeting (Accra, Ghana)</i>  |
| March, 2004     | 'Silenced: Internet censorship in Africa', <i>Africa Electronic Privacy and Public Voice Symposium (Cape Town, South Africa)</i>   |

- July, 2004 'Creative Commons – an international perspective', *iLaw, Harvard University Berkman Centre (Cambridge, Massachusetts)*
- September, 2004 'Creative Commons – the opportunity for the protection of indigenous knowledge', *Highway Africa, Rhodes University (Grahamstown, South Africa)*
- October, 2004 'Copy rights and responsibilities – defining the South African public commons', *Wits University Law School (Johannesburg, South Africa)*

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Lectures, training and facilitation

- 2013 Guest lectures for Goldsmiths College 'Hacking Social Media' class on 'Sociality and media' and 'Place'
- 2012 Co-facilitated 'Project Team Dynamics' 3-hour workshop for UC Berkeley School of Information Masters students (Berkeley, United States)
- 2012 'Makmende and adventures in Wikipedia' Lecture to UC Berkeley School of Journalism students (Berkeley, United States)
- 2011 Co-facilitator, InfoCamp Berkeley 2011 (Berkeley, United States)
- 2011 Facilitator, GeekRetreat 2011 (Cape Town, South Africa)
- 2010 Facilitator, InfoCamp Berkeley 2010 (Co-founder) (Berkeley, United States)
- 2010 Developed course material and facilitated two-day workshop on training in copyright for heritage organisations (Cape Town and Durban, South Africa)
- 2009 Facilitator, GeekRetreat co-Founder (Johannesburg, South Africa)
- 2009 Lectured on copyright and copyright alternatives for creatives at VEGA School of Brand Advertising and Wits University Digital Arts Masters (Johannesburg, South Africa)
- 2007 Lecture: 'New approaches to intellectual property in the age of Web 2.0' *University of Cape Town Business School's Technomadic Marketing course (Cape Town, South Africa)*
- 2006 Facilitated iCommons workshop, *Wizards of OS VI (Berlin, Germany)*
- 2006 Facilitated Open Publishing Track at the Africa Source II Workshop (*Kalangala, Uganda*) <http://archive.tacticaltech.org/node/277>
- 2005 Co-facilitated Open Publishing Track at the FOSS Road Workshop (*Dushanbe, Tajikistan*)

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Selected blog posts

- Beyond reliability: An ethnographic study of Wikipedia sources' *Ethnography Matters*, 31 July, 2012 <http://ethnographymatters.net/2012/07/31/beyond-reliability-an-ethnographic-study-of-wikipedia-sources/>

'What does it mean to be a participant observer in a place like Wikipedia?' Ethnography Matters, 2 May, 2012 <http://ethnographymatters.net/2012/05/01/what-does-it-mean-to-be-a-participant-observer-in-a-place-like-wikipedia/>

'Online reputation: It's contextual' Ethnography Matters, 24 February, 2012  
<http://ethnographymatters.net/2012/02/24/online-reputation-its-contextual/>

'New geographies' Ethnography Matters, 21 October, 2012  
<http://ethnographymatters.net/2011/10/21/new-geographies/>