

Nicolas Zahn

Zürich

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Personal details

* 1989, Basel-Stadt (BS)

Nationality: Swiss

Professional experience

Since 11/2022 **f0t1 GmbH**, Zürich Managing Director

- Analysis & strategy development as well as project support for digital transformation.
- Lectures, Keynotes, and moderation on the social, economic, and political consequences of digital technologies, from artificial intelligence to cybersecurity.

Since 05/2021 **Swiss Digital Initiative**, Geneva Managing Director

- Leading the team as well as projects and IT incl. data protection (CIO & DPO), responsible for the organization's strategy, structure, and partnership model, processes, and recruiting.
- Management of Digital Trust experts, execution of workshops in cooperation with partner organizations and publications as well as representing the organization in international working groups (OECD, IEEE, WEF, Geneva Dialogue).

01/2019 – 05/2021 **ELCA Informatik AG**, Zürich Business Consultant

- Drafting IT and digital strategies for clients in the public and private sector.
- Business analysis and requirement engineering for software solutions developed by ELCA through workshops with clients and exchange with developers as well as testing.

09/2017 – 09/2018 **Mercator Fellow on International Relations** Digital Transformation

- **Enterprise Estonia**, Tallinn:
- **Stiftung Neue Verantwortung**, Berlin: Co-authored a paper with Stefan Heumann (Board member) on the importance of indicators and measurements when implementing national strategies on artificial intelligence. The work was conducted in the context of the draft process for the German strategy on artificial intelligence and looks at other national strategies as well as private-sector publications.
- **GovInsider**, Singapore: Publication of several articles showcasing concrete use cases of technology or innovative methodologies used in the public sector with a focus on south-east Asia, e.g. tsunami early-warning systems in the Philippines or big data analytics used by the Red Cross to optimize humanitarian missions.
- **OECD**, Paris: Support for publications in particular the report on the Digital Transformation of the Public Sector as well as blogposts regarding issues of the Digital Government Team and participation and support for conferences, e.g. the conference "Artificial Intelligence: Intelligent Machines, Smart Policies"

01/2015 – 08/2017 **Credit Suisse Trust AG**, Zürich Business Consultant

- Project management of strategic projects, from process optimization to regulatory projects.
- Draft of business analysis, reports and presentations for senior management.
- As part of an internal career program conducted a team consulting project to increase the use of a new application by relationship managers.

10/2013 – 12/2013 **Cyber Security Policy and Research Institute**, Washington D.C Researcher

- Individual research in the field of cybersecurity with a focus on cyberinsurance which lead to the co-publication of a paper on the issue of setting premiums for cyberinsurance policies.
- Participation in various think-tank events in Washington D.C. regarding cybersecurity.

Further activities

- Since 2018 I host a blog on *Medium* to structure my thoughts and insights from the Mercator fellowship. I also worked on the Podcast series by *Republik* on digital policy and since 2019 publish for the online economics journal *The Market*
- Since 2018 I support the organization of the *Swiss Internet Governance Forum* as a member of the core team and since 2023 I'm the president of the *ethics council* at *POSMO data cooperative*.
- For my political work on digital transformation, I've been selected twice as *ParlDigi Champion*.

Education

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| 09/2012 – 09/2014 | Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva | Master International Affairs (5.4) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Track: Regional and Global Integration• Thesis on Internet Governance: “What’s in the blackbox? Understanding the impact of Multistakeholderism on ICANN’s legitimacy” |
| 08/2013 – 12/2013 | Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University, Washington D.C. | Exchange student International Affairs (5.5) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• IT Policy• Political Risk• Fundamentals of Intelligence• Russian |
| 09/2008 – 06/2011 | University of Zürich, Zürich | Bachelor of Arts in Social Sciences (5.3) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Major: Political Science• Minor 1: Economics• Minor 2: Public Law |

Skills

- Digital transformation & IT: Cybersecurity Frameworks, software development (Java and Python), LaTeX, STATA, GIT, CRM (Salesforce) & CMS (WordPress) as user and admin, social media management, excellent IT-skills with various operating systems and productivity suites (MS Office, Google Workspace, Atlassian products)
- Project management according to PMBOK, HERMES 5 (Foundation 2019) as well as agile methodologies
- Negotiations according to the Harvard method, excellent communications and moderation skills, practiced in several panel discussions and workshops
- Languages: German (mother tongue), English (C1), French (B2), Italian (B1), Russian (A1)

Honors and Awards

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| 2024 | <i>BlueDot AI Safety Fundamentals Certificate</i> |
| 2023 | <i>CIDOB – Santander 35 under 35 Future Leader</i> |
| 2023 | <i>Google Cybersecurity Certificate</i> |
| 2023 | <i>ECCRI European Cybersecurity Fellowship</i> |
| 2020 | Winner essay contest <i>Digital Transformation</i> |
| 2017 | <i>Mercator Fellowship on International Affairs</i> for Digital Government |
| 2016 / 2017 | Two honorable mentions as part of the <i>Credit Suisse Research Academy Challenge</i> |
| 2016 | Winner Current Affairs essay competition Project Firefly on <i>Fourth Industrial Revolution</i> |
| 2014 | Winner essay contest <i>Du und Demokratie (You and democracy)</i> |
| 2013 | Finalist 11 th ELSA Moot Court Competition on WTO law (Geneva) |
| 2012 | Binding Scholarship as part of the program <i>Univers Suisse</i> |
| 2010 – 2012 | Several awards as part of <i>Model United Nations</i> conferences, e.g. Best Delegate at WorldMUN 2012 in Vancouver |
| 2008 | Swiss certificates for leadership and self-management |
| 2006 | Winner study week computer science <i>Schweizer Jugend Forscht</i> |

Extracurricular activities

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| 2022 – today | Member of <i>Officers Association Cyber</i> |
| 2022 – today | Board Member <i>StandUp4Democracy</i> (Finance) |
| 2021 – 2024 | Board Member <i>Association of Swiss Intelligence Officers</i> (Finance) |
| 2019 – today | Board Member <i>Kreispartei 3 FDP.Die Liberalen Zürich</i> & Head commission Digital |
| 2014 – 2018 | Co-Founder and Board Member of <i>Operation Libero</i> |
| 2014 – 2022 | Member scientific communication think-tank <i>reach</i> where I co-lead the <i>Franxini Project</i> |
| 2014 – today | Member <i>Young Scholar Initiative Institute for New Economic Thinking</i> |
| 2013 – today | Contributor <i>Project Firefly Blog</i> |
| 2013 – 2014 | Programmes Officer Collaborate for Social Impact, <i>Just Innovate Geneva</i> |
| 2013 – 2017 | Editor-in-Chief <i>As A European Magazine</i> by Allianz Cultural Foundation |
| 2011 – 2012 | Co-Founder and director <i>Zurich Globalist</i> (Journal for international affairs) |
| 2010 – 2011 | Board member <i>MUN Team University of Zürich</i> (Head of Operations) |
| 2009 – today | Member Forum Aussenpolitik <i>foraus</i> (Swiss foreign-policy think tank), policy fellow Tech |
| 2008 – 2011 | Freelancer <i>Zürcher Studierendenzzeitung</i> |
| 2008 – today | Member of the <i>Swiss Study Foundation</i> , Assessor |