

ROBIN BERJON

VERSATILE TECHNOLOGIST



I am a versatile technologist, developer, researcher, and policy advisor with three decades of experience across Europe, North America, and Asia, a track record of delivering projects, solid experience in standards, Internet governance, and digital sovereignty, and a sustained eagerness to learn.

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- @darobin 
- Native speaker: English and French
- French-Australian binational
- Lives in Brussels

Work Experience



Founder & Principal
Supramundane Agency

2024 – present

Leading a consultancy focused on the governance of digital technology and bringing democracy to the internet, through protocol design, institutional design, standards, and policy. Current projects include DASL (<https://dasl.ing/>), a protocol toolbox developed in Europe that supports millions of users; Eurosky (<https://eurosky.tech/>), European social media infrastructure, along with Mu, a next-generation social media app; Funding The Web (<https://ftw.fund/>), a policy project to break the search monopoly while supporting a better web; and Ziran (<https://ziran.space/>), an app for universal collaborative documents.



Deputy Director
IPFS Foundation

2024 – present

Working on new products and technologies that support greater agency and shared governance.



Vice-Chair, Board of Directors
Modal Foundation

2025 – present

The foundation behind Free Our Feeds (<https://freeourfeeds.com/>), building open, people-powered social media on the AT Protocol, governed in the public interest. I have been one of the campaign's custodians since its launch in January 2025.



Senior Fellow
Future of Technology Institute

2025 – present

Developing policy that supports a better digital sphere.



Senior Fellow
Public AI

2023 – present

Supporting research and policy coordination efforts around the EU's AI strategy and ecosystem.



Senior Governance & Standards Technologist
Metagov

2023 – present

Researching and elaborating institutions to govern the digital sphere and planetary digital infrastructure.



Member, Steering Committee
Democratic Tech Alliance

2025 – present



Expert, Technology Advisory Panel
UK Information Commissioner's Office

2022 – 2024



Governance & Standards Lead / IPFS Ecosystem Lead
Protocol Labs

2022 – 2024

I worked on next-generation Web architecture, seeking new approaches to digital systems that increase user agency and developing the missing layers that enable a people-centric governance of the Internet. I bridged novel protocols, notably IPFS and related self-certifying systems, to more traditional Web contexts.



Vice-Chair, Board of Directors
World Wide Web Consortium (W3C)

2022 – 2024



VP, Data Governance
The New York Times

2019 – 2022

Built up a team to support continued regulatory programmes (CCPA, GDPR) as well as to establish our policy positions, developed and implemented the company's privacy strategy as well as its algorithmic ethics policy, and worked in support of its broader data, advertising, and marketing strategies. I drove our approach to reforming the online advertising ecosystem through participation in tech standards and experimentation, and worked on The Times's involvement in data policy issues. Edited the W3C TAG's Privacy Principles (<https://www.w3.org/TR/privacy-principles/>).



Executive Director, Data Governance
The New York Times

2017 – 2019

Launched the data governance programme in what is a very data intensive organisation, and ran the GDPR compliance project. Began defining what the global data ecosystem should look like if independent media is to thrive in it.



CTO
science.ai

2015 – 2017

Brought scholarly publishing into the internet age based on great UX, machine learning, document semantics, and intensive data crunching through ugly formats, with major publishers as clients. Architected, built, and ran many critical components using JS, Node, CouchDB, Stripe, React, Redux, and many other moving parts. Everything running inside AWS with ZeroMQ and auto-scaling.



Editor of the HTML Specification & Head of HTML Activity

W3C / MIT / Keio University

2012 – 2015

Shipped the HTML5 (<https://www.w3.org/TR/2014/REC-html5-20141028/>) specification (as well as a few others) and managed the W3C HTML world, trying to bring agility to standards.

Founded and launched the Web Platform Tests (<https://github.com/web-platform-tests/wpt>) project to define interoperability for the whole Web (current stats: 2.2+ million tests, 75k+ commits, 3,400+ contributors, deployed in CI by every major browser vendor).

Also launched the Web Incubator (<https://wicg.io/>) to open Web standards to a broader community.



Consultant, Researcher, & Developer

Self-employed

2008 – 2015

I carried out research, development, prototyping, or handled standards strategy for numerous companies around the world, large and small: Samsung (<https://www.samsung.com/>), Vodafone (<https://www.vodafone.co.uk/>), Canon (<https://global.canon/en/index.html>), Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/>), INRIA/ERCIM (<https://www.ercim.eu/>), SpinTank (<https://spintank.fr/>), Expway (<https://www.expway.com/>), IGEL (<https://www.igel.co.jp/en/>), Ikivo.

In 2012 I was elected to the W3C Technical Architecture Group (<https://www.w3.org/2001/tag/>), a small group charged with stewardship of the Web's architecture.



Senior Software Architect

Joost

2006 – 2008

Joost was high-quality, P2P, legal TV. I worked building its rich UI and defining a widgets platform for third-parties to write extensions with.



Senior Research Scientist

Expway

2002 – 2006

I worked on creating a binary XML format, on an XML Schema processor, many XML languages, standard efforts in multiple organisations, and SVG-based UI for embedded devices.



Founder & CTO

Knowscape

1996 – 2002

A Web agency in the early, fast-moving years of the Web. I worked on many different projects, including an SVG map editor for the French Ministry of Infrastructure, education software for Audi-Volkswagen (<https://www.audi.com/en.html>), glossy sites for Elle (<https://www.elle.com/>) or Bordeaux (<https://www.bordeaux.com/>), Web applications for Proximus (<https://www.proximus.be/>), and much more.

Publications & Conferences

I co-authored the hit We need to rewild the internet (<https://www.noemamag.com/we-need-to-rewild-the-internet/>) with Maria Farrell, which has since been anthologised in The Best American Science and Nature Writing 2025 (<https://www.harpercollins.com/products/the-best-american-science-and-nature-writing-2025-susan-orleanjaime-green?variant=43710161518626>). I have written in Project Syndicate (<https://www.project-syndicate.org/columnist/robin-berjon>), Politico (<https://www.politico.eu/author/robin-berjon/>), and Le Monde (https://www.lemonde.fr/idees/article/2026/05/20/la-souverainete-numerique-se-construit-par-etapes-et-si-les-institutions-ne-bougent-pas-le-public-ne-bougera-pas_6691743_3232.html).

Recent reports include *Funding The Web: From Cartel to Covenant* (<https://ftw.fund/>) (Supramundane Agency, 2026), *A Real Digital Omnibus for European Competitiveness and Security* (<https://supramundane.agency/reports/data-omnibus/>) (2026), *Airbus for AI: A Global Strategy for Public Value Creation* (<https://doi.org/10.17863/CAM.121150>) (Bennett School of Public Policy, University of Cambridge & Metagov, 2025), and *Algorithmic Pluralism* (<https://supramundane.agency/reports/algorithmic-pluralism/>) (Future of Technology Institute, 2025).

I have edited over a dozen Web standards (<https://www.w3.org/TR/?filter-editor=Robin%20Berjon>), specified the IPFS Principles (<https://specs.ipfs.tech/architecture/principles/>) and contributed to several dozen more (<https://duckduckgo.com/?q=robin+berjon+site%3Aw3.org+inurl%3A%2FTR%2F&ia=web>), on topics including formats, APIs, mobile capabilities, networking, or compression. I have published about data management in *Nature Scientific Data* (<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41597-019-0031-8>).

I have testified before the French Assemblée nationale (<https://supramundane.agency/videos/assemblee-nationale-2026/>) on systemic vulnerabilities in the digital sector, and before the Council of Europe's Committee of Experts on Media Regulators in a Platform-Based Environment.

I have written about how The New York Times manages privacy (<https://open.nytimes.com/how-the-new-york-times-thinks-about-your-privacy-bc07d2171531>) and how to understand privacy on the Web (<https://www.smashingmagazine.com/2021/08/against-privacy-infringement-web/>). I write about better futures for technology on my blog (<https://berjon.com/>).

I regularly participate in academic discussions, notably with the Center for Information Technology Policy (CITP) (<https://citp.princeton.edu/>) in Princeton, the Digital Life Initiative (DLI) (<https://dli.tech.cornell.edu/>) at Cornell Tech, as well as the Berkman Klein Center (<https://cyber.harvard.edu/>) at Harvard.

I have spoken at dozens of conferences around the world, including keynotes at the EU Tech Stars Summit (<https://www.greens-efa.eu/en/article/event/eu-tech-stars-summit>) in the European Parliament and at PublicSpaces (<https://supramundane.agency/videos/we-build-on-hope/>), as well as at re:publica (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BbqZvp7D_nY), the Cambridge Disinformation Summit (<https://supramundane.agency/videos/cambridge-disinformation-summit/>), the European Data Summit (<https://supramundane.agency/videos/european-data-summit-2026/>), the Internet Governance Forum, Local-First Conf (<https://supramundane.agency/videos/local-first-2026/>), DecidimFest, MozFest, the Open Source Convention, the Oxford XML Summer School, the Consent Workshop (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xmtjUr0U7b4>), the Web@25 celebration, the Sony Distinguished Engineers Conference, the Open World Forum, the Salon du Livre, Paris Web, or at the OECD. You can hear me interviewed by the BBC on what's next for social media (<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c3w1e3xd2glo>) and on whether Europe should wean itself off US tech (<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c3dpr2zkny0o>), on RTÉ Radio 1 (<https://supramundane.agency/videos/rte-europe-us-tech/>), for ECDPM on European tech sovereignty (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LdEZlw7KiYs>), Hearsay Culture (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ud8z8PiNLDs>), or Full Stack Journalism (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gujn_1g12Xw).

A more comprehensive list of talks, interviews, and reports is kept up to date on the Supramundane Agency site (<https://supramundane.agency/news/>); more is available on demand.

Technology

I pick new technologies up quickly, and when possible I contribute back.

Web: HTML, CSS, JS, TypeScript, DOM & browser APIs, IPFS, IPLD, DASL, AT Protocol, React, ProseMirror, SVG, mobile/responsive techniques, schema.org, PWA, HTTP.

Data: XML, XSLT, XPath, XML Schema (and several more obscure XML technologies), RDF, JSON-LD, DOCX, JATS, CouchDB, MongoDB, Postgres, MySQL, SQLite, BigQuery.

Languages: JavaScript (Node, CouchDB, browser), TypeScript, Python, some Erlang, some Rust, Perl, Java, PHP.

Misc: Electron, Tauri, reasonable (but not professional) design skills.

There is more on GitHub (as darobin (<https://github.com/darobin>), scienceai (<https://github.com/scienceai>), or w3c (<https://github.com/w3c>)), on npm (as scienceai (<https://www.npmjs.com/~scienceai>) or as robin.berjon (<https://www.npmjs.com/~robin.berjon>)), and even on CPAN (<https://metacpan.org/author/RBERJON>).

Education

- MITx 8.370.1x: Quantum Information Science I, Part 1 (certificate, 2018)
- 2 years studying Philosophy, La Sorbonne Paris University IV (1997)
- French "Baccalauréat ES" with "Mention Bien". This is a specialisation in Economics, Sociology, and Maths. (1995)
- British A levels in English literature, History, and Geography (1995)
- Stendhal International School for bilingual students in Grenoble (1988-1995)

Extracurricular

I have taken part in the work of the Terra Nova Foundation (<https://tnova.fr/>) think tank, and have written a finding with the Fondapol (<https://www.fondapol.org/>) (Foundation for Political Innovation): *Internet, politique et coproduction citoyenne* (The Internet, Politics, and Coproduction by Citizens). This was republished by the Presses Universitaires de France (PUF) as part of a collective book called Innovation Politique 2012 (https://www.puf.com/Autres_Collections:Innovation_politique_2012).

I enjoy writing, both fiction and non-fiction, and a *lot* of reading.

