

# ADAM THIERER

## PROFILE

Policy analyst covering the intersection of technology and public policy since 1991. Specializes in innovation, entrepreneurialism, Internet governance, and free-speech issues, with a particular focus on the policy concerns surrounding emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, advanced computation, and robotics.

Author or editor of ten books on these topics, including a foundational book on the freedom to innovate, “Permissionless Innovation: The Continuing Case for Comprehensive Technological Freedom” (2016). Most recent book is “Evasive Entrepreneurs and the Future of Governance: How Innovation Improves Economies and Governments” (2020). Has published thousands of reports and essays and is ranked 896th out of 2.1 million academics on SSRN’s All-Time Author Downloads index.

Served on several distinguished online safety task forces, including Harvard University’s Internet Safety Technical Task Force and the Obama Administration’s Online Safety Technology Working Group. Currently serves as a Commissioner on the U.S. Chamber of Commerce’s Artificial Intelligence Commission on Competitiveness, Inclusion, and Innovation. Also serves as Chair of the Federalist Society’s Regulatory Transparency Project Emerging Technology Working Group.

Regularly testifies before Congress, state legislatures, regulatory bodies, and other governmental organizations and is featured often in major media publications as both a source and editorial contributor. Has been a keynote speaker or panelist at countless academic and policy conferences across the globe over the past three decades.

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## WORK EXPERIENCE

### RESIDENT SENIOR FELLOW, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

#### R STREET INSTITUTE

Nov 2022 – present

Oversees the R Street Institute’s artificial intelligence and advanced computation research efforts. Since joining the Institute, has produced over 150 products related to AI, machine learning, and robotics. Testifies frequently before federal and state lawmakers and regulators on these matters, and regularly featured in major media events and reports on advanced technology policy matters.

#### SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOW

#### MERCATUS CENTER AT GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

Nov 2010 – Sept 2022

Helped grow the organization’s Technology Policy Program and create a platform to train and inform others in the academic and policy advocacy world on all matters related to the governance of emerging technologies.

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Worked closely with a team of scholars and students to create this vision and platform while also authoring two books, hundreds of studies, and thousands of essays and editorials in major media outlets. Mentored and placed students in positions in government, academia, consultancies, policy advocacy organizations, and technology companies.

**PRESIDENT & SENIOR FELLOW**

**THE PROGRESS & FREEDOM FOUNDATION**

March 2005 – Oct 2010

Created PFF's "Center for Digital Media Freedom" project, which sought to protect America's First Amendment heritage and promote enlightened public policy regarding all forms of media and communications. Later was appointed President of PFF. Authored two books and dozens of major studies or reports.

**DIRECTOR OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS STUDIES**

**CATO INSTITUTE**

Dec 2000 - Mar 2005

Directed the organization's efforts to advance communications and media policy reforms. Co-authored and edited three books on these and other topics related to Internet governance and regulation of emerging technologies.

**SENIOR FELLOW IN ECONOMIC POLICY**

**THE HERITAGE FOUNDATION**

Feb 1992 - Dec 2000

Initiated the organization's technology policy coverage and became one of the first prominent Internet policy analysts in the United States. Assisted others in the organization by helping to build and launch the organization's first websites. Also covered electricity, energy, aviation, and general regulatory policy reform efforts. Authored a book on the intersection of federalism, interstate commerce, and technological freedom. Published hundreds of reports, essays, and editorials.

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**EDUCATION**

**1995**

**MASTER OF ARTS IN INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT**

**UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND**

**1991**

**BACHELOR OF ARTS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE AND JOURNALISM**

**INDIANA UNIVERSITY**

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**BOOKS**

*Evasive Entrepreneurs and the Future of Governance: How Innovation Improves Economies and Governments* (Cato Institute, 2020).

*Permissionless Innovation: The Continuing Case for Comprehensive Technological Freedom* (Mercatus Center at George Mason University, 2016).

*Parental Controls and Online Content Protection: A Survey of Tools & Methods* (Progress & Freedom Foundation, 2010).

*A Manifesto for Media Freedom* (Encounter Books, 2008).

*Media Myths: Making Sense of the Debate Over Media Ownership* (Progress & Freedom Foundation, 2005).

*Who Rules the Net?: Internet Governance and Jurisdiction* (Cato Institute, 2003).

*Copy Fights: The Future of Intellectual Property in the Information Age* (Cato Institute, 2002).

*The Delicate Balance: Federalism, Interstate Commerce and Economic Freedom in the Technological Age* (Heritage Foundation, 1998).

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MAJOR JOURNAL  
ARTICLES

"U.S. Artificial Intelligence Governance in the Obama–Trump Years," *IEEE Transactions on Technology and Society*, Vol. 2, Issue 4 (2021).

"A Brief History of Soft Law in ICT Sectors: Four Case Studies," *Jurimetrics*, Vol. 61 (Fall 2021).

"Soft Law for Hard Problems: The Governance of Emerging Technologies in an Uncertain Future," *Colorado Technology Law Journal*, Vol. 17, No. 1 (2018).

"Guns, Limbs, and Toys: What Future for 3D Printing?" *Minnesota Journal of Law, Science & Technology*, Vol. 17, No. 2 (2016).

"Removing Roadblocks to Intelligent Vehicles and Driverless Cars," *Wake Forest Law Review*, Vol. 5, No. 2 (2015).

"The Sharing Economy and Consumer Protection Regulation: The Case for Policy Change," *Journal of Business, Entrepreneurship & Law*, Vol. 8, No. 2 (2015).

"Privacy Law's Precautionary Principle Problem," *Maine Law Review*, Vol. 66 (2014).

"The Pursuit of Privacy in a World Where Information Control Is Failing," *Harvard Journal of Law & Public Policy*, Vol. 36 (2013).

"A Framework for Benefit-Cost Analysis in Digital Privacy Debates," *George Mason University Law Review* 20, No. 4 (Summer 2013).

"Technopanics, Threat Inflation, and the Danger of an Information Technology Precautionary Principle," *Minnesota Journal of Law, Science & Technology*, Vol. 14, No. 1 (2013).

"A History of Cronyism and Capture in the Information Technology Sector," *Journal of Technology Law & Policy*, Vol. 18 (2013).

"Uncreative Destruction: The Misguided War on Vertical Integration in the Information Economy," *Federal Communications Law Journal*, Vol. 65, No. 2 (2013).

"The Perils of Classifying Social Media Platforms as Public Utilities," *Journal of Communications Law and Technology Policy*, Vol. 21 (2013).

"Why Regulate Broadcasting: Toward a Consistent First Amendment Standard for the Information Age," *CommLaw Conspectus*, Vol. 15 (Summer 2007).

"Unnatural Monopoly: Critical Moments in the Development of the Bell System Monopoly," *Cato Journal*, Vol. 14, No. 2 (Fall 1994).