

HANA SCHANK BIO

Hana Schank is an author of four books: *POWER TO THE PUBLIC*, *THE GOVERNMENT FIX*, *THE AMBITION DECISIONS*, and *A MORE PERFECT UNION*. Until recently, Schank was the Senior Advisor for Public Interest Technology at New America, a Washington think and action tank, where she helped grow the public interest technology field via research, storytelling, and hands-on projects.

Schank has led projects on improving how legislators on Capitol Hill develop policies; on researching and designing a digital app to connect unhoused families in New York City with social services; incorporating an ethical pause in the research and design of a new food program in New York City; and using data and research to reveal how the Emergency Rental Assistance Program's implementation was influenced by political ideology. Schank frequently gives talks and appears on radio, podcasts, and television. She told a ten-minute story on stage with no notes for the Story Collider podcast and has testified in front of Congress on technology modernization in government.

Her most recent book, *POWER TO THE PUBLIC*, co-authored with Tara McGuinness, was [recommended by President Barack Obama on Twitter](#). Following Obama's recommendation, the book sold out on Amazon.

Schank was an early member of the United States Digital Service, established by President Obama to bring private sector technologists into government. At USDS she advised the Department of Homeland Security on projects spanning the organization, including immigration processing and facial recognition. In the private sector, Schank founded CollectiveUX, a user experience consultancy, and ran it for over a decade, working with start-ups, Fortune 500 companies, and government organizations to research and design human-centered products.

In addition to her research and design work, Schank is a frequent contributor to national publications and is the author of four works of nonfiction. Her Kindle Single, *THE EDGE OF NORMAL*, was selected for Amazon's list of best Kindle Singles of 2015, and her 2005 memoir, *A MORE PERFECT UNION*, was a Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers selection. Over the years, she has written essays that have gone viral at *Salon*, the *Atlantic*, the *New York Times*, and *Fast Company*.

Schank is a graduate of Northwestern University and holds an MFA in nonfiction writing from Columbia University. She lives in Brooklyn, New York, where she and her husband are raising two fifth-generation Brooklynites.