

Alexandra Samuel

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Alexandra Samuel is a writer and consultant, specializing in e-government and e-democracy issues. She has written for the Vancouver Sun, the Chronicle of Higher Education, CBC Radio, and Business 2.0 magazine. Alexandra is also completing a Ph.D. in Political Science at Harvard University; her dissertation looks at the phenomenon of politically-motivated computer hacking, known as hacktivism.

In addition to her writing and research, Alexandra is a consultant with extensive experience in the public, private, and non-profit sectors. She provides advice and research on how to use the Internet for electronic service delivery, electronic consultation, and citizen engagement. She has also worked extensively with Digital 4Sight, a Toronto-based e-business consulting company.

As the Research Director for Digital 4Sight's Governance in the Digital Economy, Alexandra has guided a US \$2 million international research program. The Governance program is the first comprehensive study of how technology is transforming the business of government, the nature of democratic politics, and the role of citizens. Alexandra created the program in 1998, in collaboration with Don Tapscott, the Chairman of Digital 4Sight.

Alexandra's consulting work combines her rigorous research background with her extensive knowledge of information technology. She has merged these two areas of expertise by undertaking such diverse projects as advising a national political party on its use of the Internet, analyzing the Internet's impact on community life for Robert Putnam's bestselling *Bowling Alone*, and writing for Business 2.0 magazine. She is a former research affiliate at Harvard's Center for European Studies, and held National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowships from 1996-1999. In 2002, she created and taught a course on "The Internet and Politics" at the University of British Columbia.

Alexandra has also worked extensively in provincial and federal Canadian politics, including three years as a political adviser to the Premier of Ontario and to the province's Minister of Housing. She holds an M.A. in Political Science from Harvard University, and a B.A. in Politics from Oberlin College.