



## Ethan Zuckerman

*Fellow, The Berkman Center for Internet and Society at Harvard Law School; Founder, Global Voices*

**TOPIC:** Technology/Media

**SUBTOPICS:** The Future; Innovation; Global Policy and Economics; Social Change; International Relations

### BIG IDEAS:

#### The Next Billion

In the next five years, a billion people will log onto the Internet for the first time. They're from Nigeria, China, India, Brazil, and they're building the content of the new 'net, posting photos, videos, and blogs. What are the opportunities and threats of this increasingly polyglot, multicultural, global network, and how can people from developed nations navigate this emerging new world?

#### The World is Talking. Who's Listening?

Citizen media is changing the world of journalism, turning the news from a lecture into a conversation. In some nations, this conversation is challenging government monopolies on information and creating debates on taboo issues in the absence of a free press. With individuals around the world raising their voices, how is mainstream

media amplifying - or silencing - new voices? How will these voices challenge how we think about globalization, democratization, environmentalism and other multinational issues?

#### Activists as Lead Users

Lead users push tools in directions their manufacturers never intended, finding innovative uses to solve their unique problems. Activists are lead users in the Web 2.0 space, using tools intended for sharing photos and organizing parties to lead street protests and expose dictators. The tools of Web 2.0, while designed for mundane uses, can be extremely powerful in the hands of digital activists, especially those in environments where free speech is limited.

## BIOGRAPHY

Ethan Zuckerman is an activist, academic and engineer whose work focuses on technology in the developing world. In 2004, he co-founded Global Voices, an award-winning international citizen media network. Global Voices maintains an online newsroom, which reports from over 100 nations via weblogs and a translation network that publishes content in 12 languages. Global Voices offers training in citizen medium podcasting and videocasting throughout the developing world, and runs an advocacy project that supports free speech online.

Ethan became a fellow of the Berkman Center for Internet and Society at Harvard Law School in January, 2003. His work at Berkman focuses on the impact of technology on the developing world. His current projects include a study of global media attention, research on the use of weblogs and other social software in the developing world, and the use of Web 2.0 technologies by activists.

In 2000, Ethan founded Geekcorps, a non-profit technology volunteer corps. Geekcorps pairs skilled volunteers from US and European high tech companies with businesses in emerging nations for one to four month volunteer tours. Volunteers have served in 14 nations, completing over a hundred projects. Geekcorps became a division of the International Executive Service Corps in 2001, where Ethan served as a vice president from 2001-4.

Prior to founding Geekcorps, Ethan helped found Tripod, an early pioneer in the web community space. Ethan served as Tripod's first graphic designer and developer, and later as VP of Business Development and VP of Research and Development. After Tripod's acquisition by Lycos in 1998, Ethan served as General Manager of the Angelfire.com division and as a member of the Lycos mergers and acquisitions team.

In 1993, Ethan graduated from Williams College with a BA in Philosophy. In 1993-4, he was a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Legon, Ghana and the National Theatre of Ghana, studying ethnomusicology and percussion.

Ethan was given the 2002 Technology in Service of Humanity Award by MIT's Technology Review magazine and named to the TR100, TR's list of innovators under the age of 35. In 2004, Ethan was named a Global Leader for Tomorrow by the World Economic Forum.

He lives the Berkshire Mountains of western Massachusetts with his wife Rachel. He serves on the boards of regional and international organizations that focus on technology and education, including on the sub-boards of the Open Society Institute's Information Program and US Program.