

# RUTH SCHMIDT

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February 15, 2021

Dear Members of the Selection Committee,

I am an innovative data scientist and microbial ecologist with eight years of experience creating solutions to global challenges, such as finding microbial solutions to address food security in the face of climate change. I was excited to hear about the Data Analyst position at Our World in Data via the R-Ladies community. It is a role that would allow me to utilize my multidisciplinary knowledge as a data scientist and researcher to address and communicate the world's largest problems.

During my career, I have worked on honing my knowledge of transdisciplinary scientific research, data analysis, scientific writing, and project management. Having worked with large and complex biological data to infer insights into molecular mechanisms underlying microbial communication, I am well versed in managing, transforming and wrangling datasets, as well as in statistical methods. I am skilled in translating complex scientific and data concepts for stakeholders and general audiences through [interactive data visualization methods](#) and through my passion for [science communication](#). My creativity, outgoing and action-oriented nature, and passion for science policy will serve me well when collaborating with colleagues and communicating with external data providers, journalists and policy makers.

Highlights of my qualifications most relevant to your needs include:

Developed two new Dashboards at Plotly Technologies, one of the leading companies in building analytic web applications. These tools were aimed at integrating big data to provide biological information about microbial responses to climate change in a visually informative way using Plotly's Dash for R and Dash Bio libraries. The tools were presented to the open-source community at the BioConductor Conference 2020.

Performed data analysis and wrote chapter of IUCN's (International Union for Conservation of Nature) global report on how soil and landscape biodiversity could benefit society and help overcome the major challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss, and food and water insecurity.

Collaborated with 5 international research institutes on integrating big genetic related data to study mechanisms underlying microbial interactions in the context of plant health.

Currently working with IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development) on developing biodiversity standards and data visualization tools to address biodiversity loss and climate change in agriculture.

I am confident that my background and personality will make a great addition to the Global Change Data Lab. I look forward to discussing my background further with you and to learn more details about the position.

Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to speaking with you!

Sincerely,

Ruth Schmidt, PhD