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# Dr Sonia Boender

## Health Scientist & Field Epidemiologist

Robert Koch Institute, Seestrasse 10, 13353 Berlin, Germany

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Health scientist, specialized in infectious diseases, public health, and global health. Field epidemiologist.

Nine years of work experience (public, not-for-profit, academia), in both resource-rich and resource-limited settings.

Demonstrated experience with infectious disease monitoring and surveillance, on national and international level (including ECDC, WHO). Thrives in an international, multi-disciplinary team. Independent, flexible, creative, enthusiastic, connector.



## SKILLS HIGHLIGHT

- Epidemiological methodology & data analysis
- Project management and organisational skills, in resource-rich and resource-limited settings
- International work experience in Europe, sub-Saharan Africa and the Pacific
- Strong communicator, infodemic manager
- Experienced teacher, trainer, and mentor (incl. MSc and PhD students)

## EDUCATION

**Charité - Universitätsmedizin & Berlin School of Public Health, Germany**

*MSc Applied Epidemiology 2021*

**University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands**

*PhD Global Health 2016*

**Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, UK**

*PgCert International Public Health 2016 (with distinction)*

**VU University Amsterdam, the Netherlands**

*MSc Health Sciences - Infectious Diseases and Public Health 2011*

*BSc General Health Sciences 2010*

*Last updated: June 2021*

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## EXPERIENCE

### **Robert Koch Institute, Department of Infectious Disease Epidemiology**

September 2018 - present, Berlin, Germany

#### *Research Associate (Sept. 2020 - present)*

- Surveillance of notifiable infectious diseases in Germany
- COVID-19 outbreak response in Germany
- German Electronic Reporting and Information System for Infection Control (DEMIS)
- Project coordinator [ESEG](#) [*Erkennung und Steuerung Epidemischer Gefahrenlagen*], detection and protection of epidemic situations; setting up a syndromic surveillance system based on routine emergency department data in Germany
- Routine health data in real-time ([SUMO](#))

#### *ECDC EPIET Fellow (Sept. 2018 - Sept. 2020)*

##### European Field Epidemiology Training Programme (FETP)

- National infectious disease surveillance
- Public health research
- Outbreak investigation, including COVID-19/SARS-CoV-2 in Germany

### **European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)**

Sept 2018 - Sept 2020, Europe

#### *Fellow of the European Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training (EPIET)*

- Hosted at the Robert Koch Institute (national public health institute of Germany)
- Visiting scientist at the Luxembourg Institute of Health
- Cohort Representative (elected): spokesperson and point of contact for fellows, the ECDC Fellowship programme heads, the training site forum, and the EPIET Alumni Network
- [Full portfolio on the ECDC website](#)

### **World Health Organisation (WHO)**

#### **Western Pacific Regional Office, Division of Pacific Technical Support**

December 2019 - January 2020, Suva, Fiji

#### *Epidemiologist*

Short-term consultant / GOARN (Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network) deployment.

- Provided technical and operational assistance to Pacific Ministries of Health, for strengthening measles surveillance and other outbreak response activities, in Pacific Island Countries.

### **Stichting HIV Monitoring [Dutch HIV Monitoring Foundation]**

February 2016 - June 2018, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

#### *Epidemiologist & Postdoctoral Researcher*

*Last updated: June 2021*

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National HIV surveillance and monitoring of HIV treatment and quality of care in the Netherlands.

- Routine epidemiological data analysis of clinical HIV data; periodical reporting of the descriptive epidemiology of the HIV epidemic
- Analysis, dissemination and communication of healthcare performance indicators of all 26 HIV treatment centres in the Netherlands
- Provide technical support, methodological advice, and data analysis support for research proposals submitted by treatment centres
- Advise and support data management and monitoring in the improvement of data collection protocols, standardisation of data processing, and data quality control.
- Conduct clinical epidemiological and methodological research on the HIV epidemic
- Participate in international collaborations: University College London, Institute for Global Health, International Cohort Consortium of Infectious Diseases (RESPOND); Harvard Program on Causal Inference, HIV-CAUSAL
- Student supervision (MSc and PhD level)

**Amsterdam Institute for Global Health and Development | Department of Global Health, Academic Medical Centre of the University of Amsterdam**

February 2013 - January 2016, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

*PhD Fellow*

- Surveillance and monitoring of HIV treatment in adults and children in sub-Saharan Africa, in 13 public and private clinical sites, from six countries.
- Provide technical support and guidance to strengthen the surveillance system for HIV drug resistance in sub-Saharan Africa
- Expert Consultant for the WHO HIV ResNet, the global network advising WHO on the control and surveillance of HIV drug resistance:
  - Provide technical assistance for strengthening HIV drug resistance surveillance in resource-limited settings
  - Contributed to the development of the WHO 'Global Action Plan on HIV Drug Resistance, 2017-2021' and the 'HIV Drug Resistance Report 2017'
  - Conducted a WHO commissioned literature-review and meta-analysis (Boender et. al; CID 2015)

**VU University Amsterdam, Department of Health Sciences**

**Division of Infectious Diseases | Division of Methodology & Applied Biostatistics**

April 2012 - February 2013, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

*Lecturer*

- Teaching in lectures and work-groups
- Supervise internal and external research internships
- Support, plan and organise lectures and tutorials, manage and train course assistants

*Last updated: June 2021*

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## ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Guest/invited lecturer in infectious disease epidemiology, international public health, and HIV and drug resistance. VU University Amsterdam, Leiden University College, TU Eindhoven, European Centre for Disease Prevention & Control, ~3 lectures/year, since 2013.
- Advocate for science communication (workshops on social media for public health #SoMe4epi, #VaccineEmoji 🦠💉) and infodemic management) Active member of the EPIET Alumni Network (EAN) and European AIDS Clinical Society (EACS), Dutch Society for Epidemiology (*Vereniging voor Epidemiologie*)
- TEPHINET member of Alumni Needs Working Group, since August 2021
- Statistical Reviewer for The Lancet journals

## COMPUTER SKILLS

- Proficient in R, STATA, SAS, SPSS, EpiData, Adobe Pro, GraphPad Prism, MS Office
- Experienced with GIT, EpiInfo, KoboCollect, Nvivo, MS Access, QGIS/ArcGIS, Adobe Creative Suite (Photoshop, InDesign, Illustrator).

## PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATIONS

- Registered Senior Epidemiologist ("*Epidemioloog B*"), Dutch Society for Epidemiology
- Field Epidemiologist (advanced-level): ECDC EPIET
- Infodemic manager (certificate of training), WHO, June 2021
- ICH Good clinical practice (ICH-GCP) certified

## LANGUAGES

English (C2), German (C1), Dutch (C2, native speaker)

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and associated non-pharmaceutical interventions on other notifiable infectious diseases in Germany: an analysis of national surveillance data during week 1-2016 – week 32-2020.  
Ullrich A, Schranz M, Rexroth U, Hamouda O, Schaade L, Diercke M, Boender TS. The Lancet Regional Health - Europe. [doi: 10.1016/j.lanepe.2021.100103](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lanepe.2021.100103)
- Social media for field epidemiologists (#SoMe4Epi): How to use Twitter during the #COVID19 pandemic.  
Hammer CC, Boender TS, Thomas DR. Int J Infect Dis. 2021 May 19:S1201-9712(21)00437-9. [doi: 10.1016/j.ijid.2021.05.035](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijid.2021.05.035)

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- Investigation of a COVID-19 outbreak in Germany resulting from a single travel-associated primary case: a case series.  
Böhmer MM, Buchholz U, Corman VM, Hoch M, Katz K, Marosevic DV, Böhm S, Woudenberg T, Ackermann N, Konrad R, Eberle U, Treis B, Dangel A, Bengs K, Fingerle V, Berger A, Hörmansdorfer S, Ippisch S, Wicklein B, Grahl A, Pörtner K, Müller N, Zeitlmann N, Boender TS, Cai W, Reich A, An der Heiden M, Rexroth U, Hamouda O, Schneider J, Veith T, Mühlemann B, Wölfel R, Antwerpen M, Walter M, Protzer U, Liebl B, Haas W, Sing A, Drosten C, Zapf A.  
Lancet Infect Dis. 2020 May 15:S1473-3099(20)30314-5. [doi: 10.1016/S1473-3099\(20\)30314-5](https://doi.org/10.1016/S1473-3099(20)30314-5)
  - Acute hepatitis C infection among adults with HIV in the Netherlands between 2003 and 2016: a capture-recapture analysis for the 2013 to 2016 period.  
Boender TS, Op de Coul E, Arends J, Prins M, van der Valk M, van der Meer JTM, van Benthem B, Reiss P, Smit C. Euro Surveill. 2020 Feb;25(7). [doi: 10.2807/1560-7917.ES.2020.25.7.1900450](https://doi.org/10.2807/1560-7917.ES.2020.25.7.1900450)
  - Compliance with laboratory monitoring guidelines in outpatient HIV care: a qualitative study in the Netherlands.  
Toxopeus DCM, Pell CL, Westrhenen NB, Smit C, Wit FWNM, Ondoa P, Reiss P, Boender TS. AIDS Care. 2019 Jan 2:1-8. [doi: 10.1080/09540121.2018.1563280](https://doi.org/10.1080/09540121.2018.1563280)
  - Pretreatment HIV drug resistance increases regimen switches in sub-Saharan Africa.  
Boender TS, Hoenderboom BM, Sigaloff KC, Hamers RL, Wellington M, Shamu T, Siwale M, Labib Maksimos EE, Nankya I, Kityo CM, Adeyemo TA, Akanmu AS, Mandaliya K, Botes ME, Ondoa P, Rinke de Wit TF. Clin Infect Dis. 2015 Dec 1;61(11):1749-58. [doi: 10.1093/cid/civ656](https://doi.org/10.1093/cid/civ656)

Full list of publications (>30), presentations and communications on [www.soniaboender.com](http://www.soniaboender.com).  
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