

# Stéphane Ghozzi

I am a data scientist at the World Health Organization. I help conceive, set up and run data-science projects, including: domain research; mathematics, statistics and machine learning; data processing, exploration and visualization. I facilitate and deliver reports and concept notes, code notebooks and packages, interactive graphics.

Graduate from the École normale supérieure, physics PhD, professional work in theoretical physics, infectious-disease surveillance and epidemiology. Fluent in English, French and German. He/him.

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## Experience

### Data scientist World Health Organization (WHO)

May 25, 2023 – present · 2 yrs 1 mo

Berlin, Germany

WHO Hub for Pandemic and Epidemic Intelligence

[pandemichub.who.int](https://pandemichub.who.int)

#### International Pathogen Surveillance Network (IPSN)

[who.int/initiatives/international-pathogen-surveillance-network](https://who.int/initiatives/international-pathogen-surveillance-network)

- part the team leading global efforts towards making pathogen genomic surveillance data infrastructure, analysis, and sharing more accessible, equitable, and sustainable
- stakeholder engagement, meeting preparation, output synthesis, technological advancements and research monitoring, to formulate a work plan for the implementation of WHO's Global Genomic Surveillance Strategy

#### Epidemic Intelligence from Open Sources (EIOS)

[who.int/initiatives/eios](https://who.int/initiatives/eios)

- development and implementation of two machine learning and generative AI software and infrastructure projects
- supervision of multidisciplinary teams of developers and business analysts who designed application architectures and built strategies for data querying, data processing and machine learning pipelines (Python), implementation of Large Language Models (OpenAI), web applications (Streamlit, Flask) to interact with the data analysis
- one project was cloud native, with DevOps pipelines automating the code compilation, component deployment, and connection to the necessary cloud services

#### Prototype for the Surveillance Portfolio Assistant (SPA):

- design, development, implementation, and deployment of a web application for recommending surveillance approaches based on country context and needs
- R package that allows the ingestion of relevant datasets, implements a scoring algorithm, and includes the code for a Shiny web application to interactively set processing parameters, and see and download the results

AI for Public Health Intelligence strategy:

- conception of position papers, engagement with internal leadership and external partners, organisation of internal seminars

Various project lead activities, such as designing work plans, reporting on progress and budget, engaging with stakeholders.

**Data scientist    Independent developer and consultant**

November 1, 2022 – May 24, 2023 · 7 mos

Berlin, Germany

[stephaneghozzi.com](https://stephaneghozzi.com)

Research, statistics, machine learning, data visualization.

**Research  
associate**

**Helmholtz-Zentrum für Infektionsforschung (HZI)**

June 1, 2020 – May 31, 2022 · 2 yrs

Brunswick (Braunschweig), Germany

[helmholtz-hzi.de/en/research/research-topics/bacterial-and-viral-pathogens/epidemiology/our-research/](https://helmholtz-hzi.de/en/research/research-topics/bacterial-and-viral-pathogens/epidemiology/our-research/) · [sormas.org](https://sormas.org)

Senior scientist, statistical methods and tools for public health, in the Epidemiology department (Krause group).

Surveillance Outbreak Response Management and Analysis System (SORMAS): Automated support for decision making by SORMAS users. Strategies to bring computations to data so as to allow for advanced analytics without compromising data privacy.

Effect of climate change on infectious disease spread: Statistical modelling of the impact of short and long-term environmental and demographic changes on Lyme disease spread in Germany.

Machine learning for multiplex serology.

Management and organization:

- contact person for topics of automated analyses and processes;
- student support;
- writing of grant applications.

**Research  
associate**

**Robert-Koch Institut (RKI)**

April 15, 2016 – May 31, 2020 · 4 yrs 2 mos

Berlin, Germany

[rki.de/signale-project](https://rki.de/signale-project)

Machine learning, informatics, statistics and visualizations, Signale team, Department of Infectious-Disease Epidemiology.

Research and development:

- development of outbreak-detection algorithms and modelling of infection dynamics;
- performance evaluation and parameter optimization of the algorithms;
- natural language processing of online articles to support international infectious-disease surveillance;
- interactive visualizations of the results and other data for public-health professionals.

Management and organization:

- speaker for the team (four data scientists, two web developers, an average of two students);
- coordination of the international Topic Group Outbreaks under the Focus Group AI for Health of ITU and WHO: [itu.int/en/ITU-T/focusgroups/ai4h/Pages/tg.aspx](http://itu.int/en/ITU-T/focusgroups/ai4h/Pages/tg.aspx)
- supervision of master theses;
- organization of workshops and hackathons;
- writing of grant applications.

## **World Health Organization (WHO)**

### **Seconded from RKI**

May 1, 2019 – October 31, 2019 · 6 mos

Geneva, Switzerland

[who.int/eios](http://who.int/eios) · [who.int/emergencies/outbreak-toolkit](http://who.int/emergencies/outbreak-toolkit)

Machine learning and web-application development for epidemic intelligence and investigation of outbreaks of unknown origins.

In the Detection, Verification and Risk Assessment (DVA) and the Health Operations Monitoring and Data Collection (MDC) units of the Health Emergency Information and Risk Assessment (HIM) department within the WHO Health Emergencies (WHE) program of WHO.

## **Visual artist**

### **Self employed**

March 1, 2012 – April 14, 2016 · 4 yrs 1 mo

Berlin, Germany

Portfolio as of 2014 (pdf): [stephaneghozzi.com/docs/portfolio-ghozzi.pdf](http://stephaneghozzi.com/docs/portfolio-ghozzi.pdf)

Drawing, generative animation, photography, video, computer animation.

Selected projects and collaborations:

- 2014: videos exhibited during the *backup* festival, E-Werk, Weimar;
- 2005: twelve illustrations for *Trace.project*, a compilation album of original electronic music;
- 2005: videography for the dance piece *Entre-Deux* by Mirjam Fruttiger, Paris and Rome (including one-week invitation at the Villa Médicis);
- 2004: videography on the documentary *Manchay Tiempo* by Florence Blum and María Pía Medina-Luna (four-weeks filming in Peru);
- 2002: drawings and photographs published in the magazine *R de réel*.

## **Postdoctoral researcher**

### **Institut für Theoretische Physik (THP), Universität zu Köln**

March 1, 2010 – February 29, 2012 · 2 yrs

Cologne, Germany

[www.thp.uni-koeln.de/~lassig](http://www.thp.uni-koeln.de/~lassig)

Statistical and mechanical models of biological evolution, in the Lässig group.

Mathematical model and analysis of bacterial growth and gene expression, interpretation of experimental results.

Signatures of selection in DNA sequences and comparison with population genetics models:

- long-term influenza evolution;
- transcription-binding-site motifs in yeast.

Co-evolution signatures in protein sequences.

**Teaching  
assistant**

**Universität zu Köln**

September 1, 2010 – January 30, 2012 · 1 yr 5 mos

Cologne, Germany

Mathematics and statistical physics for Bachelor students.

**UPMC Sorbonne Universités**

October 1, 2005 – August 31, 2009 · 3 yrs 11 mos

Paris, France

Thermodynamics, optics and waves, mathematical methods for Bachelor students.

**Doctoral  
researcher**

**Laboratoire de Physique Statistique (LPS), École normale supérieure**

September 1, 2005 – December 31, 2009 · 4 yrs 4 mos

Paris, France

[www.labos.upmc.fr/ljp/?article7](http://www.labos.upmc.fr/ljp/?article7) · [www.lps.ens.fr](http://www.lps.ens.fr)

Theoretical and experimental biophysics, in the Chatenay group: Dynamics of gene regulatory networks.

Time series of gene expression levels, via fluorescent microscopy, of the lysis-lysogeny decision network of the bacteriophage Lambda:

- molecular biology (extraction of viral genes, insertion of genes coding for fluorescent protein, modification of bacterial genomes);
- microbiology (bacterial and viral cultures);
- automation and fluorescent microscopy;
- image analysis.

Mathematical analysis of noise statistics of bacterial gene expression.  
Computer simulations of the dynamics and evolution of gene regulatory networks.

Won a 60 k grant to fund the experimental project (over 3 years, used to buy apparatus and consumables): program “Interface physique, biologie et chimie : soutien à la prise de risque 2007-2009” of the CNRS.

**Volunteering  
Founding  
member**

**Celsius**

August 1, 2007 – August 31, 2009 · 2 yrs 1 mo

Paris, France

Celsius was a think tank with the goal of developing the European project.

- Elaboration of background documents on technical themes;
- preparation, organization of, and follow-up on, two-days meetings in Madrid, Brussels, and Paris, each with more than 30 participants;
- development of publication strategies, print and online.

<b>Internships</b>	<b>Laboratoire de l'Accélérateur Linéaire (LAL), Université Paris-Sud</b> February 1, 2005 – March 31, 2005 · 2 mos Orsay, France Theoretical particle physics, in the Davier group: Computation of fundamental physical quantities for high energy physics from particle collision experiments data.
	<b>Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron (DESY), Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin</b> January 17, 2003 – August 31, 2003 · 7 mos Zeuthen, Germany Theoretical particle physics, in the Jegerlehner group: Analysis of experimental data with ad hoc and first-principle mathematical models of elementary particles.
	<b>Laboratoire Kastler Brossel (LKB), École normale supérieure</b> June 1, 2002 – August 31, 2002 · 3 mos Paris, France Experimental quantum physics, in the Grynberg group: Construction of an optical atom trap.

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## Education

<b>Certifications</b>	<b>Coursera</b> January 1, 2016 – March 31, 2016 · 3 mos Practical Predictive Analytics: Models and Methods Machine Learning Data Manipulation at Scale: Systems and Algorithms
<b>Ph.D.</b>	<b>École normale supérieure</b> September 1, 2005 – December 31, 2009 · 4 yrs 4 mos Paris, France Theoretical and experimental biophysics: Dynamics of gene regulatory networks. See “Experience” above for details.
<b>B.Sc. &amp; M.Sc.</b>	<b>École normale supérieure</b> September 1, 2001 – August 31, 2005 · 4 yrs Paris, France Theoretical and mathematical physics: specialization in particle physics and statistical physics.  Competitive fellowship.  Activities and societies: President of the Photography and Video-Making student associations in 2002 and 2003: · presenting, defending, and managing budgets; · initiation and support for members.

**M.A.**            **École nationale supérieure des arts décoratifs**  
September 1, 2003 – August 31, 2004 · 1 yr  
Paris, France  
CGI, 3d animation, post-production.

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## Skills

<b>Programming</b>	R, Python, LaTeX, Hugo, HTML/CSS/Bootstrap, Mathematica, Matlab, Processing (Java), SQL, Perl, C++, Shell
<b>Tools</b>	Git, Jira, Confluence, Team Foundation Server (agile management: Scrum, Kanban), SQL Server Management Studio, Photoshop, Illustrator, After Effects, Microsoft Office, 3ds Max, Blender
<b>Languages</b>	French (native) German (professional) English (professional) Japanese (basics)

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## Selected projects

### **outbreak detection evaluation**

a new general approach to evaluating outbreak-detection algorithms implemented in the Python package epi-quark (main developer Auss Abbood)

*preprint:* [medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2022.03.16.22272469](https://medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2022.03.16.22272469)

*code:* [github.com/aauss/epi-quark](https://github.com/aauss/epi-quark)

### **eios anomaly**

Python notebooks for natural language processing and machine learning to identify epidemiologically relevant texts and support epidemic intelligence

*code & motivation:* [github.com/stephaneghozzi/eios-anomaly](https://github.com/stephaneghozzi/eios-anomaly)

*slides (pdf):* [github.com/stephaneghozzi/eios-anomaly/blob/master/eios\\_anomaly-seoul-20191113.pdf](https://github.com/stephaneghozzi/eios-anomaly/blob/master/eios_anomaly-seoul-20191113.pdf)

### **sormasdatagen**

an R package for generating synthetic data for the outbreak-management software SORMAS

*code & motivation:* [github.com/stephaneghozzi/sormasdatagen](https://github.com/stephaneghozzi/sormasdatagen)

### **world health organization outbreak toolkit virtual assistant**

a prototypical interactive R Shiny web application with analyses and visualizations for the investigation of outbreaks of unknown origins

*code & motivation:* [github.com/stephaneghozzi/wotva](https://github.com/stephaneghozzi/wotva)

*slides (pdf):* [github.com/stephaneghozzi/wotva/blob/master/doc/outbreak\\_toolkit-assistant-presentation-20191016-long.pdf](https://github.com/stephaneghozzi/wotva/blob/master/doc/outbreak_toolkit-assistant-presentation-20191016-long.pdf)

*live demo:* [stephaneghozzi.shinyapps.io/wotva](https://stephaneghozzi.shinyapps.io/wotva)

### asmodee trendbreaker evaluation

an R script for evaluating a new outbreak-detection algorithm on simulated and observed Covid-19 time series

paper: [doi.org/10.1098/rstb.2020.0266](https://doi.org/10.1098/rstb.2020.0266)

code: [github.com/stephaneghozzi/asmodee-trendbreaker-evaluation](https://github.com/stephaneghozzi/asmodee-trendbreaker-evaluation)

### signale logo

Processing scripts to generate patterns used for the graphic identity of a data-science team

code, motivation & output: [github.com/stephaneghozzi/signale-logo](https://github.com/stephaneghozzi/signale-logo)

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## Publications

- [1] M. Lotto Batista, B. M. Carvalho, R. Gibb, B. Solaraju-Murali, S. Flasche, S. Castell, S. Ghazzi, and R. Lowe, “Modelling the impact of climate and the environment on the spatiotemporal dynamics of Lyme borreliosis in Germany,” *eBioMedicine*, 10.1016/j.ebiom.2025.105701, 2025. [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/ebiom/article/PIIS2352-3964\(25\)00145-8/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/ebiom/article/PIIS2352-3964(25)00145-8/fulltext)
- [2] D. Gornyk, M. Scharlach, J. T. Stahmeyer, A. Großhennig, S. Häckl, A. Bakuli, S. Ghazzi, C. Klett-Tammen, W. Bautsch, G. Krause, and S. Castell, “Who chooses to learn? Characteristics of (non-)attendees of trainings on rational oral antibiotic therapy,” *submitted*, 2023.
- [3] M. Lotto Batista, E. M. Rees, A. Gómez, S. López, S. Castell, A. J. Kucharski, S. Ghazzi, G. V. Müller, and R. Lowe, “Towards a leptospirosis early warning system in northeastern Argentina,” *Journal of the Royal Society Interface*, 10.1098/rsif.2023.0069, 2023. <https://doi.org/10.1098/rsif.2023.0069>
- [4] S. Bhatia, N. Imai, O. J. Watson, A. Abbood, P. Abdelmalik, T. Cornelissen, S. Ghazzi, B. Lassmann, R. Nagesh, M. L. Ragonnet-Cronin, J. C. Schnitzler, M. U. Kraemer, S. Cauchemez, P. Nouvellet, and A. Cori, “Lessons from COVID-19 for rescalable data collection,” *The Lancet Infectious Diseases*, 10.1016/S1473-3099(23)00121-4, 2023. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S1473-3099\(23\)00121-4](https://doi.org/10.1016/S1473-3099(23)00121-4)
- [5] M. K. Akmatov, J. Holstiege, L. Dammertz, J. Heuer, C. Kohring, M. Lotto-Batista, F. Boeing, S. Ghazzi, S. Castell, and J. Bätzing, “Epidemiology of Lyme borreliosis based on outpatient claims data of all people with statutory health insurance, Germany, 2019,” *Eurosurveillance*, 10.2807/1560-7917.ES.2022.27.32.2101193, 2022. <https://doi.org/10.2807/1560-7917.ES.2022.27.32.2101193>
- [6] B. C. Silenou, C. Verset, B. B. Kaburi, O. Leuci, S. Ghazzi, C. Duboudin, and G. Krause, “A Novel Tool for Real-time Estimation of Epidemiological Parameters of Communicable Diseases Using Contact-Tracing Data: Development and Deployment,” *JMIR Public Health Surveillance*, 10.2196/34438, 2022. <https://publichealth.jmir.org/2022/5/e34438>
- [7] A. Abbood and S. Ghazzi, “General Framework for Evaluating Outbreak Prediction, Detection, and Annotation Algorithms,” *medRxiv*, 10.1101/2022.03.16.22272469, 2022. <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2022.03.16.22272469v2>
- [8] T. Jombart\*, S. Ghazzi\*, D. Schumacher, T. J. Taylor, Q. J. Leclerc, M. Jit, S. Flasche, F. Greaves, T. Ward, R. M. Eggo, E. Nightingale, S. Meakin, O. J. Brady, Centre for Mathematical Modelling of Infectious Diseases COVID-19 Working Group, G. F. Medley, M. Höhle, and W. J. Edmunds, “Real-time monitoring of COVID-19 dynamics using automated trend fitting and anomaly detection,” *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences*, 10.1098/rstb.2020.0266, 2021. <https://doi.org/10.1098/rstb.2020.0266>

- [9] M. Becker, M. Strengert, D. Junker, P. D. Kaiser, T. Kerrinnes, B. Traenkle, H. Dinter, J. Häring, S. Ghozzi, A. Zeck, F. Weise, A. Peter, S. Hörber, S. Fink, F. Ruoff, A. Dulovic, T. Bakchoul, A. Baillot, S. Lohse, M. Cornberg, T. Illig, J. Gottlieb, S. Smola, A. Karch, K. Berger, H.-G. Rammensee, K. Schenke-Layland, A. Nelde, M. Märklin, J. S. Heitmann, J. S. Walz, M. Templin, T. O. Joos, U. Rothbauer, G. Krause, and N. Schneiderhan-Marra, “Exploring beyond clinical routine SARS-CoV-2 serology using MultiCoV-Ab to evaluate endemic coronavirus cross-reactivity,” *Nature Communications*, 10.1038/s41467-021-20973-3, 2021. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-021-20973-3>
- [10] A. Abbood, A. Ullrich, R. Busche, and S. Ghozzi, “EventEpi A natural language processing framework for event-based surveillance,” *PLOS Computational Biology*, 10.1371/journal.pcbi.1008277, 2020. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pcbi.1008277>
- [11] O. Stojanovi, J. Leugering, G. Pipa, S. Ghozzi, and A. Ullrich, “A Bayesian Monte Carlo approach for predicting the spread of infectious diseases,” *PLOS ONE*, 10.1371/journal.pone.0225838, 2019. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0225838>
- [12] B. Zacher, A. Ullrich, and S. Ghozzi, “Supervised Learning for Automated Infectious-Disease-Outbreak Detection,” *Online Journal of Public Health Informatics*, 10.5210/ojphi.v11i1.9770, 2019. <https://doi.org/10.5210/ojphi.v11i1.9770>
- [13] F. Eckelmann, S. Ghozzi, and A. Ullrich, “Dashboards as strategy to integrate multiple data streams for real time surveillance,” *Online Journal of Public Health Informatics*, 10.5210/ojphi.v11i1.9701, 2019. <https://doi.org/10.5210/ojphi.v11i1.9701>
- [14] N. Sarma, A. Ullrich, H. Wilking, S. Ghozzi, A. K. Lindner, C. Weber, A. Holzer, A. Jansen, K. Stark, and S. Vygen-Bonnet, “Surveillance on speed: Being aware of infectious diseases in migrants mass accommodations - an easy and flexible toolkit for field application of syndromic surveillance, Germany, 2016 to 2017,” *Eurosurveillance*, 10.2807/1560-7917.ES.2018.23.40.1700430, 2018. <https://doi.org/10.2807/1560-7917.ES.2018.23.40.1700430>
- [15] L. Perfeito, S. Ghozzi, J. Berg, K. Schnetz, and M. Lässig, “Nonlinear Fitness Landscape of a Molecular Pathway,” *PLOS Genetics*, 10.1371/journal.pgen.1002160, 2011. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pgen.1002160>
- [16] S. Ghozzi, J. Wong Ng, D. Chatenay, and J. Robert, “Inference of plasmid-copy-number mean and noise from single-cell gene expression data,” *Phys. Rev. E*, 10.1103/PhysRevE.82.051916, 2010. <https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevE.82.051916>
- [17] S. Ghozzi, “Expression Dynamics of a Genetic Regulatory Network: the Lysis/Lysogeny Decision of Bacteriophage Lambda,” Theses, Université Pierre et Marie Curie - Paris VI, Dec. 2009. <https://tel.archives-ouvertes.fr/tel-00515109>
- [18] S. Ghozzi and F. Jegerlehner, “Isospin violating effects in  $e^+e^-$  vs.  $\tau$  measurements of the pion form factor  $|F_\pi|^2(s)$ ,” *Physics Letters B*, 10.1016/j.physletb.2004.01.021, 2004. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.physletb.2004.01.021>