

Lars Erik Schonander

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EDUCATION

TUCK SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AT DARTMOUTH

Candidate for Master of Business Administration degree, June 2027

Consulting Club, Technology Club, Aerospace & Defense Club, and Ski and Snowboard Club

Hanover, NH
2025-Present

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs and Economics

Editor, MediaFile: A student-run newspaper. Participated in hackathons including HackNY and HackPrinceton

Washington, DC
2016-2020

EXPERIENCE

FOUNDATION FOR AMERICAN INNOVATION

Research Fellow

Policy Technologist

Washington, DC
2025-Present
2021-2023

- Audited public records to discover Chinese Communist Party-connected companies buying properties next to American military bases. Work directly led to passed laws and executive orders, including a USDA policy memorandum on foreign investment and multiple bills reforming foreign investment tracking in farmland. Discussed the issue on national TV in the US and Japan.
- Uncovered through 100+ public records requests that 85% of state-level drone fleets consisted of drones from Chinese companies on the Department of Commerce's Entity List. Work directly led to the American Security Drone Act of 2023 passing in the FY 2024 National Defense Authorization Act.
- Published op-eds, essays, and long-form research including multiple op-eds for *The Wall Street Journal*. Testified to Congress on foreign investment in farmland next to American military bases. Presented research on podcasts such as *ChinaTalk* and *Federal News Network*. Quoted and/or cited in *The New York Times*, *The Wire China*, *POLITICO*, and other outlets.
- Developed technical products to modernize Congress, including the first central website for Senate Committee Hearings (15,000+ hearings) and a House rules comparison tool enabling staffers to analyze 80+ years of rules changes in minutes instead of hours. Presented tools at multiple congressional hackathons to drive adoption among staff and members of civil society.
- Ran an AI hackathon sponsored by OpenAI and Anthropic, training 60+ think-tankers and congressional staff to automate routine tasks like data entry.

Software Engineer

2020-2021

- Managed data engineering and analytics for a major non-profit, maintaining ETL pipelines and using SQL to clean data. Identified the most profitable fundraising operations through custom dashboards built with Metabase.
- Rebuilt a client's Google Sheets-based workflow into a full-stack web application, improving user experience and scalability.

UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

Washington, DC
2024-2025

Congressional Innovation Fellow - TechCongress

- Advised Senator Ernst and committee staff on technology policy for the Small Business Administration, managed AI policy portfolio and trained staffers on AI automation tools to reduce turnaround time for routine tasks from hours to minutes.
- Conducted financial and operational analysis of the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program, a \$4.3 billion federal research and development program, identifying vulnerabilities to foreign influence. Research methods and data analysis tools developed during oversight continue to be used by committee staff.
- Authored report on malign foreign influence in the SBIR program that generated coverage in *Bloomberg*, *FedScoop*, and other outlets. Contributed to the Innovate Act, an SBIR reauthorization bill, and organized a committee hearing on the program.
- Led technical and data analysis efforts, programming in R to review federal contracting data that informed legislative language. Built Python workflow that reduced a month-long data entry project to under a week enabling first-time data analysis of the \$25.7 billion SBIC program.

FREELANCE WORK

United States of America
2021-Present

Independent Writer and Data Consultant

- Consulted on data engineering projects. Projects include building web scraping infrastructure for the Mercatus Center and debugging a bill similarity pipeline for Xcential (Library of Congress contractor) that enables analysis of thousands of legislative documents.
- Freelance writer on technology and economics issues.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- Languages & Tools: SQL, Python (Pandas, Flask), R, JavaScript (React.js).
- Technical Areas: Data engineering, data analysis, full-stack web development, product development.

PERSONAL

- Interests: skiing, tennis, and freelance writing.
- Outlets I have written freelance for on tech and economics issues include *The Wall Street Journal*, *American Affairs*, *Commonweal*, *The New Atlantis*, and others.