

# Dr Sonia Boender - CURRICULUM VITAE

Full name: Tamara Sonia Boender  
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## PROFILE

- Health scientist specialised in public health, infectious diseases and (field) epidemiology with a current focus on infodemic management.
- Infectious disease monitoring and surveillance, applied public health research and outbreak investigation on local, national and international level
- Over ten years of work experience in Europe (Netherlands, Germany, the EU/EEA), sub-Saharan Africa and the Pacific.
- Teaching and academic supervision of students (MSc, PhD), workshop organisation and training of public health professionals
- Independent, enthusiastic, flexible, creative, connector, strong communicator



## WORK EXPERIENCE

### GGD Amsterdam [Public Health Service Amsterdam]

#### Department Infectious Diseases | Team Research & Prevention development

June 2023 - today, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

#### *Senior Researcher & Team Manager*

Supervisor: Dr Janneke Heijne

- Senior researcher, leading the line of epidemiological research in the field of HIV, sexually and blood-borne diseases within, among others, the Amsterdam Cohort Studies
- Team manager, co-leading 25 epidemiologists, medical doctors, data managers, psychologists and a statistician with 3 other team managers.

### Robert Koch Institute (RKI) – *Research Associate (various positions, listed below)*

September 2018 - May 2023, Berlin, Germany

#### *Project group: Risk Communication (April 2022 - May 2023)*

Supervisor: Dr Christina Leuker

- Lead for establishing infodemic management at RKI, with a focus on social listening and integrated insights analysis for public health
- Supporting the monkeypox outbreak response in Germany
- Science communication; contributor to RKI's Social Media Task Force
- Field epidemiology training: ECDC EPIET fellow supervision and course facilitation

- PhD co-supervisor of Silvan Wehrli: [Social listening - Using social media to address public health issues](#) (funded through RKI-internal competition)
- WHO Infodemic Management working group member: [Evidence and gap map of interventions for infodemic management during health emergencies](#)
- Senior expert infodemics for the EU preparedness-tender (2023-2025): [HADEA/2022/OP/0017](#)

*Department of Infectious Disease Epidemiology, Surveillance Unit (Sept. 2020 - April 2022)*

Supervisor: Ms Michaela Diercke

- Surveillance of notifiable infectious diseases in Germany
- Project coordinator, setting up a syndromic surveillance system based on routine emergency department data of >30 clinics in Germany
- Supporting the establishment of the German Electronic Reporting and Information System for Infection Protection (DEMIS)
- Supporting the COVID-19 outbreak response in Germany
- Involved in field epidemiology training: ECDC EPIET fellow supervision, member of the TEPHINET Alumni Needs Working Group

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

Supervisor: Dr Katharina Alpers

European Field Epidemiology Training Programme (FETP), see ECDC EPIET below

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

Sept 2018 - Sept 2020, Europe

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

Supervisors: Dr Adam Roth & Dr Louise Coole

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

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

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

December 2019 - January 2020, Suva, Fiji

*Epidemiologist*

Supervisors: Dr Angela Merianos, Mr Sean Casey

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.

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

February 2016 - June 2018, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

### *Epidemiologist & Postdoctoral Researcher*

Supervisor: Prof dr Peter Reiss

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, PhD)

## **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*

Supervisors: Prof dr Tobias Rinke de Wit, Prof dr Michael Boele van Hensbroek, Dr Kim Sigaloff, Dr. Job Calis

- 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 (lead: Dr Silvia Bertagnolio), 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 [systematic-review and meta-analysis](#)

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

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

April 2012 - February 2013, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

### *Lecturer*

Supervisor: Dr Maiza Campos Ponce

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

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## 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 2012 (with distinction)*

### VU University Amsterdam, the Netherlands

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

*BSc General Health Sciences 2010*

## ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- **Active member** of the Dutch Society for Epidemiology;  
Co-founder of the Special Interest Group '[Applied Infectious Disease Epidemiology](#)'
- **Active member** of the EPIET Alumni Network (EAN)
- **Active member** of the Global Health Epidemiology group, VU University Amsterdam, the Netherlands
- **Guest/invited lecturer** in applied infectious disease epidemiology and international public health, at the VU University Amsterdam, Leiden University College, TU Eindhoven, Berlin School of Public Health, European Centre for Disease Prevention & Control, 3-5 lectures/year, since 2013.
- **Science communication** training academics and epidemiologists in using social media for public health #SoMe4epi, #VaccineEmoji
- **Review Editor** for Research Methods and Advances in Epidemiology
- **Statistical Reviewer** for The Lancet journals (reviewing for open access only)

## 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 CERTIFICATIONS & REGISTRATIONS

- Infodemic Manager (certificate of training), WHO and partners, June 2021
- Field Epidemiologist (advanced-level): ECDC EPIET, November 2020
- Senior Epidemiologist ('*Epidemioloog B*'), Board Certified with the Dutch Society for Epidemiology, June 2018
- ICH Good clinical practice ('*BROK, Basiscursus Regelgeving en Organisatie voor Klinisch onderzoekers*') certified, September 2013

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## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

For a longlist of my publications, conferences proceedings, reports, invited talks, and science communication activities, see my [website](#) or online records ([Pubmed](#); [Google Scholar](#))

- Establishing infodemic management in Germany: a framework for social listening and integrated analysis to report infodemic insights at the national public health institute. Boender TS, Schneider P, Houareau C, Purnat TD, Ishizumi A, Wilhelm E, Voegeli C, Wieler L, Leuker C. [JMIR Infodemiology 2023 \(forthcoming\)](#)
- Using routine emergency department data for syndromic surveillance of acute respiratory illness, Germany, week 10 2017 until week 10 2021. Boender TS, Cai W, Schranz M, Kocher T, Wagner B, Ullrich A, Buda S, Zöllner R, Greiner F, Diercke M, Grabenhenrich L. [Euro Surveill. 2022;27\(27\)](#)
- Digital Visual Communication for Public Health: Design Proposal for a Vaccinated Emoji. Boender TS, Louis-Ferdinand N, Duschek G. [J Med Internet Res 2022;24\(4\):e35786](#)
- 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. [Lancet Reg Health Eur. 2021 Jun 19;6:100103](#)
- 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](#)
- 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\(7\)](#)
- 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, Ondo P, Reiss P, Boender TS. [AIDS Care. 2019 Jul;31\(7\):840-847](#)