Lars Schöbitz

Open Science Specialist, ETH Zurich - Global Health Engineering. Director & Founder, Lars Schöbitz GmbH.
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Environmental engineer and data scientist working in the global water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sector. Open Science Specialist at ETH Zurich, where I help researchers make their work reproducible and their data open. I founded and lead openwashdata, teach data science with R, and write and manage the grants that fund this work.

CURRENT POSITIONS

since 2021 **Open Science Specialist**, ETH Zurich - Global Health Engineering, Zurich, CH. Support faculty, PhD and MSc students in applying reproducible workflows in their research.
since 2018 **Director & Founder**, Lars Schöbitz GmbH, Zurich, CH. Teaching Data Science with R.

PREVIOUS POSITIONS

2021 **Data Science Instructor**, Statistical Office of the Canton of Zurich, Zurich, CH.
2018–2021 **Data and Impact Expert**, Aquaconsult Limited, Essex, UK.
2019–2020 **Lead Consultant**, Inter-American Development Bank, Cap-Haitien, Haiti.
2017–2020 **Data Scientist**, Biomass Controls PBC, Putnam, USA.
2016–2018 **Consultant**, World Health Organization, Geneva, CH.
2012–2016 **Research Project Manager**, Eawag / Sandec, Duebendorf, CH.
2011–2012 **Research Assistant**, PRG, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, ZA.

EDUCATION

2019–2020 **RStudio Instructor Programme**, RStudio (Posit).
2008–2012 **Environmental and Hygiene Engineering (Dipl.-Ing.)**, Mittelhessen University of Applied Sciences (THM), Giessen, DE.

PROFESSIONAL ROLES

since 2026 **Co-Lead, AI Disclosure Working Group, Global Federation of Reproducibility Networks (GFRN)**.
since 2025 **Local Node Leader, Swiss Reproducibility Network (SwissRN)**, ETH Zurich - Global Health Engineering.
since 2023 **Member, Data Stewardship Network (DSN)**, ETH Zurich.
2025–2026 **Member, Expert Sounding Group - ORD Career Paths (Measure 5)**, ETH Board ORD Program.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Wrote and managed a portfolio of ETH Board Open Research Data grants worth roughly CHF 500,000 in total (2023-2026).

2024–2026 **openwashdata**: establishing Data Stewards and increasing FAIRness (Explore, 2nd call).
2024–2026 **FAIRqual**: FAIR Data Practices for Qualitative Research in Transdisciplinarity (Explore, Measure 1).
2024–2025 **washcollab**: Enhancing Global WASH Data Accessibility through Collaborative Initiatives (Contribute).
2023–2024 **openwashdata**: Open WASH data by building Open Science Competencies and Community (Explore, 1st call).
2023–2024 **openjmp**: Open JMP: unlocking the potential of global indicator data (Contribute).
2024 **National Prize for Open Research Data 2024**, Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences.

TEACHING

2024–2026 **rstatsZH - Data Science mit R (redeveloped, k009-k012)**, Statistical Office of the Canton of Zurich, Zurich, CH.
2022–2026 **CVEN 5837/5873/5999 - Data Analytics for Development (4 iterations)**, University of Colorado Boulder, Boulder, USA (online).
2025 **Data Science for openwashdata (ds4owd), Cohort 2**, openwashdata / ETH Zurich.
2022–2025 **Research Beyond the Lab - Open Science and Research Methods (3 iterations)**, ETH Zurich, Zurich, CH.
2023–2024 **Data Science for openwashdata (ds4owd), Cohort 1**, openwashdata / ETH Zurich.
2021–2023 **rstatsZH - Data Science mit R (k001-k008)**, Statistical Office of the Canton of Zurich, Zurich, CH.

PUBLICATIONS AND OUTPUTS

Articles

1. Vijay, S., Chilunga, H. K., **Schöbitz, L.**, Tilley, E. (2025). Light Absorbing Carbonaceous Aerosols: Concentrations and Sources in an under-Monitored Setting. *Ecotoxicology and Environmental Safety*. doi:10.1016/j.ecoenv.2025.118582
2. Vijay, S., **Schöbitz, L.**, Chilunga, H. K., Tilley, E. (2024). Absorption Ångström Exponent Values to Identify Light-absorbing Carbonaceous Aerosol Sources in Blantyre, Malawi. *Aerosol and Air Quality Research*. doi:10.4209/aaqr.240095
3. Tilley, E., Chilunga, H., Kwangulero, J., **Schöbitz, L.**, Vijay, S., Heilgendorff, H., Kalina, M. (2023). "It Is Unbearable to Breathe Here": Air Quality, Open Incineration, and Misinformation in Blantyre, Malawi. *Frontiers in Public Health*. doi:10.3389/fpubh.2023.1242726
4. Biscan, B., Monforte, S. P., **Schöbitz, L.**, Kilbride, A. (2021). SFD Promotion Initiative: Cap-Haitien, Haiti. *IDB Publications*. doi:10.18235/0003218
5. Peal, A., Evans, B., Ahilan, S., Ban, R., Blackett, I., Hawkins, P., **Schoebitz, L.**, Scott, R., Sleigh, A., Strande, L., Veses, O. (2020). Estimating Safely Managed Sanitation in Urban Areas; Lessons Learned From a Global Implementation of Excreta-Flow Diagrams. *Frontiers in Environmental Science*. doi:10.3389/fenvs.2020.00001
6. Myers, T., **Schoebitz, L.**, Woolley, S., Ferragut, J. S., Thostenson, J., Jooss, K., Piascik, J., Frechette, A., Hotz, N., Stoner, B. R., Hallowell, J. (2019). Towards an Off-Grid Fecal Sludge Treatment Unit: Demonstrating Energy Positive Thermal Treatment. *Gates Open Research*. doi:10.12688/gatesopenres.12929.1
7. Strande, L., **Schoebitz, L.**, Bischoff, F., Ddiba, D., Okello, F., Englund, M., Ward, B. J., Niwagaba, C. B. (2018). Methods to Reliably Estimate Faecal Sludge Quantities and Qualities for the Design of Treatment Technologies and Management Solutions. *Journal of Environmental Management*. doi:10.1016/j.jenvman.2018.06.100
8. **Schoebitz, L.**, Bischoff, F., Lohri, C. R., Niwagaba, C. B., Siber, R., Strande, L. (2017). GIS Analysis and Optimisation of Faecal Sludge Logistics at City-Wide Scale in Kampala, Uganda. *Sustainability*. doi:10.3390/su9020194

Conference papers

1. **Schoebitz, L.**, Woolley, S., Ferragut, J. S., Weber, A., Hallowell, J., Wong, J., Piascik, J. (2018). Remote Sensing, Mobile Applications and Open Data Science Tools for Better Monitoring of Sanitation Systems. *HIC 2018. 13th International Conference on Hydroinformatics*. doi:10.29007/31tr
2. Andriessen, N., **Schoebitz, L.**, Bassan, M., Bollier, S., Strande, L. (2017). Market Driven Approach for Faecal Sludge Treatment Products. *40th WEDC International Conference*. wedc-knowledge.lboro.ac.uk/resources/conference/40/Andriessen-2807.pdf
3. **Schoebitz, L.**, Bassan, M., Ferre, A., Vu, T., Nguyen, V., Strande, L. (2014). FAQ: Faecal Sludge Quantification and Characterization - Field Trial of Methodology in Hanoi, Vietnam. *37th WEDC International Conference*.
4. **Schöbitz, L.**, Zurbrügg, C., Gebauer, H., Strande, L. (2013). Waste-Based Business Models for Resource Recovery.

Technical reports

1. 2015. SFD Promotion Initiative - Final Reports (7 cities). Sustainable Sanitation Alliance / Eawag-Sandec.
2. 2014. RRR-Project: From Research to Implementation, Component 1 - Waste Supply and Availability. Eawag-Sandec.

Open data, software and courses

1. 2026. dataitd24 - data from the FAIRqual workshop at ITD24. Maintainer. doi:10.5281/zenodo.18493525
2. 2026. Qualitative Data Governance for Transdisciplinary and Participatory Research - e-learning module. Co-author. doi:10.5281/zenodo.23016356
3. 2025. fairenough - tidy data into documented R packages. Author. openwashdata.github.io/fairenough
4. 2024. jmpwashdata - WHO/UNICEF JMP data. Author. github.com/larnsce/jmpwashdata
5. 2023. Data Science for openwashdata (ds4owd). Course Creator & Instructor. ds4owd-001.github.io/website
6. 2023. washr - R package for publishing openwashdata resources. Author. openwashdata.github.io/washr
7. 2022. openwashdata community. Founder & Community Lead. openwashdata.org
8. 2021. rstatsZH - open course materials & infrastructure. Creator & Maintainer. rstats.zuerich