

## Curriculum Vitae - Dr. Tobias Schonwetter, LL.M.



**Date and** 27 December 1974  
**place of birth:** Hamburg, Germany  
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### Summary

Dr. Tobias Schonwetter is an Associate Professor and the Director of the Intellectual Property Unit at the University of Cape Town's law faculty. He teaches IP and IT law. He currently leads several development and innovation oriented research and capacity building projects, including the Open African Innovation Research (Open AIR) project, ([www.openair.africa](http://www.openair.africa)). He regularly advises various government and non-governmental entities on issues relating to IP and, in particular, copyright and open access. In 2018, Tobias became an Associate Member of the Centre of Law, Technology and Society at the University of Ottawa, Canada; and in 2019 he joined the Department of Science and Innovation's Open Science Advisory Board.

Previously, Tobias was a Senior Manager - Technology and Innovation Law - at PwC South Africa, the Regional Coordinator for Africa and Legal Lead in South Africa for the Creative Commons Corporation, a guest editor for the African Journal of Information and Communication and a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Cape Town's Intellectual Property Research Unit. Over the years, Tobias was involved in numerous research projects, including the Open Review of the South African Copyright Act 1978 project, the African Copyright and Access to Knowledge (ACA2K) project, the Exploring the Emerging Impacts of Open Data in Developing Countries (ODDC) initiative, the African Scholars for Knowledge Justice (ASK Justice) project, the WikiPrimary project and the Open and Collaborative Science in Development network (OCSDnet) and One Ocean Hub.

Tobias studied and practiced law in Germany, the U.S. and South Africa, and holds Ph.D. and LL.M. degrees from the University of Cape Town (UCT), South Africa. He received the prestigious UCT Research Fellowship Award for his doctoral studies in 2005, 2006 and 2007. Tobias has written numerous articles on IP law and he has spoken at various national as well as international conferences. Since 2015, he convenes CopyrightX:UCT, an annual MOOC initiative led by Harvard Law School.

## Professional Experience (selection)

Since 2013

University of Cape Town

(South Africa)

Associate Professor and Director: Intellectual Property Law & Policy Unit;  
Department of Commercial Law, Faculty of Law

UCT's Intellectual Property Unit strives to add an African voice to the global debate on IP-related issues. The unit's focus is on examining the link between IP, innovation, development and public policy, taking into account the needs of society, rights owners and consumers. The IP Unit's vision is to be a leading voice in realising a continent where there is an open exchange about African ideas, creativity and innovation, in pursuit of sustainable development. The IP Unit promotes research, teaching, and learning in IP through holistic, balanced and open approaches, in order to stimulate innovation that drives development. Its core values are integrity, inclusiveness and relevance. The IP Unit recognises South Africa's leadership role in defining IP challenges in emerging and developing countries.

Since 2011

Open African Innovation Research and  
Training Project (Open AIR)

(Africa)

Project Leader

The Open African Innovation Research and Training (Open A.I.R.) Project is investing in pan-African research, networking, capacity-building and policy engagement. The project's central aim is to investigate how intellectual property regimes can be harnessed in Africa to facilitate innovation through collaboration – and through making processes more participatory, knowledge more accessible, and benefits more widely shared. The project involves case study research, foresighting research to develop scenarios for the future of IP, collaboration, innovation and development in Africa as well as training, capacity-building and policy engagement activities. The project has hubs in Cape Town, South Africa, Nairobi, Kenya, Lagos, Nigeria, and Cairo, Egypt.

**2009 - 2018**

**Creative Commons South Africa**

**(South Africa)**

**Legal Lead**

The vision of Creative Commons South Africa ([za.creativecommons.org](http://za.creativecommons.org)) as a country division of Creative Commons Corp. is of a thriving African internet community using Creative Commons licenses to educate people, grow markets, share knowledge and celebrate Africa's culture and heritage with people around the world. The main responsibility of the legal country lead is to maintain and update national Creative Commons licenses and to explain these licenses, other Creative Commons tools and the mission and purpose of Creative Commons licenses to interested stakeholders and the public.

**2012 - 2016**

**Creative Commons Corp.**

**(U.S.A)**

**Regional Coordinator: Africa**

Creative Commons ([www.creativecommons.org](http://www.creativecommons.org)) is a nonprofit organisation that enables the sharing and use of creativity and knowledge through free legal tools. As Regional Coordinator for Africa, I coordinated organisational planning, strategic communications, community building, and fundraising in Africa in support of the organisation's mission, goals and objectives.

**2011 - 2012**

**PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC)**

**(South Africa)**

Senior Manager at PwC South Africa's Technology / Legal division.

**2009 – 2011**

**University of Cape Town**

**(South Africa)**

Postdoctoral Fellow, Intellectual Property Research Unit

**2009 – 2011**                                      **African Copyright and Access to Knowledge (ACA2K) Project**                                      **(Africa)**

Principal Investigator & Lead Country Researcher South Africa

The ACA2K project ([www.acazk.org](http://www.acazk.org)) probed the relationship between national copyright environments and access to knowledge/ learning materials in eight African countries: Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Morocco, Mozambique, Senegal, South Africa and Uganda. The project involved more than 30 researchers, and the principal investigators were responsible, among other things, for steering and coordinating the work of the eight research nodes and to compare and analyse the research outcome from these nodes in a comparative review.

**2005 – 2010**                                      **Commonwealth of Learning (COL)**                                      **(UK, Canada)**

Member of the Commonwealth of Learning’s (COL) copyright expert group

COL’s copyright expert group (<http://www.col.org/copyright/>) strived to assist member countries to gain insights into the present copyright situation, by gathering experiences from developing countries and synthesising this for the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO). In this way, the group aimed to help countries implement education-friendly legislation that makes access to learning content affordable for more people.

**2004 – 2006**                                      **University of Cape Town**                                      **(South Africa)**

Coordinator of the UCT copyright workgroup

**2004**    **University of Cape Town**                                      **(South Africa)**

Teaching and Research Assistant, Department of Commercial Law

**2003**    **DAK**    **(Germany)**

Legal consultant for one Germany’s largest medical aid providers

**2000 – 2002**    **Law Articles**    **(Germany / U.S.A.)**

Stages at civil and criminal judges, international law firm CMS Hasche, the Hamburg Ministry of Commerce and law firm Rodel E. Rodis in San Francisco, U.S.A.

**2000** **Studio Hamburg Fernseh Allianz** **(Germany)**

Legal Assistant

**1997** **BP Oil Deutschland GmbH** **(Germany)**

Legal Internship

## Education

### Degrees

2009: Ph.D., University of Cape Town, South Africa

2005: Master of Laws (LL.M.), University of Cape Town, South Africa

2002: 2<sup>nd</sup> German State Law Examination (bar exam), State of Schleswig-Holstein

1999: 1<sup>st</sup> German State Law Examination (LL.B. equivalent), University of Hamburg

### Certifications

1999: Supplementary course on commercial law, organised by: University of Hamburg, the Hamburg Chamber of Commerce and the Regional Bar of Hamburg

### Awards

UCT Research Fellowship Award in 2005, 2006 and 2007

### Professional Memberships

German-South African Lawyers Association

South African Association of Intellectual Property Law and Information Technology Law Teachers and Researchers

### Publications

Publications are available upon request.

## Language Skills

German: native

English: fluent

## References

References available upon request.