

# HUMER FOUNDATION

## FOR ACADEMIC TALENT



### OVERCOMING BARRIERS!

Dr. Franz B. Humer, Chairman of the Foundation Board

Political discussion in Switzerland is becoming increasingly affected by the call to surround ourselves with barriers that are more insurmountable than ever before, and thus to seal off the country from outside influences, which many see as the cause of all evil. Of course, this debate must also be understood as a reaction to the irreversible trends of globalisation, and in that sense it must be taken seriously. And yet we should provide a counterweight.

The funding of talented young scholars, to which our Foundation is committed, is by its very nature a matter not of retreating inside ever narrower boundaries, but rather of creating as broad a horizon as possible. These are also the lines along which we have geared our activities. We explicitly promote it that the candidates we fund spend a minimum of one semester in a foreign country as part of their three-year training programme. Furthermore, we are keen to see that many of the dissertation topics have a distinctly international focus.

The fact that the three universities with which we have been working from the outset strive to overcome barriers is particularly evident in the interdisciplinary priorities of their respective doctoral training programmes. The University of Zurich, for instance, chose as its main research focus "Asia and Europe", which could hardly be more topical. With development in China and India proceeding at such a rapid pace, it is crucial that the leaders of tomorrow get to grips with these issues today. In view of the geopolitical position of our neighbour Austria, the fact that the

University of Salzburg has made the topic of Europe a core area of focus in its doctoral training programme is every bit as expedient as it is self-evident. The case is somewhat different for the University of Basel, which from its long history has special ties with Africa and has now made this relationship, developed over decades, a main research focus of its doctoral training programme.

I am personally delighted by this geographical breadth and free range of content choices in the universities' doctoral training programmes, having repeatedly experienced in my long career the positive power of deliberately crossing boundaries. So I very much value having the privilege of getting to know, in these doctoral candidates whom we fund for three years each, such impressive young personalities from a wide range of nations. When we as the Foundation Board meet in Salzburg each spring with these talented young scholars, to sit around a table and chat, this internationality is one of the most striking features of these conversations.

In 2010, the first of the doctoral candidates funded by us completed her studies. A substantial number of further theses will follow in 2011. This shows that our Foundation is following the right path – Renate Gerber and I, as grantors, find this very gratifying. Our thanks go especially to our professional and dedicated office staff, and to the members of the Foundation Board for their involvement and assistance.



## PERFORMANCE REPORT 2010

Urs Lauffer, executive member of the Foundation Board

Our Foundation, set up in spring 2007, aims to fund talented young scholars in Switzerland, Austria and other European countries, on an exclusively non-profit basis. This is done in close co-operation with the universities involved.

In the fourth year of our operations, we have been able to grant the University of Zurich, with its main research focus on "Asia and Europe", fresh funding to the value of CHF 300 000.-. This money is used to fund a total of six doctoral candidates. The University of Salzburg also once again received the substantial sum of EUR 150 000.-. Thanks to this support, eight doctoral candidates were able to study at the "Salzburg Centre of European Studies" in 2010. One of these doctoral candidates successfully completed her studies, and others will be completing theirs in 2011. Finally, in 2010 our Foundation supported the University of Basel with the grant of CHF 200 000.- for its main research focus on "Africa". This money is being used to fund four doctoral candidates. Our Foundation is thus currently financing the studies of a total of 18 doctoral candidates (as compared to 16 in the preceding year).

The intensive collaboration with the relevant staff at the three universities is proving to be worthwhile. For one thing, the quality of the individual research projects is regularly monitored by the professors involved. Secondly, this removes the need for the Foundation to engage in the time-consuming assessment of individual applications. The Humer Foundation therefore still does not assess applications sent directly to it by doctoral candidates.

During the year under review, the Foundation Board met in two sessions, in Salzburg and Arlesheim. The main focus of these sessions was the evaluation and approval of requests for financial support for doctoral candidates, which was undertaken on the basis of detailed clarifications put forward by the three universities. In addition, the Foundation Board dealt with the Foundation's statutory business (annual accounts, year-end closing, auditor's report,

elections). The Foundation Board periodically reviews, in the presence of the relevant professors and individual doctoral candidates, the success of our funding activities. In doing so, the Foundation Board assesses both the effectiveness of our activity as a measure of the usefulness of our work, and the efficiency of our operations, that is, the profitability of the allocation of our Foundation's resources. Based on this, and using specific individual cases as templates, the Foundation Board determines the policy of our Foundation. Finally, the Foundation Board also deals with all financial questions and risks (including investment principles, which are regularly reviewed and adjusted if need be), and oversees the operations of the staffed offices.

The members of the Foundation Board are elected by the grantors for a term of two years. The current term of office ends on 31 December 2012.

The Foundation's activities are financed first and foremost through yields on assets and donations, and secondly through transfers from capital reserves. Thanks to a very successful investment policy with substantial financial gains realised, it has been possible in the year under review to further consolidate the organisation capital, despite higher distribution of dividends. In the next three years, our Foundation will therefore continue its funding activity at the current level – that is, between 500 000.- and 800 000.- francs.

The office is managed by Lauffer & Frischknecht, communication management consultancy, on a consultative basis. Stéphanie Ramel takes care of the administration. Fritz Frischknecht, MA Econ., is responsible for the accounts department. The management of the Foundation's assets is entrusted to InCentive Asset Management. Swiss GAAP FER 21 is used for the annual financial statements.

## UNIVERSITY OF ZURICH – ASIA AND EUROPE

At present the Humer Foundation is supporting the following six doctoral students:

PATRICK BROZZO – Marriage in Islamic and Jewish law | PIA HOLLENBACH – Ethnographic study of reconstruction after the tsunami in Sri Lanka | ALIYA KHAWARI – The political economics of microfinance | LINDA MADUZ – Analyzing the Causes of Welfare State Development in East Asia | MATTHÄUS REST – Water Power | DILYARA SULEYMANOVA – Culture, language and the politics of identity in post-Soviet Tatarstan

## UNIVERSITY OF SALZBURG – EUROPEAN UNION STUDIES

At present the Humer Foundation is supporting the following eight doctoral students:

CLAUDIA ARISI – European integration and social policy | MORITZ BUSCHMANN – Technology transformation towards renewable energies and its impacts on European economies and societies | \*SIMONE MOTYKA – Legal framework for security of supply in the Austrian electricity sector | CHRISTINA ORTNER – The role of the media in the development of social fears and uncertainties in the context of the European integration process | ALENA OTTICHOVÁ – European versus national health policy | ILZE RUSE – The balance of the economic and social objectives in the regional perspective. How the EU governance contributes | HELENE SCHÖNHEINZ – The Open Method of Coordination (OMC) | ALEXANDER SEYMER – Values as explanatory variables for attitudes towards welfare states

## UNIVERSITY OF BASLE – AFRICA

At present the Humer Foundation is supporting the following four doctoral students:

BARBARA HEER – Field studies in Maputo and Johannesburg | RICHARD SAMBAIGA – Adolescents, Sex and the City in Southern Tanzania

The remaining two PhD studentships, with the project theme "Technical Artefacts in the city in Africa" were advertised in late December.



### SIMONE MOTYKA

Legal framework for security of supply in the Austrian electricity sector

The doctoral thesis deals with the European and Austrian legal framework for security of supply in the electricity sector. The main research question of this legal assessment was whether the existing legal instruments are adequate for security of supply and how far the national legislator implemented the European specifications and/or has developed its own instruments. The thesis identifies deficits of the national legal framework and develops new proposals. The starting point for this legal analysis is the problem that security of supply still seems to be threatened by the liberalization process. Supply crises in 2003 and 2006 affecting the whole of Europe induced the need for "safety mechanisms" to guarantee security of supply.

Thus, a main focus of the thesis lay on specific aspects of security of supply, which are important for end-users, like the guarantee of reasonable prices and the supply by the supplier of last resort. Further the concept of social security of supply is examined broadly, in particular the introduction of a universal service for vulnerable consumers. By covering this specific aspect of security of supply the thesis aims to make a contribution to the ongoing debate about the European Social Model.

\* Simone Motyka (born 1985) became the first PhD candidate to successfully complete her doctoral thesis.

## KEY FINANCIAL DATA 12/31/2010

### FINANCIAL SUPPORT

	2010	2009	2008
	770 000	630 000	360 000

Since it was established in 2007 the foundation has provided financial support totalling CHF 2 027 000.

### OPERATING RESULTS / ORGANISATIONAL CAPITAL (rounded)

	2010	2009	2008
Donations	200 000	650 000	1 000 000
Financial results	1 270 000	800 000	60 000
Annual profit	465 000	800 000	685 000
Organisational capital	5 100 000	4 400 000	3 600 000

## FOUNDATION BOARD

### CHAIRMAN

Dr. Franz B. Humer (Erlenbach)  
Chairman of the Board of Directors of Roche Holding

### MEMBERS

Dr. Gottlieb Keller (Zurich)  
Member of the Corporate Executive Committee of Roche Holding

### VICE CHAIRWOMAN

Renate Gerber (Arllesheim)  
Vice Chairwoman of the Board of Directors of Fritz-Gerber-Stiftung for talented young people

Urs Lauffer (Steinmaur)  
Partner Lauffer & Frischknecht,  
Management Consultants for Communication

## OFFICE

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