

HUMER FOUNDATION

FOR ACADEMIC TALENT



TAKING STOCK.

Dr Franz B. Humer, Chairman of the Foundation Board

When I discussed the objective of our future Foundation with Renate Gerber in 2007, we soon agreed that we wanted to fund the doctoral studies of exceptionally talented young scholars. Coming from humble beginnings in Salzburg, for me personally it was also a way to express my deep gratitude for all the great support that I have received throughout my long working life. Today, eight years after the Foundation was set up, I am able to say that our thinking at that time was on the right track and that our Foundation has proved to be worthwhile and, indeed, important.

This was demonstrated particularly clearly in early November 2014 in Zurich, when we met eleven of our academics who, with support from our Foundation, were able to successfully complete their doctoral training and who are now beginning their careers. Every member of the Foundation Board – particularly Renate Gerber and myself – was inspired, even moved, by this meeting, held in the fitting setting of the Hotel Savoy. In an impressive manner and in their own unique fashion, these young hopefuls told us how they have benefited from their three-year doctorate in Salzburg, Basel or Zurich, how they now use this knowledge in their job and what their plans are for the future.

All eleven academics agreed that the doctoral training, which has actually become less important as a result of the Bologna Process and the Master's degree, has really made a difference to them. They particularly emphasised the importance of interdisciplinary work towards a clearly defined goal, the knowledge gained from field studies

abroad, examining theoretical approaches by checking facts against political, economic and cultural realities as well as simply the chance to deepen and refine what they had learnt throughout the three years of studies. In short, everyone present was extremely grateful for the valuable additional qualification that, thanks to our funding, they were able to obtain through their doctoral studies at universities in Salzburg, Basel and Zurich. It was also fascinating to see which professional fields our doctors were working in today: from the diplomatic service to teaching in southern Africa, from university academia to practical work in a consulting firm.

It is no secret that good education, training and development are extremely important for everyone's future – not least, they guarantee diversity, as the variety in our doctors' CVs shows. Our Foundation wants to contribute to this by nurturing talents and thus providing opportunities and supporting peoples' journey through life.

Ms Gerber and I are delighted that our Foundation has found its place in the scholarship system for gifted and talented students. My sincere thanks go to everyone who has contributed to this. And I am already looking forward to meeting more of our alumni in person.



PERFORMANCE REPORT 2014

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 in Zurich, Basel and Salzburg.

In the eighth year of our operations, we have once again granted the University of Zurich funding to the tune of CHF 300 000 for doctoral training in its main research area, "Asia and Europe". This sum was used to fund the work of six doctoral candidates. In 2014, the University of Salzburg also received the same funding as the year before, a sum of EUR 180 000. With this support, during the year under review six candidates have continued their doctoral work at the post-graduate teaching centre in Salzburg. And finally, the Foundation has once again supported the University of Basel with a grant of CHF 200 000 for its main research focus on "Africa". This money was used to fund four doctoral candidates. Our Foundation thus continued to fund doctoral studies for a total of 16 exceptionally talented young academics.

The intensive collaboration with the people in charge at the three universities is proving to be worthwhile. The quality of the individual research projects is regularly monitored by the professors involved. The Humer Foundation therefore still does not consider applications sent directly to it by doctoral candidates.

During the year under review, the Foundation Board met in two sessions, in Salzburg and Zurich. 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 thorough, balanced assessments made by the three universities. In addition, the Foundation's statutory business (annual accounts, year-end closing, auditor's report, elections) was dealt with.

Furthermore, the Foundation Board periodically reviews the success of funding activities, in the presence of pro-

fessors and individual doctoral candidates. In doing so, we assess both the effectiveness and efficiency of our work, thus measuring the usefulness and the profitability of the allocation of our Foundation's resources. Based on this, and using specific individual cases as templates, we then determine the policy of our Foundation. And finally, we also deal with all financial questions and risks (including investment principles, which are regularly reviewed and adjusted), and oversee the work of our office.

The Foundation's activities are financed first and foremost through yields on assets and donations, and secondly through transfers from capital reserves. Thanks to some very generous donations and gains on investments, the organisation's capital increased to around CHF 4.2 million. Our Foundation will therefore be able to continue its funding activity at the current level in the coming years.

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

CURRENT THESES

UNIVERSITY OF ZURICH – ASIA AND EUROPE

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

MOTAZ ALNAOUQ – The Right to Life in the Palestinian Society: The Case of Death Penalty from Comparative Human Rights Perspective

ELIZA ISABAEVA – Social Citizenship from Below and the Making of State in Kyrgyzstan: Migrants Making a Living in the Squatter Settlements of Bishkek

THIRUNI KELEGAMA – An Examination of State Sponsored Colonisation Schemes in Sri Lanka

AYAKA LÖSCHKE – The Mothers' Network "National Network of Parents to Protect Children From Radiation": A Social Movement after the Fukushima Disaster

NATHALIE MARSEGLIA – Living National Treasures - Hegemonic Discourse and Practical Knowledge: An Ethnographic Study of Cultural Politics and Pottery in Japan and France

TOBIAS WEISS – Media and Nuclear Power in Japan. Tricksters, Lapdogs and Agenda Setters

UNIVERSITY OF SALZBURG – EUROPEAN UNION STUDIES

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

FRANCESCO GALLETTI – Varieties of Capitalism and the EMU Crisis: Assessing the Domestic Adjustments

HENDRIK JUNGSMANN – Company Taxation in Europe: Evidence from Microdata

ZUZANA KLISKÁ – Legitimacy of Anti-Crisis Measures Introduced to Stabilise European Financial Markets – Is the Introduction of Six Pack (and possibly Two Pack) in Compliance with EU Primary Law?

DOMINIKA MAJOROWSKI – The European Stability Mechanism as the Crisis Resolution Mechanism

MARKUS TIEFFENBACHER – The Incidence of Capital Taxes in the EMU

JAMES WILHELM – National Voting on Europe? The Crisis and Voter Behaviour in the National Elections of European Union Member States

UNIVERSITY OF BASEL – AFRICA

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

CHRISTOPHER BARRATT – Speciation Patterns in the Lowland Forests of East Africa

MELANIE BOEHI – The South African Botanical Complex: Plants, Nature and Urban Life in Cape Town (ca. 1910 – 2013)

JOSCHKA PHILIPPS – Explosive Youth: Political Protests in Conakry (Guinea) and Kampala (Uganda)

VLADIMIR WINGATE – Deforestation and Land Degradation in the Northern Communal Areas of Namibia

COMPLETED THESES

In 2014 the following theses made possible by our Foundation were completed:

UNIVERSITY OF ZURICH – ASIA AND EUROPE

PIA HOLLENBACH – The Paradox of Good Intentions. The Biography of Private Giving in Post-Tsunami Sri Lanka

MATTHÄUS REST – Water Power. Discourses on Modernity and Development around the Nepalese Arun-3 Hydropower Project

UNIVERSITY OF SALZBURG – EUROPEAN UNION STUDIES

LAURA BARONI – Information Counts: Interest Group Success in the European Parliament

CHRISTINA ORTNER – Role of the Media in the Development of Social Fears and Uncertainties in the Context of the European Integration Process

JÖRG PAETZOLD – Essays on the Political Economy of Labour Market Policies and Taxation in Europe

KEY FINANCIAL DATA 12/31/2014

in CHF

	2014	2013	2012
Financial support	891 000	724 000	718 000
Annual result	628 000	-903 000	-415 000
Organisational capital	4 152 000	3 693 000	4 671 000

Since it was established in 2007 the Foundation has provided financial support totalling CHF 5 100 000.

FOUNDATION BOARD

CHAIRMAN

Dr Franz B. Humer (Erlenbach)
Chairman of the Board of Directors
of the International Centre for Missing
and Exploited Children

MEMBERS

Dr Gottlieb Keller (Zurich)
Member of the Corporate Executive Committee
of F. Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd

VICE CHAIRWOMAN

Renate Gerber (Arlesheim)
Honorary Senator of the University of Salzburg,
Vice Chairwoman of the Board of Directors of the
Fritz Gerber Foundation for talented young people

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

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