

# HUMER FOUNDATION

## FOR ACADEMIC TALENT



### IN DEPTH.

Dr Franz B. Humer, Chairman of the Foundation Board

Superficiality shapes our time. This is apparent not only in the topics and contents of many media, but also in the way companies operate. Of course, digitisation and faster communication in particular have contributed to people today often writing, replying and stating a position without taking the time to reflect. The surface usually looks very different to the interior, the substance, however. This is precisely why it is important that well-educated young people go against the tendency towards superficiality and get at the truth.

This is what “our” doctoral candidates do – they devote three years of their valuable lives and working time in order to gain much more than a mere overview of their field of expertise. As part of their work, they get to the bottom of problems, question judgments and prejudices, ponder, and as a result develop often surprising solutions. Some theories proposed by doctoral candidates at the beginning of their research do not stand up to in-depth review in the course of the dissertation. Much of what seems clear does not survive an evidence test.

Precisely this, it seems to me, is the purpose of a dissertation. It is about aligning assumptions with reality, testing hypotheses, working in depth. I understand well that this is not for everyone. I still remember my own dissertation, which often could not go fast enough for me – the reality of working life was too exciting compared to the academic world. But in this fast-paced age especially, the following applies when writing academic reports: good things take time. And that is why I admire our doctoral candidates, who not only take enough time for their subject,

but are also willing to question their scientific theories by conducting field research and to adapt them if necessary.

All this I gather from the dissertations of those talented young people at the universities of Salzburg, Zurich and Basel to whom we have offered targeted support over the past nine years. While reading these “books”, whose resemblance to those from my student days is limited to their outer appearance only, I notice time and again how thorough and fact-oriented the authors’ work is. You can only do in-depth work if you have a solid basis.

I am therefore grateful to all those whose dissertations contribute to demonstrating that serious, persistent work on important topics and issues creates lasting assets and the foundations for our society. To continue supporting this with our limited resources remains our duty.



## PERFORMANCE REPORT 2015

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 ninth year of our operations, we have granted the University of Zurich funding to the tune of CHF 200 000 for doctoral training in the key research area, "Asia and Europe". This sum was used to fund four doctoral candidates. In 2015, the University of Salzburg received a sum of EUR 210 000. 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 150 000 for the key research topic "Africa". This money was used to fund three doctoral candidates. Our Foundation thus continued to fund doctoral studies for a total of 13 exceptionally talented young academics.

We deeply value the intensive collaboration with the relevant staff at the three universities. This is the best way to ensure the quality of the individual research projects, which 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 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 thorough, balanced assessments made by the three universities. In addition, the Foundation's statutory business (annual accounts, yearly review, auditor's report, elections) was dealt with.

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

professors and individual doctoral candidates. In doing so, we assess both the effectiveness and efficiency of our work, thus measuring the usefulness and the economic efficiency 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 issues and risks (including investment principles, which are regularly reviewed and adjusted), and oversee the work of our office.

Given the difficult conditions in the financial markets, the Foundation had to fund its activities during the financial year largely through transfers from capital reserves. At the end of 2015, the organisation's capital totalled around CHF 3.5 million. Our Foundation will have to reduce the extent of its support in the next four to five years, and in doing so accepts that its capital will be largely depleted.

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. 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 four doctoral students:

THIRUNI KELEGAMA – Anxious Integration: Development in Sri Lanka's post-war Frontier

NATHALIE MARSEGLIA – Japan's Living National Treasures – Practical Knowledge in Hegemonic Discourse: Cultural Heritage Politics and Ceramics in Comparative Perspective

NINA RAGETH – Medicine and Religion. Traditional Tamil Medicine in the Context of Religious Institutions

ANUSOOYA SIVAGANESAN – Forced to Marry. A Human Rights' Violation within its Euro-Asian Entanglements

### 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 Variation

HENDRIK JUNGSMANN – Company Taxation in Europe: Evidence from Microdata

DOMINIKA MAJOROWSKI – The European Stability Mechanism – A Crisis Resolution Mechanism

SUSANNA SCHMALZL – The New Stability and Growth Pact System: An Analysis of its Merits and Legal Stumbling Blocks

MARKUS TIEFENBACHER – Distributive Effects of fiscal measures within the Eurozone

JAMES HULDRICK WILHELM – EU Issue Voting? Political Parties, European Integration Attitudes and the Vote

### UNIVERSITY OF BASEL – AFRICA

At present, the Humer Foundation is supporting the following two doctoral students. A third dissertation project will start in summer 2016.

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

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

## COMPLETED THESES

In 2015, the following theses made possible by our Foundation were completed:

### UNIVERSITY OF ZURICH – ASIA AND EUROPE

PATRICK BROZZO – Marriage in Islamic and Jewish Law – Cultural Diversity and Family Law

LINDA MADUZ – Protest during Regime Change: Comparing three Democratising Countries in (South-) East Asia, 1985 – 2005

ALIYA KHAWARI – The Political Economy of Microfinance

MIRIAM WENNER – Monopolising a Statehood Movement. Gorkhaland between Authoritarian Parties and "Aware Citizens"

### UNIVERSITY OF SALZBURG – EUROPEAN UNION STUDIES

LUCIA SCHULTEN – Scope and Legal Consequence of the Constitutional Principle of Solidarity in the Law of the European Union – The Individual and Unional Solidarity

IRYNA KRISTENSEN – Regional Innovation and Public Private Partnerships

ERWIN STOLZ – Social inequality in formal long-term care utilisation in old age: A comparative analysis of 15 European countries

### UNIVERSITY OF BASEL – AFRICA

BARBARA HEER – Spaces of Encounter and Unequal Neighbourhoods. A Comparative Ethnography of Agency, Space and Difference in Maputo and Johannesburg

## KEY FINANCIAL DATA 31/12/2015

in CHF

	2015	2014	2013
Financial support	579 000	891 000	724 000
Annual result	-690 000	628 000	-903 000
Organisation's capital	3 521 000	4 152 000	3 693 000

Since it was established in 2007, the Foundation has provided financial support totalling CHF 5 600 000.

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## 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 (Zug)  
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 in Lauffer & Frischknecht,  
Management Consultants for Communication

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## OFFICE

HUMER FOUNDATION  
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## STATUTORY AUDITORS

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