

HUMER FOUNDATION

FOR ACADEMIC TALENT



FREEDOM OF RESEARCH

Dr Franz B. Humer, Chairman of the Foundation Board

When doctoral candidates are settling on the topic for their thesis, most of them set their sights high. I believe that there are four underlying criteria that determine whether these students will be successful and will be able to write a dissertation whose content will remain relevant.

First and foremost, an environment that allows for a concentrated and interconnected way of working is key. Next, the material framework conditions need to be right while they are researching and writing. After all, those who commit themselves to writing a doctoral thesis for what is usually three years after their Master's degree must be able to rely on being in a position to do so without material hardship. Time-consuming part-time jobs are simply no longer an option for today's doctoral students if you consider how seriously they are trained – this is where we come in. We commit to providing "our" doctoral candidates with financial support for the entire duration of their thesis.

In addition, the opportunity to work on part of their dissertation abroad, either at a university specialising in the respective subject or on field research, is constantly gaining in importance. This exchange across borders has a very positive effect on the quality of doctoral theses, as our experience from recent years also goes to show. Simply shutting yourself away in your own tiny room for three years and only letting the rest of the world in through the Internet is not good enough.

However, I feel that the most important precondition is that the doctoral candidates are guaranteed full and unrestricted freedom of research. I would like to remind you that this is a fundamental civil right, at least in Europe and the USA, and is generally protected by a country's constitution. In Switzerland, freedom of research is protected by Article 20 of the Federal Constitution. In Germany, freedom of science, research and teaching is enshrined in Article 5 of the German Basic Law, whilst Austria regulates this important issue in its Federal Constitutional Law.

In other words, what in legal terms is crystal clear in theory, is often subject to strenuous tests of endurance in practice. Attempts to steer study results in a certain direction are perhaps less common today than they were even just a few years ago. However, efforts to smooth out dissertations and draft them in such a way that they do not spark unwanted public debate are still happening in individual cases. The effects of interventions like this are serious. Those who start their academic careers by being restricted in their freedom of research run the risk of automatically censoring their work later down the line too.

This is exactly what we do not want. Freedom of research is one of the most important prerequisites when it comes to tackling present and future problems with any hope of success. We must therefore do everything in our power to ensure that freedom of research is guaranteed.



PERFORMANCE REPORT 2018

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 Salzburg and Basel. Our partnership with the University of Zurich came to an end last year.

In 2018, the University of Salzburg received a sum of EUR 210 000. This support enabled six candidates to continue their doctoral work at the Salzburg Centre of European Union Studies during the year under review. Our Foundation has once again supported the University of Basel with a grant of CHF 100 000 for the key research topic "Africa". This sum was used to fund three doctoral candidates.

We deeply value the intensive collaboration with the relevant staff at these universities. This is the best way to ensure the quality of the individual research projects, which is regularly monitored by the professors involved. The Hummer 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 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 two 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 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 define our Foundation's goals for the new finan-

cial year. 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.

At the end of 2018, the organisation's capital totalled around CHF 2.2 million. This represents a smaller decline than originally expected thanks to a balanced financial result in the year under review. In this light, the Foundation Board believes that our Foundation can continue its activities until the end of 2022, although the organisation's capital will inevitably be reduced further over these 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. Swiss GAAP FER 21 is used for the annual financial statements.

CURRENT THESES

UNIVERSITY OF ZURICH – ASIA AND EUROPE

Two doctoral candidates were being supported by the Humer Foundation up until summer 2018:

NINA RAGETH – Siddha Medicine in the Context of Neo-Hindu Organizations in Contemporary South India: the Convergence of Religion and Medicine

ANUSOOYA SIVAGANESAN – Forced to marry. A human rights' violation within its Euro-Asian entanglements. Unfree marriages from a multi-country perspective exemplified by Switzerland, Great Britain, the Netherlands, Pakistan, Sri Lanka und Turkey

UNIVERSITY OF SALZBURG – EUROPEAN UNION STUDIES

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

SANDRA HUMMELBRUNNER – The Consistency of European External Action

MILENA KERN – Essays on the liberalisation of international trade in services

CHRISTIAN KLEINERTZ – Labour Market Effects of Migration

CARINA KOBLER – Transnational Care Work in the European Union – Regulation, Implementation and Administrative Cooperation

THOMAS LEHNER – Governments, Parties and the Public – The multiple layers of conflict during the Euro Crisis

ISABEL STAUDINGER – The Legal Nature of Financial Assistance Conditionality – A New Enforcement Method in European Union Law?

UNIVERSITY OF BASEL – AFRICA

At present, the Humer Foundation is supporting the following three doctoral students:

RAJA DAOUAH – Emerging Trends, Developments and Opportunities of Islamic Finance: The Moroccan Case

STEPHEN ASOL KAPINDE – Political Sermons in Kenya as Quest for Democratic Governance between 1986 and 2010: A case study of the selected sermons from the three Anglican Clergy

ANDREA KIFYASI – Diplomatic History of China's Medical Assistance to Africa: A case Study of Tanzania, 1960–2015

COMPLETED THESES

In 2018, the following theses made possible by our Foundation were completed:

UNIVERSITY OF ZURICH – ASIA AND EUROPE

TOBIAS WEISS – Capturing the sun. Journalism and nuclear power in Japan

UNIVERSITY OF SALZBURG – EUROPEAN UNION STUDIES

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

CAL LE GAL – Testing and Comparing Different Explanations in EU-Issue Voting; The Role of the Attribution of Responsibility

DOMINIKA MAJOROWSKI – The European Stability Mechanism – A crisis resolution mechanism

UNIVERSITY OF BASEL – AFRICA

MELANIE BOEHI – The South African botanical complex: botany, knowledge and power in South Africa in the 20th and 21st centuries

KEY FINANCIAL DATA 12/31/2018

in CHF

	2018	2017	2016
Financial support	388 000	531 000	629 000
Annual result	-366 000	-294 000	-548 000
Organisation's capital	2 231 000	2 601 000	2 929 000

Since it was established in 2007, the Foundation has provided financial support totalling around CHF 7 200 000.

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 (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

OFFICE

HUMER FOUNDATION
FOR ACADEMIC TALENT

Urs Lauffer
Stéphanie Ramel
Fritz Frischknecht

Kirchgasse 38
Postfach 373
8024 Zurich, Switzerland

Tel.: +41 44 254 60 32
www.humerstiftung.ch

HEAD OFFICE

Dr Benedikt A. Suter
Lenz · Caemmerer

Elisabethenstrasse 15
Postfach 430
4010 Basel, Switzerland

STATUTORY AUDITORS

BDO AG (Zurich)