

HUMER FOUNDATION

FOR ACADEMIC TALENT



THE HIGHEST STANDARDS!

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

There's no doubt about it: in recent years – not least as a result of the Bologna Reform in the European university system – doctoral studies have become much more challenging. What used to be for some – and not just medical students – merely an obligatory exercise today requires three years of intense academic activity. And despite this, far too many dissertations are still being written simply because their production is an indispensable requirement for a scientific career. Both in universities and in the real world, such works garner little attention, and run the risk of gathering dust on bookshelves and in computers.

In the activities of our Foundation – I'm going to be frank – doctoral theses like these are of no interest to us. Together with our three partner universities, Zurich, Salzburg and Basel, we demand the highest standards of the doctoral projects for which we provide funding. And we do this not in order to be elitist, but simply with the aim of facilitating the production of doctoral works that represent genuine value for the sciences, for economics and for politics. The three main research centres with which we have chosen to work in Zurich, Salzburg and Basel form a sound basis for this.

With its subject area of "Asia and Europe", the University of Zurich has recognised at an early stage the growing importance of Asia in economics, politics and culture. The University's thriving research programme focuses on the multifaceted processes of appropriation and demarcation in culture, religion, law and society that are taking place between Asia and Europe. I was particularly pleased that in 2011 a thesis on "marriage in Islamic and Jewish law"

made possible by us in this connection provoked a public and heated debate.

The research focus we support at the University of Salzburg is devoted exclusively to the topic of Europe. Under the title "The boundaries of European integration", the new doctoral programme, which was started with our assistance in 2011, deals primarily with exploring the dynamics and potential limits of the European integration project from the perspectives of a number of different disciplines. I am certain that these works too will produce results that will leave their mark on the European reality.

The University of Basel has traditionally concentrated intensively on developments on the African continent. Here too, research focuses on fundamental and topical issues that are of major relevance well beyond the realms of academia. Our funding is currently supporting four theses looking into the interdisciplinary research area of "Urbanisation in Africa". The talks with doctoral candidates, which we regularly have in meetings of the Foundation Board, have demonstrated to me that we may anticipate relevant practical results.

We will continue to facilitate the production of doctoral theses that meet the highest standards!



PERFORMANCE REPORT 2011

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 cooperation with the universities involved.

In the fifth year of our activities, we once again granted the University of Zurich funding to the tune of CHF 300 000 for doctoral training in the research area "Asia and Europe". This funding is being used to provide sponsorship for six doctoral candidates. Four doctoral candidates funded by our Foundation successfully completed their work during the period under review. The University of Salzburg received a further EUR 30 000 on top of the figure we gave it last year, taking its total funding in 2011 to EUR 180 000. With this support, six candidates commenced their doctoral work in the PhD programme in Salzburg during the year under review, while the first group of doctoral theses funded by us was completed in 2011. Finally, our Foundation again supported the University of Basel with a grant of CHF 200 000 for its research focus on "Africa". Five doctoral candidates are being funded with this money. Our Foundation is thus currently funding doctoral studies for a total of 16 exceptionally talented young academics.

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 to it directly by doctoral candidates.

During the year under review, the Foundation Board again met in two sessions in Salzburg and Erlenbach. The main focus of these sessions was the evaluation and approval of requests for financial support for doctoral candidates on the basis of the detailed clarifications put forward by the three universities. In addition, the Foundation Board

dealt with the Foundation's statutory business (annual financial statement, annual report, 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 activities as a measure of the usefulness of our work, and the efficiency, that is, the profitability of the resource allocation. Based on this, and using specific individual cases as models, 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 work of our branch offices.

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 maintain the organisation capital at the level of the previous year, despite higher distributions. In the next three years, our Foundation will therefore continue its funding activity at the current level – that is, between CHF 500 000 and 800 000.

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

CURRENT THESES

UNIVERSITY OF ZURICH – ASIEN AND EUROPE

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

MIRIAM BISHOKARMA – Contested Spaces – The Gorkhaland Movement in Darjeeling and the Struggle for Alternative Geographies

AMIR HAMID – Screened Bodies, Printed Books and Hypertext. Yusuf al-Qaradawi and the Medial Construction of Religious-Legal Authority in a Transnational Public Space

ALIYA KHAWARI – The Political Economics of Microfinance

LINDA MADUZ – Analyzing the Causes of Welfare State Development in East Asia

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

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 six doctoral students:

LAURA ANDREEA BARONI – Interest Group Influence in the European Union: which factors determine whether access translates into influence?

CALLE GAL – Euroscepticism in the new Member States of the European Union

JÖRG PAETZOLD – Redistribution and Inequality in times of globalization

LUCIA SCHULTEN – Social Market Rules, European Integration and the Welfare State

ERWIN STOLZ – The sociology of living arrangements in Europe

IRYNA TURLAY – P3s and Innovation in the EU

UNIVERSITY OF BASLE – AFRICA

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

STEPHANIE BISHOP – Zambian Water Diaries. Technology in Practice

BARBARA HEER – Field studies in Maputo and Johannesburg

PIERRICK LEU – The constitution of road traffic. Ouagadougou's two-wheeler mobility

RICHARD SAMBAIGA – Adolescents, Sex and the City in Southern Tanzania

COMPLETED THESES

In 2011, the following theses made possible by our Foundation were completed:

UNIVERSITY SALZBURG – EUROPEAN UNION STUDIES

CLAUDIA ARISI – European integration and social policy

MORITZ BUSCHMANN – Technology transformation towards renewable energies and its impacts on European economies and societies

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

KEY FINANCIAL DATA 12/31/2011

	2011	2010	2009
Financial Support	699 000	773 000	628 000
Donations	50 000	200 000	650 000
Financial results	685 000	1 269 000	796 000
Organisational capital	5 087 000	5 083 000	4 418 000

Since it was established in 2007 the foundation has provided financial support totalling CHF 2 700 000.

FOUNDATION BOARD

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

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Renate Gerber (Arlesheim)
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of Roche Holding

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

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