


# Curriculum Vitae

Dr. Volker Then

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Born 27 December, 1961 in Stuttgart, Germany

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## Professional Career

Since 07/2006

Executive Director and Founder, Centre for Social Investment,  
Heidelberg University

Development of the concept and negotiation of the consortium of co-funding (institutional core funding in cooperation with the University) major German foundations for the establishment of the CSI as an interdisciplinary centre on any private investment in the public good

Key Interests:

- Strategy development of social investments and on-Profit organizations
- Social impact measurement
- Social innovation and social entrepreneurship
- Corporate governance of Non-profit organizations
- Volunteering and informal activities

01/1999 - 06/2006

Director Philanthropy and Foundations, Bertelsmann  
Foundation

Serving as Deputy Head of the Philanthropy Division by delegation first of the CEO, later the Chairman and President of the Foundation

## Key Projects:

- The International Network on Strategic Philanthropy (INSP)
- Co-editor “Foundations in Europe” (Society, Management, and Law, London 2001, international comparative reference book)
- Co-editor “Handbuch Stiftungen” (1998, 2nd revised edition 2003; standard management reference book on foundation management in German),
- Transatlantic Community Foundation Network (TCFN)
- Expert Commission on Reform of Foundation and Charity Law in Germany

02/1995 - 12/1998

Director Cultural Orientation, Bertelsmann Foundation

## Key Projects:

- Report to the Club of Rome: Peter L. Berger (ed.), The Limits of Social Cohesion, Westview, Boulder/Col. 1998
- International comparison on social capital development: Chair Prof. Dr. Robert D. Putnam, Harvard University (published at Oxford UP, New York, 2002)
- Study „The Protestant Church at the Turning Point of History“, authored by the bishop of the Protestant Church of Berlin-Brandenburg, Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Huber, Berlin
- April 1996: Organization of the 1. International Foundation Symposium of the Bertelsmann Stiftung at the occasion of the 75th Birthday of Reinhard Mohn

02/1994 - 01/1995

Program Manager Cultural Orientation (Politics Division), Bertelsmann Foundation, Guetersloh

09/1992 - 04/1993

Research Assistant, Free University of Berlin (funded by Thyssen Foundation)

12/1988 - 06/1989

Research Assistant of the Historic Commission of Berlin

## Professional Functions, Voluntary Governance Activities

- ◆ Member of the National Advisory Board for Germany, G7 Social Impact Investment Task Force (since 2014)
- ◆ Chairman of the Examination Commission, Fundraising Academy, Frankfurt/Main (since June 2008)
- ◆ Member of the Board of Trustees , Manfred-Lautenschläger Stiftung, Wiesloch (since 2006)
- ◆ Member of the Editorial Board of „@lliance“, UK (since 1999)
- ◆ Member of the Editorial Board, Stiftung & Sponsoring, Berlin, Germany (since 2001)
- ◆ Member of the Board of Trustees, Stiftung Evangelische Akademie Thuringia, Erfurt, Germany (since 2001)
- ◆ Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Stiftung Fundraising Academy, Frankfurt/Main, Germany (2000 -2013)
- ◆ Member of the Board of Trustees, Stiftung Kirche für Bielefeld, Bielefeld, Germany (2003-2012)
- ◆ Member of the National Advisory Committee of New Ventures in Philanthropy - National Initiative to Promote the Growth of Philanthropy in den USA; Washington D.C. (1999 - 2006)
- ◆ Member of the Governing Council, European Foundation Centre, Brussels (2000-2006)
  - International Committee (2000-2006)
- ◆ Member of the Legal and Tax Task Forces, European Foundation Centre, Brussels (2000-2006)
- ◆ Visiting Senior Fellow, University of California, Los Angeles (2004)
- ◆ Member of the International Committee, Council on Foundations, Washington D.C. (2000-2004)
- ◆ Member of the Executive Session in Philanthropy des Hauser Centre for Non-profit Organizations, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University (1999-2002)

## Public Speaking & Teaching Experience

- Since 1999 Regular expert speaker to parliamentary committees on National German and EU levels (policy contexts: German foundation law reforms, German Bundestag civic engagement committee, European Foundation Statute since 1999)
- Since 1995 Regular speaker to professional and trade association annual meetings, executive and in-house trainings of major non-profit organizations, meetings with staff and clients in private banking
- Since 2002 Teaching assignments and seminars on foundation and non-profit management at the following universities:
- European Business School (ebs – Intensive Programme Foundation Management, Seminar on Strategy), Oestrich-Winkel;
  - University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA – Nonprofit-Sector and Foundation Management 2004);
  - London School of Economics (LSE), Heidelberg University (CSI) and Stockholm School of Economics: Foundation Strategy as part of the European Summer Academy on Philanthropy (2002, 2005, 2007);
  - Bologna University: Seminar in the Master Programme „International Philanthropic Studies“;
  - Basel University: Intensive Course “Foundation Management” every year since 2002;
  - Koç University, Istanbul (2013);
  - North Caucasus Federal University, Stavropol, Russia (since 2014)
- Since 2006 CSI, Heidelberg University, Master in Non-profit Management and Governance:
- Seminars on „Management and Organization Theories in the Non-profit Sector“(regularly since 2008/09) and „Strategy Development“, as well as „Marketing and Communications“ (regularly since summer 2009), partly in English.

## Education

02/1994	Ph.D. completed at the Free University of Berlin (summa cum laude)
Since 1989	Doctoral Dissertation with Prof. Dr. Dr.h.c. J. Kocka, Free University of Berlin, on "Railways and Railway Entrepreneurs in the Industrial Revolution – an English-German Comparison 1830-1880", supported by a fellowship of the National German Scholarship Foundation
10/1988	M.A. Course completed, Thesis on "The Social History of English Railway Entrepreneurs, Management Organization, and Entrepreneurial Decision Making" (Grade 1)
07/1985 - 09/1986	Conscript Military Service
10/1986	M.A. Course continued at Bielefeld University
10/1984 - 06/1985	Visiting Graduate Student at St. Antony's College, Oxford
10/1982	M.A. Course continued at Bielefeld University
10/1981	Studies: M.A. Course in History, Economics, and Sociology at the Eberhard-Karls-University, Tübingen
06/1981	Abitur at the Eberhard-Ludwigs-Gymnasium, Stuttgart (Grade: 1.3)
01/1981	Accepted by the National German Scholarship Foundation
1972-1981	Eberhard-Ludwigs-Gymnasium, Stuttgart
1968-1972	Primary School, Stuttgart

## Languages

German	Native speaker
English	Professional proficiency
French	Fluent
Latin	Baccalaureate level

## Activities, Internships

May/June 1989	Free-lance researcher of Siedler Publishers, Berlin (for the Publication of the Memoirs of Franz Josef Strauß)
August 1982	Free-lance Staff at the Wuerttemberg State Museum, Stuttgart
Summer 1981	Student intern at the Corporate Archives of Robert Bosch GmbH, Stuttgart
Jan./Feb. 1980	Responsible for organizing a public exhibition on the themes of the National German Student History Awards in Stuttgart Town Hall on „Leisure and Living in the Change of Times“, co-operation with the Koerber Foundation and the State Capital of Stuttgart
06/1979	1st Prize, National German Student History Award, awarded by the Federal President
06/1978	1st Prize, National German Student History Award, awarded by the Federal President

## Publications

See separate list