



UNIVERSITATEA DIN BUCUREȘTI
ENNO AUFDERHEIDE

Doctor Honoris Causa

ENNO AUFDERHEIDE
DOCTOR HONORIS CAUSA





But, today, effectively worldwide, the freedom of science is no longer a matter of course. In many countries it does still exist; in Europe there are only a few countries in which it has been noticeably curbed. But, overall, academic freedom today is under pressure in so many places and from so many different sides that not only global academia but also whole societies – including ours! – find themselves confronted with urgent questions: How can we defend academic freedom from populist and totalitarian tendencies? What are the limits of academic freedom? In the face of global polarisation, where do academic freedom and national interests come into conflict?

On the importance of academic freedom in polarising societies
Enno Aufderheide



Laudatio | Enno Aufderheide

Magnifice Rector,
Domnule Președinte al Senatului Universității,
Verehrter Herr Dr. Enno Aufderheide,
Excelența Voastră, Dr. Peer Gebauer, Ambasadorul Republicii Federale
Germania în România,
Onorat președinte și membri ai Academiei Române,
Distinși colegi, membri ai comunității universitare,
Distinși oaspeți humboldtieni din Bulgaria,
Dragi prieteni humboldtieni,
Doamnelor și domnilor

Sunt deosebit de onorat să prezint astăzi *Laudatio* pentru domnul dr. Enno Aufderheide, Secretar General al Fundației Alexander von Humboldt, în cadrul acestui solemn act al Universității din București prin care i se conferă titlul de *Doctor Honoris Causa*, ca apreciere a activității sale remarcabile în domeniul strategiei științifice, diplomației și managementului științei, precum și a contribuției sale remarcabile la promovarea relațiilor academice dintre Germania și România. Aceasta este cea mai mare onoare pe care universitatea noastră o poate decerna, și vă mulțumim, dragă domnule dr. Enno Aufderheide, pentru că acceptați această distincție din partea noastră.

Este unitate în diversitate în nominalizarea noastră de astăzi. Dacă din punct de vedere instituțional, nominalizarea a fost înaintată de către Rector Senatului Universității din București, inițiativa a fost susținută de către humboldtienii români în ansamblu și de mulți alți colegi din comunitatea noastră academică. Prin urmare, diversitate în poziție, funcție, discipline și interese de cercetare, însă o singură voce în apreciere.

Domnul Enno Aufderheide, născut în 1958 în Bochum, Nordrhein-Westfalen, și-a început activitatea ca biolog. Studiind la Bonn, Boulder (S.U.A.) și Darmstadt, a devenit *Doctor Rerum Naturalium* în anul 1988, la Universitatea din Tübingen, în baza unei disertații la care a lucrat la Friedrich-Miescher-

Laboratorium, parte a Societății Max Planck. În această fază a carierei sale a fost susținut de Fundația Academică Națională Germană (Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes) și de Programul Fulbright, și a devenit, de asemenea, bursier al Fondului Boehringer Ingelheim și al Organizației Europene de Biologie Moleculară. A publicat, printre altele, în reviste prestigioase precum *The Journal of cell biology*, *Cell*, *International journal of cancer*.

Încă de când cerceta în biologie și medicină, domnul dr. Enno Aufderheide a înțeles importanța managementului de calitate al proiectelor și programelor științifice. A lucrat la Centrul Aerospațial German (DLR), și a făcut, în același timp, parte din departamentul de planificare și dezvoltare a strategiei pentru reconstrucția cercetării în domeniul sănătății în fosta Germanie de Est în 1990, imediat după căderea Zidului. În anii 1990 a înființat și a condus direcția de management al proiectelor pentru Ministerul Federal German al Sănătății și a devenit Director al Departamentului pentru Sistemul de Sănătate. Activitatea sa în acest domeniu a fost ulterior distinsă de către Societatea Germană de Reumatologie cu Medalia Kussmaul, în anul 2009.

În timp, a preluat responsabilități noi și din ce în ce mai importante în managementul cercetării. A fost șef al Unității pentru Cercetare în cadrul Consiliul German pentru Știință și Științe Umaniste din Köln, Director General pentru Cercetare în Asociația Helmholtz a Centrelor Naționale de Cercetare Germane din Bonn și Berlin și Director General pentru Politica de Cercetare și pentru Relații Externe în Societatea Max Planck (München). După cum se poate observa, în biografia sa, conceptul de cercetare devine din ce în ce mai împletit cu ideea de colaborare externă și internațională. De asemenea, a fost numit Director General al Fundației Minerva, sprijinind cooperarea în domeniul cercetării dintre Israel și Germania.

Din anul 2010 este Secretarul General al prestigioasei Fundații Alexander von Humboldt. Peste 30.000 de oameni de știință din 140 de țări fac parte din rețeaua Fundației Humboldt, dintre care 59 sunt laureați ai Premiului Nobel. Pe lângă excelența științifică, Fundația Humboldt are o tradiție în a-și ajuta bursierii să-și atingă potențialul și o tradiție în dezvoltarea unor relații durabile între cercetătorii germani și străini și institutele și universitățile în

care lucrează. „Odată humboldtian, pentru totdeauna humboldtian” este un principiu important susținut de către Fundație, iar o astfel de instituție s-a potrivit perfect personalității domnului Aufderheide, care, pe lângă faptul că este un om de știință și un manager de prestigiu, este un umanist, un ornitolog pasionat și cântă, în timpul său liber, la violoncel, muzică de cameră.

Din funcția sa, domnul dr. Enno Aufderheide a putut contribui la obiectivele Fundației de a face prin cercetarea științifică această lume un loc mai bun și de a observa, respecta, încuraja și stimula efortul științific. De asemenea, a contribuit substanțial la definirea și implementarea de către Fundația Alexander von Humboldt, împreună cu Ministerul Federal al Afacerilor Externe, a unor programe ce vizează afirmarea democrației și a libertăților individuale, etica, demnitatea, gândirea critică, ce urmăresc diseminarea rezultatelor cercetării științifice în societate, promovarea femeilor în mediul academic etc. Putem afirma cu tărie că domnul Enno Aufderheide construiește și reconstruiește pentru viață, cu un respect profund, o abilitate deosebită și o pasiune puternică pentru știință și oameni.

Dialogul, schimburile de idei, internaționalizarea, sprijinirea oamenilor de știință aflați în pericol, emanciparea, diversitatea, sprijinirea cercetării în țările în tranziție și în curs de dezvoltare, comunicarea științifică, internaționalizarea științelor umaniste, competiția ideilor, libertatea cercetării, obiective ce stimulează cercetarea de top, toate aceste cuvinte-cheie rezumă ideile din spatele programelor lansate sub conducerea sa. Dintre acestea amintim:

- programul de cercetare *Henriette Herz* pentru identificarea cercetătorilor juniori remarcabili este botezat după prima femeie scriitor care a găzduit la Berlin un salon literar, o bună prietenă de-a lui Alexander von Humboldt. Numele său susține ideea de dialog, emancipare și descoperirea tinerelor talente. Există mai multe programe care sprijină promovarea femeilor în știință, lansate în Fundația Alexander von Humboldt (*Soft push strategy*, *Diversity Agenda*, sau, de curând, *Study on the potential of internationally mobile female scientists*).
- Inițiativa *Philipp Schwartz*, care oferă cercetătorilor străini amenințați de război sau de persecuție în propriile țări un loc sigur pentru a lucra

în universitățile și instituțiile de cercetare germane. În caietul acestei ceremonii de la Universitatea din București, puteți citi un cuvânt impresionant al domnului dr. Enno Aufderheide despre libertatea academică, precum și despre această inițiativă foarte importantă și dragă domniei sale.

- Premiul de cercetare *Georg Forster*, pentru cercetători din țările în tranziție și în curs de dezvoltare.
- *Laboratorul de idei pentru comunicarea în știință și rezultatelor științifice*. De menționat că acest program a fost recunoscut ca fiind absolut necesar la începutul pandemiei. Din 2021, domnul dr. Enno Aufderheide conduce, de asemenea, grupul de sprijin și de finanțare al *Science Media Centre Germany* (Verein der Freunde und Förderer der Science Media Center Germany GmbH e. V.), al cărui domeniu de activitate este jurnalismul științific și comunicarea rezultatelor științei publicului larg.

Și multe altele.

Sintetizând, domnul Aufderheide a promovat o viziune a științei bazată pe valori precum *Wissenschaftsfreiheit*, libertatea științei mai presus de orice, și știința ca *diplomație a încrederii*. Din această perspectivă, putem înțelege mai bine contribuția sa la dezvoltarea Fundației Alexander von Humboldt, la relevanța globală a mediului academic german și la relațiile Germaniei cu anumite țări, inclusiv cu România.

În timpul mandatului domnului dr. Enno Aufderheide, noi și țara noastră ne-am bucurat de o relație cu adevărat privilegiată cu Fundația Alexander von Humboldt. Vizitând frecvent România și Bucureștiul, a avut ocazia să se informeze și să cunoască, prin întâlniri cu reprezentanți ai diferitelor organisme de finanțare a cercetării, ai ministerelor, universităților și institutelor de cercetare, precum și cu cercetători de vârf, unele dintre provocările sistemului de cercetare românesc la nivel instituțional și individual. Fiind conștient de complexitatea acestor provocări în sistemul de cercetare românesc, a susținut întoarcerea (tinerilor) cercetători în România prin granturi de întoarcere de către Fundația Humboldt, dublate, printr-un memorandum încheiat cu UEFISCDI și Ministerul Cercetării din România, prin programul românesc de burse *Simion Mehedinți*.

Dr. Aufderheide a avut întâlniri repetate cu Rectorul și echipa de conducere a Universității din București. A avut întâlniri repetate cu șeful UEFISCDI, domnul prof. dr. Adrian Curaj, cu miniștri ai cercetării. A susținut organizarea unei întâlniri cu reprezentanți ai organismelor centrale de finanțare a cercetării din Germania, precum Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG), Hochschulrektorenkonferenz (HRK), Junge Akademie și omologi români, eveniment organizat personal de către Secretarul General Adjunct al Fundației, Dr. Thomas Hesse, pentru a revigora relațiile cu instituțiile românești de finanțare a cercetării. Evenimentul a fost găzduit și susținut de către Universitatea din București.

Fundația Alexander von Humboldt a sprijinit Clubul Humboldt România în organizarea mai multor conferințe internaționale, așa-numitelor Humboldt-Kolleg, precum și în publicarea volumelor acestor conferințe la edituri germane.

Universitatea din București numără, în acest moment, peste 34 de humboldtieni, unii profesori emeriti, alții activi în disciplinele matematică, fizică, chimie, filosofie, biologie, istorie, drept, geografie – geologie, lingvistică, științe literare. România numără peste 450 de humboldtieni de-a lungul timpului, dintre care, în prezent, peste 200 locuiesc și lucrează în țară. Aceștia funcționează atât în universități, institute de cercetare ale Academiei Române, cât și în institute naționale de cercetare-dezvoltare.

România a recunoscut realizările remarcabile ale domnului Enno Aufderheide și relațiile sale excelente cu țara noastră. Președintele României i-a conferit, în anul 2018, *Ordinul Național Pentru Merit* în grad de Comandor, distincție înmănată în cadrul unei ceremonii desfășurate la Ambasada României la Berlin, în februarie 2019, de către Excelența Sa, Ambasadorul Emil Hurezeanu. Aceasta este cea mai înaltă distincție pentru știință și cercetare ce se acordă în țara noastră. La ceremonie au participat Rectorul și prorectori ai Universității din București, precum și Președintele Academiei Române.

Prietenia și deschiderea domnului dr. Aufderheide față de România sunt exprimate în discursul de primire a *Ordinului Național pentru Merit* în anul 2019, din care cităm:

„Timp de mai multe decenii, Fundația Alexander von Humboldt s-a străduit să consolideze relațiile dintre țările noastre. Prin intermediul diplomației științifice, promovează legături puternice. [...] România este o țară importantă pentru Fundația noastră. Iar pentru mine relația cu România este o preocupare specială. Aproape că nu există țară pe care să o fi vizitat în timpul mandatului meu de Secretar general al Fundației la fel de des ca România. Astfel că știu, cercetarea în România este marcată de o bogăție fantastică de idei, de spirit de inventivitate, de angajament și de o mare deschidere pentru cooperare. În ciuda unei nevoi financiare ridicate în prezent, are rezultate internaționale competitive. [...] Trebuie să ne cunoaștem mai bine. Știința și cercetarea construiesc punți, dar le folosim cu adevărat bine, atunci când le trecem cu curiozitate și interes pentru oameni și viața lor.” (<https://www.humboldt-foundation.de/entdecken/newsroom/nachrichten/generalsekretaer-aufderheide-erhaelt-rumaenischen-nationalorden>, [accesat la 26 mai 2023]).

În acest sens, vă mulțumim, domnule dr. Enno Aufderheide, pentru că ați traversat adesea această punte ce leagă instituții pentru cercetare, universități și institute de cercetare dintre țările noastre. Suntem onorați și mândri să vă urăm bun venit în comunitatea academică a Universității din București! Vă mulțumim că ați acceptat distincția de *Doctor Honoris Causa* și, în același timp, aprecierea și aplauzele noastre.

Herzlichen Dank und Glückwunsch von uns allen!

Prof. dr. Bogdan Murgescu
Prorector al Universității din București

Magnificent Rector,
Honoured President of the University Senate,
Verehrter Herr Dr. Enno Aufderheide,
Your Excellency, Dr. Peer Gebauer, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of
Germany to Romania,
Honoured President and members of the Romanian Academy,
Distinguished colleagues, members of the university community,
Distinguished Humboldtian guests from Bulgaria,
Dear Humboldtian friends,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I am greatly honoured to be presenting today the *Laudatio* for Dr. Enno Aufderheide, Secretary General to the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, at this solemn act of the University of Bucharest, awarding him the *Doctor Honoris Causa* title in the appraisal of his outstanding activity in science strategy, diplomacy, and science management, and of his outstanding contribution to fostering the academic relations between Germany and Romania. This is the highest honour our university confers, and we thank you, dear Dr. Enno Aufderheide, for accepting this distinction from us.

There is unity in diversity in our nomination today. While the nomination was submitted by the Rector to the University Senate, this initiative was backed by the Romanian Humboldtians and by many other colleagues from our academic community. Ergo, diversity in position, function, substance, and research interests, as explorers of physical sciences, biological sciences, humanities, and social sciences, yet one voice in the applause.

Enno Aufderheide, born in 1958 in Bochum, Nordrhein-Westfalen, started as a biologist. Studying in Bielefeld, Bonn, Boulder (U.S.A) and in Darmstadt, he became a *Doctor Rerum Naturalium*, degree awarded by the Tübingen University in 1988 on a dissertation he worked on in the Friedrich-Miescher-

Laboratorium, part of the Max Planck Society. At this stage in his career, he was supported by the German National Academic Foundation (Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes) and by the Fulbright Program and also became a fellow of Boehringer Ingelheim Fonds and the European Molecular Biology Organisation. He published in prestigious journals such as *The Journal of cell biology*, *Cell*, *International Journal of Cancer*.

While undertaking cutting-edge research in biology and medicine, Dr. Enno Aufderheide grasped the importance of the management of projects and scientific programmes. He worked at first in the German Aerospace Centre (DLR), then was part of the planning and strategy development division for rebuilding health research in former East Germany in 1990, right after the fall of the Wall. In the 1990s he set up and directed project management for the German Federal Ministry for Health and became Director of the Division Health Care System. His activity in this area was later awarded by the German Society of Rheumatology the Kussmaul-Medal in 2009.

In time, he took over new and often more important responsibilities in the management of research. He was Head of Unit “Research”, at the German Council for Science and Humanities in Köln, Managing Director of “Research” at the Helmholtz-Association of German National Research Centers in Bonn and Berlin, and Director General of “Research Policy and External Relations” at the Max Planck-Society (München). As can be seen, the concept of research in his bio gradually became more and more intertwined with external and international collaboration. He was also appointed Managing Director of the Minerva Foundation, supporting research collaboration between Israel and Germany.

Since 2010 he has been the Secretary General of the prestigious Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung. Over 30.000 scientists from 140 countries are part of the Humboldt Foundation’s network, of which 59 scientists are Nobel laureates. Yet, besides scientific excellence, the Humboldt Foundation has a tradition of helping its fellows fulfill their potential and in developing sustainable relations between German and foreign scholars and academic institutions. „Einmal Humboldtianer, immer Humboldtianer” is a major

principle upheld by the Foundation, and such an institution was a perfect fit for the personality of Dr. Enno Aufderheide, who, besides being a scientist and a manager, is a humanist, a passionate ornithologist and plays cello and chamber music for a hobby.

In his current position, Dr. Enno Aufderheide could contribute to the goals of the Foundation to make this world a better place through scientific research and to observe, respect, encourage and stimulate scientific endeavour. He has also contributed substantially to the definition and implementation by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, in connection with the Federal Foreign Ministry, of programmes aimed at affirming democracy and individual freedoms, ethics, dignity, and critical thinking, aimed at disseminating scientific research results in society, promoting women in academia, etc. We can say that Dr. Enno Aufderheide builds and rebuilds for life and living, with a very special respect, a special skill, and a strong passion for science and people.

Dialogue, exchange, internationalisation, support for endangered scientists, emancipation, diversity, support of research in transition and developing countries, science communication, internationalisation for humanities, ideas competition, research freedom, and cutting-edge research goals give an outline to the concepts and ideas behind the programmes that have been launched under his direction. Among them, we mention:

- the *Henriette Herz scouting programme* for finding outstanding junior researchers is named after Henriette Herz, the first to have hosted a literary salon in Berlin and a friend of Alexander von Humboldt. She stands for dialogue, exchange, emancipation, and discovery of young talents. There are several other programmes meant to support the promotion of women in science, launched recently in the AvH-Foundation (such as *Soft push strategy*, *Diversity Agenda*, or lately, *Study on the potential of internationally mobile female scientists*).
- The Philipp Schwartz Initiative, offering endangered foreign researchers, threatened by war or persecution in their own countries, a safe place to work in German universities and research institutions. In the booklet of

this ceremony, you can read an impressive word from Dr. Enno Aufderheide on academic freedom and this initiative, very important and dear to him.

- The *Georg Forster Research Award* for researchers from transition and developing countries.
- *Ideas lab for science communication*. Note that this programme was recognized as a necessity and was launched at the beginning of the pandemic. Since 2021, Dr. Enno Aufderheide has also been leading the support and funding group of Science Media Centre Germany (Verein der Freunde und Förderer der Science Media Center Germany GmbH e. V.), whose field of activity is science journalism and communication of science results to the general public.

And many more.

Synthetically, Dr. Enno Aufderheide furthered a vision of science based on values like *Wissenschaftsfreiheit*, freedom of science above all else, and science as *diplomacy of trust*. In this context, we can better understand his contribution to the development of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, to the global relevance of German academia, and the relations of Germany with specific countries, including Romania.

During Dr. Aufderheide's term of office, we and our country enjoyed a truly privileged relationship with the Foundation. Visiting Romania and Bucharest often, he had the opportunity to get informed and to get to know, through meetings with representatives of various bodies for research funding, ministries, universities, and research institutions, as well as top researchers, some of the challenges of the Romanian research system at an institutional and individual level. Being aware of the complexity of the challenges of the Romanian research system, he supported the return of (young) researchers to Romania through return grants by the Humboldt Foundation and these are strengthened by an agreement memorandum of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation with UEFISCDI and the Romanian Ministry of Research through the Romanian grant programme Simion Mehedinți.

Dr. Aufderheide had repeated meetings with the Rector and the management team of the University of Bucharest. He also had several meetings with the Head of UEFISCDI, Dr. Adrian Curaj. He supported the organization of a meeting with representatives of central research funding bodies in Germany, such as Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG), Hochschulrektorenkonferenz (HRK), Junge Akademie, and Romanian counterparts, a truly special event designed and personally organized by the Deputy Secretary General of the Foundation, Dr. Thomas Hesse, to revive relations with Romanian research funding institutions. The event was hosted by the University of Bucharest.

The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation has decisively supported the Humboldt Club Romania in organizing several international *Humboldt-Kolleg* conferences, and in publishing the volumes of these conferences at German publishing houses.

The University of Bucharest has, at this moment, 34 Humboldtians, some emeritated and others active in the disciplines of mathematics, physics, chemistry, philosophy, biology, history, law, geography – geology, linguistics, and literary sciences. Romania counts over 450 Humboldtians over time, of which, at present, over 200 reside and work in the country. They operate in universities, research institutes of the Romanian Academy, and in national research and development institutes.

Romania recognized Dr. Aufderheide's outstanding achievements and excellent relations with our country. The President of Romania awarded him in 2018 the *National Order Of Merit* in the rank of Commander, an award handed during a ceremony at the Romanian Embassy in Berlin in February 2019 by His Excellency, Ambassador Emil Hurezeanu. This is the highest distinction for science and research in our country. The ceremony was attended by the Rector and Vice-rectors of the University of Bucharest, as well as by the president of the Romanian Academy.

Dr. Aufderheide's friendship and openness to Romania are expressed in the reception speech of the National Order of Merit in 2019, from which we quote:

“For many decades, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation has been striving to strengthen relations between our countries. Through the means of science diplomacy, it promotes strong ties. [...] Romania is an important country for our Foundation. And for me, the relationship with Romania is a special concern. There is hardly a country that I have visited during my tenure as Secretary General of the Foundation as often as Romania. For this reason, I know research in Romania is marked by a fantastic wealth of ideas, a spirit of inventiveness, commitment, and great openness to cooperation. Despite a high financial need at present, it has competitive international results. [...] We need to get to know each other better. Science and research build bridges, but we use them well, when we pass them with curiosity and interest in people and their lives.” (<https://www.humboldt-foundation.de/entdecken/newsroom/nachrichten/generalsekretaer-aufderheide-erhaelt-rumaenischen-nationalorden>, [accessed May 26, 2023]).

In this respect, we thank you, Dr. Enno Aufderheide, for having often crossed this bridge spanning research landscapes and science bodies from our countries, and we are honoured and proud, dear Dr. Enno Aufderheide, to welcome you as part of the academic community of the University of Bucharest! Thank you for accepting the *Doctor Honoris Causa* award and our applause.

Herzlichen Dank und Glückwunsch von uns allen!

Prof. dr. Bogdan Murgescu,
Vice-rector of the University of Bucharest

ACCEPTANCE SPEECH

Magnificent Rector,
Honoured President of the University Senate,
Dear Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Romania, Dr.
Gebauer,
Distinguished colleagues, members of the university community,
Distinguished guests, Humboldtian guests from Bulgaria,
Humboldtians, Friends,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is with heartfelt joy that I accept the title *Doctor Honoris Causa* from the University of Bucharest today. With heartfelt joy, but also humbled and with the knowledge that the basis for this honour lies in the work of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, which I have indeed been committed to serve in the past 13 years. And this means that this honour has also been earned by the Humboldtians who are here today and who have also devoted their commitment to bringing the goals of our Foundation to life.

Thank you all very, very much.

One of the reasons, why the *Doctor Honoris Causa* fills me with joy and gratitude is that I feel a special connection to your wonderful country. When I was awarded the Romanian *Order of Merit*, Commander Class, back in February 2019, I mentioned what I can proudly repeat today: There is hardly any other country that I have visited as often as Romania during my time as Secretary General of the Humboldt Foundation. The pandemic has halted my travels abroad, but as my term at the Humboldt-Foundation will be drawing to a close after more than 13 years, it seems fitting that my path should lead me here once again.

The occasion for my presence today is threefold.

When I first got into contact with Prof. Anda Cosma about this journey, I desire to thank our Romanian Humboldtians wholeheartedly for their incomparable commitment to science, research, and international cooperation, and, as the second occasion, I, beyond the Humboldt network, wanted to bid a personal farewell to esteemed partners here in Romania. Now, this ceremony has become the central part of this visit, and to me it seems to be a culmination of all the wonderful growth of collaboration and trust which I, for my part, would like to acknowledge today.

The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation has been fostering an international network of science and trust since 1953 and we are certainly very proud of our world-spanning Humboldt Network of more than 30.000 scholars. And we are grateful to our Humboldtians: they share our mission of strengthening academic contacts between scientists across the globe; they are living the international and intercultural dialogue.

They all exemplify why our Foundation promotes people. Back to their home countries, they retain their connection with Germany and shape not only the academic environment, but often have an impact beyond academia. Since 1953, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation has granted some 400 fellowships and awards to scientists and scholars from Romania. And thinking of the Humboldtians I have met is a great encouragement for me and it fills me with gratitude. Gratitude for the courage, commitment, and endurance that you as Humboldtians have shown.

All of you have made the first step. You have found the courage to apply for a Humboldt Fellowship, and the courage to leave your country. For us, experienced in the academic world, this is now a small step. We go to other countries like the duck takes to water. But do we recall, what big a step it was when we did it the first time? All the Humboldtians have contributed their ideas and their skills to the groups at their host institutes in Germany. And they have taken back ideas, experiences, and friendships into their further careers.

If I look at these further careers, I want to believe that my time as a Humboldt fellow in Germany has contributed to it: they became outstanding researchers,

several even leaders of important academic institutions. Often, they maintained their connections with Germany, and became bridge builders between our nations. Of course, I think with special gratitude of those, who have taken to the growth and liveliness of the Humboldt family in Romania – as ambassador scientists of the foundation or as presidents of the Humboldt Club in Romania.

This explicitly includes those Humboldtians, who cannot be with us anymore. Scholars, who had the courage to become Humboldtians during the time of the Ceaușescu regime, who went to a country perceived as an enemy by their government. And who later contributed to building a new, democratic Romania and who engaged in forming strong research under especially difficult conditions. I believe that we owe them a lot.

The dedicated Humboldtians in Romania as in other countries illustrate our Foundation's and my commitment to counteract brain drain by promoting brain circulation. Of course, brain circulation is greatly facilitated by trustful partnerships. We do find such trustful partnership in Romania: Romania's Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development, and Innovation Funding (UEFISCDI) and the Humboldt-Foundation have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to further support Humboldt Research Fellows upon their return into the Romanian research community.

So not only does it seem appropriate to thank our Romanian Humboldtians for decades of successful cooperation, but also to personally bid farewell to trustful and reliable partners. I have always been particularly devoted to and have immensely enjoyed the task of promoting academic cooperation between scientists from abroad and from Germany. Ultimately, academic collaboration is not just a means to achieve research results: it is equally important to mutual understanding. Therefore, we at the Humboldt Foundation are convinced that academics are more than researchers. They are also anchors of an international community of people with an impact that far outreaches academic circles.

The way we perceive each other matters a great deal. In the past, I have criticized that in western Europe Romania is sometimes perceived as a country from which uneducated and poor people migrate, when in fact the average qualification

of Romanian migrants, among them tens of thousands of medical doctors, is higher than the average qualification of the German population. In repeating my criticism, I want to clarify an important intention: To achieve a better political and intercultural understanding and solidarity between our countries, we need to be curious and supportive, rather than dismissive and skeptical. We should be willing to balance each other's weaknesses with our strengths –not merely within science, but with science as a resource to build bridges.

Without any doubt, there is great academic potential in Romania. With its 2020 MORE4 study, the European Commission has collected detailed information and data on the mobility patterns and career paths of EU researchers. A very interesting and encouraging result of this study relates to the perception of Ph.D studies across the EU. It states that Romania is the country with the highest percentage (86%) of Ph.D students who consider their research institution to be attractive.ⁱ The Romanian researcher's survey also reported on having developed the most international networks and collaborated most frequently with other academic departments. Career paths are perceived as transparent, career development is performance-based and free of arbitrariness, and excellent opportunities for permanent positions in science and research are available. Therefore, it should not be surprising either that Romania is among the countries with the highest shares of researchers satisfied with their job security. However, only 27% of researchers in Romania are satisfied with the availability of research funding, a pattern visible in Eastern Europe in general.

Germany can learn from Romania's example. Especially young researchers in Germany are often discouraged to further pursue their scientific careers due to the exceedingly high proportion of fixed-term employment contracts. But, as I have previously indicated, strengths and weaknesses of different scientific systems can complement each other. More specifically, Romania's scientific talent can be promoted through financial support and mobility opportunities from Germany. And it seems that we in Germany should study the employment structure at Romanian universities to learn from them.

Science and cooperation networks do not serve as an end in themselves. Rather, they radiate beyond and may have an impact on politics and society. Ultimately,

it is also the responsibility of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation to deploy a strategy that contributes to the positive development of society. Fortunately, Humboldtians often hold key positions in social fields other than science, which nevertheless allows them to address societal challenges by using scientific approaches and perspectives.

As I am here today to humbly accept an honorary doctorate for services to science and research as Secretary General of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, I am hopeful that our Foundation's strategies have been successful in many ways. I am certainly feeling most thankful and overwhelmed. I would also like to assure you that I regard this honour as an affirmation of our Foundation's ideals which I have always strived to champion. I extend this recognition to my colleagues in Bonn and Berlin, whose daily efforts create the framework for the success of the Foundation's mission.

Allow me to conclude by expressing my gratitude once again – not only for this honour, but especially for the hospitality that has been shown to me during each of my visits to Romania- in Bucharest, Cluj-Napoca, Iași, and Sibiu – as well as in a smaller city like Sighișoara or in a village like Mălâncrav. I am very pleased, and it was truly a matter of the heart to be able to visit Romania once more before the end of my term as Secretary General of the Humboldt Foundation. I have always greatly appreciated and enjoyed any cooperation with our Romanian partners. Commitment to science, research, international cooperation, and solidarity was and is, despite adversities one might face, a pleasure, and a privilege to support. I am confident that scientific cooperation will continue to achieve fruitful results in the future thanks to the potential of aspiring scientists in Romania and around the globe and thanks to the outstanding commitment of Humboldtians like our Romanian alumni. The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation will certainly continue to do its very best to support them on their academic paths.

Enno Aufderheide

ⁱ https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/policy_library/more4_survey_researchers_hei.pdf, S. 64.



Curriculum vitae | Dr. Enno Aufderheide

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Date of birth: 25 March, 1958 in Bochum, NRW
Marital status: married, three daughters
Hobbies: Chamber music (Cello), Ornithology

School in Neumünster (Schleswig-Holstein) and Bielefeld (Northrhine-Westphalia)

Tertiary education Biology
College 1978 to 1980 in Bielefeld
Graduate studies 1980 bis 1985 in Bonn, including
*1981/1982 as Fulbright-Scholarship holder in Boulder, Co, USA
*1984/1985 Diploma Thesis at “Gesellschaft für Schwerionenforschung” (GSI) in Darmstadt

Ph.D. Dr.rer.nat., awarded 1988 by Eberhard Karls-Universität Tübingen, based on a dissertation prepared at the Friedrich-Miescher-Laboratorium (Max-Planck-Society)

SCHOLARSHIPS

- Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes (German Academic Scholarship Foundation),
- Fulbright-Foundation,
- Boehringer Ingelheim Fonds,
- European Molecular Biology Organisation (EMBO)

AWARDS AND DISTINCTIONS

- Kussmaul-Medal of Deutsche Gesellschaft für Rheumatologie (2009)
- National Order of Romania *For Merit* in the rank of ‘Commander’ (2018)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

1988–1999	German Aerospace Center (DLR), Project Management
1988	Academic officer (Rheumatology, Autoimmune diseases)
1990	Planning division, Strategy development for rebuilding health research in former East-Germany
1992	set-up and directing project management for the German Federal Ministry for Health (BMG)
1995	Director, Division “Health Care System”
1999–2002	Head of Unit “Research”, German Council for Science and Humanities, Cologne
2002–2006	Managing Director “Research”, Helmholtz-Association of German National Research Centers, Bonn and Berlin
2006–2010	Director General, Division “Research Policy and External Relations”, Max Planck-Society (Headquarters, Munich) additional appointment as of Dec. 2008: Managing Director Minerva-Foundation (supporting research collaboration between Israel and Germany)

since July 1, 2010 Secretary General, Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung

BOARD MEMBERSHIPS

- Selection Committees German Academic Scholarship Foundation (1998–2018)
- Jury “Life Sciences Vienna” (2004, 2008)
- Mentor, Cross-mentoring network for female management trainees, Helmholtz-Association (2005-2006, 2013-2017)
- Policy Advisory Group, G8 Heads of Research Councils (2007)
- TU Munich, Institute of Advanced Studies, Board of Trustees (2011–2021)
- Zoologisches Forschungsmuseum Alexander König, Bonn: Member of Board of Governors (2013–2021)
- Max Planck-Institutes, Boards of Trustees:
 - Radioastronomy, Bonn (Chair)
 - Biology of Aging, Cologne (Member)

- Plant Breeding Research, Cologne (Member)
- Solid State Physics, Stuttgart (Member)
- FRIAS – Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies, Member of Supervisory Board (2014–)
- Center for Marine Research in the Tropics, Bremen, Member of Board of Governors (2015–2021)
- Technical University Dresden, Member of the Strategy Council (2018–2022)

2021– Chairman of the Board of the Association of Friends and Sponsors of the Science Media Center Germany gGmbH e. V.

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Eseu | ENNO AUFDERHEIDE

On the importance of academic freedom in polarising societies

Academic freedom. Few topics have occupied the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation more in the last few years. Since it was established in 1953, the Foundation has been committed to freedom for researchers, their freedom to explore the questions they ask themselves and to publish the results of their work. In adopting this attitude, the Foundation could rely on the support of a society that considered academic freedom to be a value that was advantageous and self-evident.

But, today, effectively worldwide, the freedom of science is no longer a matter of course. In many countries it does still exist; in Europe there are only a few countries in which it has been noticeably curbed. But, overall, academic freedom today is under pressure in so many places and from so many different sides that not only global academia but also whole societies – including ours! – find themselves confronted with urgent questions: How can we defend academic freedom from populist and totalitarian tendencies? What are the limits of academic freedom? In the face of global polarisation, where do academic freedom and national interests come into conflict?

In Europe and other traditionally strong science regions, for some years now we have been experiencing a rise in the number of populists. This goes hand-in-hand with an increasing rejection of anything considered foreign, a devaluation of the meaning of facts and, yes, in some countries even the erosion of democratic norms and values. When, increasingly, truth can be moulded at will, when attempts to differentiate between supposition and robust knowledge, between right and wrong, lose their importance, when research on unpopular topics is suppressed, truth becomes a question of power. Drawing on the concept of meteorological “global change”, in this context the Germanist, Peter Strohschneider, has spoken of a “social climate change” – very apposite, I believe.

When talking about this, it almost becomes a reflex to complain about certain people or political decisions. But it is more important to consider how the role of science has changed and must continue to change in this altered social climate.

Back in 1945, Karl Popper wrote *The Open Society and its Enemies*. Today, political commentators observe that the decisive political conflict of our times is no longer “left versus right” but “open against closed.”¹ If that is the case – and in my opinion there is a lot to suggest it is – then we need to ask ourselves even more urgently how each and every researcher can fulfil their responsibility to society and reinforce the side that campaigns for openness. Because openness, in all its facets, is not only what we wish for our societies: it is nothing less than a basic precondition for all academic activity, ranging from openness to new ideas and methods through to open borders to facilitate academic exchange and encounters between people of different heritages. With this, however, we must inevitably confront Popper’s paradox of tolerance, according to which unlimited tolerance necessarily leads to the destruction of tolerance. So, where do researchers have to be intolerant in order to ensure society remains open and tolerant?

In the following I should like to explain why I believe science has two core tasks in this respect.

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In some countries today we can observe what can happen to researchers when powers become dominant that strive for radical isolation and fight every form of opposition. Through the Philipp Schwartz Initiative, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation is in close contact with at-risk researchers and their academic mentors in Germany. So, almost every day, we hear about the appalling conditions in our sponsorship recipients’ own countries – be it Syria, Russia, Yemen, Iran, Burundi, Pakistan, Venezuela or elsewhere.

In these countries researchers are actively oppressed: employment and publication bans, having their passports withdrawn, being arrested. In countries like Ukraine, acts of war directly threaten lives and make research as good as impossible.

Through the Philipp Schwartz Initiative the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation actively tries to support these researchers. For two to three years, it finances refugee researchers’ scientific work in the safe haven of

¹ ‘The New Political Divide’, *The Economist*, 30.07.2016.

Germany. Supported by dedicated hosts, the sponsorship recipients can start working on their research once again, find their peace and concentration and thus prepare to re-start their careers. But how can people find peace and concentration when terrible memories plague them, when the worry about their families, who have often had to stay behind in their own countries, repeatedly superimpose themselves on academic thought and rob them of their sleep?

Most of them dream of returning to their homes in the not-too-distant future and being able to help with reconstruction. Some refugees have connected with one another and are already drawing up concrete plans for reconstruction here in Germany. Their motivation and engagement are huge.

It is not for this reason alone that when institutions host at-risk researchers the result is a win-win situation. Many universities tell us that Philipp Schwartz Fellows introduce them to important new perspectives, new methods, new networks, and new knowledge about the most diverse regions of the world.

And, of course, Philipp Schwartz Fellows are a living example that academic freedom can never be taken for granted. That is an important message, particularly for students and young researchers.

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When the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation started developing a programme for at-risk researchers ten years ago, it was by no means clear that this issue would become so urgent so quickly. At the time, it was merely clear that Germany as a research location was not fulfilling its potential in this area: at best, sustainable engagement for at-risk researchers only existed at individual universities. Organisations like the New York-based Scholars at Risk Network had barely established themselves in Germany. Against this backdrop, our intention was to send a visible signal of support for researchers at risk.

As of today, 122 universities and research institutions in Germany alone belong to the international Scholars at Risk Network². This platform offers

² <https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/>

its members opportunities to connect with one another and share their experiences in interacting with at-risk researchers. At the European level, too, institutions have got together to support persecuted researchers and those endangered by war. Through the InSPIREurope³ network as well as through the EU-funded MSCA4Ukraine⁴ action, forces are pooled and effective help organised. This is one important way science is helping to defend academic freedom.

I know that there is a great deal of solidarity with at-risk researchers in Romania, too. Perhaps this could be organised even better in the context of the international Scholars at Risk Network.

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But our responsibilities go beyond such individual support. At the beginning I spoke about the changed role of science in times in which our values and norms are in danger. So, what can we do to reinforce principles like objectivity, impartiality and fact orientation in society and thus perhaps counter the temptations of populists and their easy answers.

A while ago, the Berlin legal scholar and constitutional judge, Susanne Baer, expressed the opinion that in the context of internationalisation, universities would inevitably have to become “diplomatic universities” . Following on from that, allow me to put forward the thesis that there is a need for “diplomatic researchers.”

In the nearly 70 years of our existence, we at the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation have continuously promoted excellent scientists and scholars from all countries and disciplines – irrespective of ideology and political orientation. We have continued our sponsorship even in phases in which the political relations between Germany and researchers’ own countries were strained, e.g., during the period of the Iron Curtain. This continuity in fostering relations, even in difficult times, continuing diplomacy in the field of science, has proven its worth.

³ <https://sareurope.eu/inspireurope/>

⁴ <https://www.humboldt-foundation.de/en/apply/sponsorship-programmes/msca4ukraine>

⁵ Susanne Baer, “Grenzenlose (Wissenschafts-)freiheit? Der Mensch, die Menschenrechte und die notwendig auch diplomatische Universität”, Humboldt Ferngespräche – Discussion Paper No. 1 – January 2014.

But there are limits, even to academic diplomacy. Cooperation between individual researchers, at least on our side, should always be facilitated if it is open and fair. But what is true at the level of the individual is not necessarily true at all levels. And something else is also one of the responsibilities of the diplomatic researcher: building trust between countries and their citizens is usually seen as one of the responsibilities of academic diplomacy. In times of populism, there is another task: to gain the trust of one's fellow countrymen. It benefits populists when researchers are perceived as being aloof and incomprehensible. We can best restrict the growing numbers of populists by winning people over to the joy of reflection, of considered judgement, and making it clear that science takes the challenges of their lives seriously, too.

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During his entire lifetime, Alexander von Humboldt was a great advocate of freedom and human rights. He once wrote to the writer and linguist, Wilhelm Hornay, "Let us never lose confidence in the useful successes of research, let us never submit to an influence that diminishes the freedom of thought!"

The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation remains committed to this idea to this day.

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