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Current position

University Professor (W3), Chair for Rock Mechanics and Rock Engineering + Head of Rockmechanical Laboratory

Academic training

1982 – 1989 Study of Geotechnical Engineering at TU Bergakademie Freiberg

Academic degrees

2001 Habilitation in Geotechnical Engineering (Topic: Numerical Simulations)
1989 PhD in Geotechnical Engineering (Topic: Mining Induced Seismicity)

Scientific and professional career since graduation

2011 – 2023 Director of the Geotechnical Institute at TU Bergakademie Freiberg

2006 - Present Professor (W3) of Rock Mechanics and Rock Engineering with own integrated Rockmechanical Lab at TU Bergakademie Freiberg: Fundamental and applied research and education in rock mechanics and rock engineering, review and consulting activities

2006 – 2019 ITASCA Senior Consultant: Worldwide consulting services and review work for civil engineering, mining and radioactive waste projects

1993 – 2005 Company Manager of ITASCA Consultants GmbH, Gelsenkirchen, Germany: Worldwide consulting services and software development for civil engineering, mining and radioactive waste projects as well as in the field of material sciences and process engineering

1991 – 1992 ITASCA Consultants S.A., Ecully, France: Consulting services for civil engineering, mining and radioactive waste projects

1989 - 1991 Young scientist and project engineer: Mesy GmbH / Ruhr-University Bochum (Prof. Rummel): worldwide borehole testing, lab testing, geothermal energy research

Functions and honours

2001 Kögler-Special-Award of Society of Geotechnical Engineers Freiberg
since 2007 Core member of Freiberg High Pressure Research Center
2007 - 2015 Core member of European Geogrid Expert Panel (EGEP)
2008 - 2012 Core member of FedIGS (umbrella organisation of ISRM, ISSMGE and IAEG)
since 2011 Examiner and Consultant for the Mining Authority Saxony
since 2011 Reviewer for the Mining Authority of Saxony-Anhalt
since 2015 Editorial board: Theoretical & Applied Mechanics Letters (Elsevier)
since 2015 Member of Int. Advisory Board, Institute of Geonics, Czech Academy of Sciences
since 2015 Editorial board: Journal of Rock Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (Elsevier)
2016 Franklin-Award of the International Society of Rock Mechanics (ISRM)
since 2016 Editorial board: Rock Mechanics Rock Engineering (Springer)
since 2017 Appointed consultant for the Mining Authority West (Austria)
since 2019 Member of the EGT (ENSI, Switzerland)
since 2021 Editorial board: Int. Journal of Coal Science & Technology (Springer)
since 2022 Editorial board: Deep Underground Science and Engineering (Wiley)

since 2022 Member of ISRM Commission on Testing Methods (SM direct tensile tests / SM transverse isotropic rocks)

since 2022 Member of Int. Committee on Mine Safety Science and Engineering: ICMSSE

since 2023 Editorial board: Journal of Industrial Safety (Elsevier)

since 2024 Editorial board: Deep Resources Engineering (Elsevier)

since 2024 Member of the ISRM Commission: Beyond Limits – Rocks in the Face of Extreme Conditions

since 2024 Editorial board: Green and Smart Mining Engineering (Elsevier)

since 2024: Member of the ISRM Commission: Rock Mass Strength and Deformability

since 2025: Chief editor: GeoEnergy Communications (Springer)

since 2025: Editorial board: Safety & Emergency (Springer)

Publications

SCOPUS: h-index: 49, citations: 6397, 197 papers

Google Scholar: h-index: 53, citations: 8188, i10-index: 159

AD Scientific: h-index: 52, citations: 8080, i10-index: 159

- Member and/or leader of many national and international research projects
- Supervisor of 35 PhD students (already finished and successfully defended thesis) from different countries in Europe, Asia and Africa
- Reviewer of many PhD thesis all over Europe; Asia and North America
- Host of 9 Humboldt scholars
- Conduction of training courses in Rock Mechanics/Rock Engineering and Numerical Simulations all over Europe, Asia and Africa
- Guest lecturer at several universities and research organisations all over Europe and Asia
- Consulting work for the industry (mainly: mining, civil engineering, waste disposal)
- Expert activities for ministries, authorities, court and companies

Dated: November 2025