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Current position

University Professor Emeritus for Rock Mechanics and Rock Engineering

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

10/2026 -	Professor Emeritus for Rock Mechanics and Rock Engineering
2011 – 2023	Director of the Geotechnical Institute at TU Bergakademie Freiberg
2006 – 9/2026	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 several ISRM Commissions on Testing Methods (SM direct tensile tests / SM transverse isotropic rocks / SM true triaxial dynamic testing / SM Nanoindentation)
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: Founding editor-in-chief: GeoEnergy Communications (Springer)
since 2025: Editorial board: Safety & Emergency (Springer)
since 2026: Editorial board: Smart Underground Engineering (Elsevier/KeAi)
since 2026: Editorial board: Journal of Geomechanics and Measurements (Elsevier/KeAi)

Publications

SCOPUS: h-index: 53, citations: 7524, 215 papers
Google Scholar: h-index: 58, citations: 9598, i10-index: 173

- Member and/or leader of many national and international research projects
- Supervisor of 38 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 10 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 2026