
CURRICULUM VITAE

NORBERT K. SEMMER

CURRENT STATUS:

Full Professor of the Psychology of Work and Organizations
University of Bern, Switzerland

Member of the Swiss National Center of Competence in Research (NCCR) on Affective Sciences
(Head: Klaus Scherer, Geneva)

VITA

- October 16, 1949: Born in Munich, Germany.
- June, 1969: Graduation from Gymnasium (High School).
- Fall, 1966 – Fall, 1967: Exchange student in USA; graduation from Catholic Central High School, Grand Rapids, Michigan
- Fall, 1969 - Spring, 1976: Student of Psychology at the Universities of Regensburg (Germany), Groningen (The Netherlands), and Berlin (Free University).
Diploma (Master's degree) from the Department of Psychology at the Free University of Berlin.
- 1976 - 1978: Research fellow in a project on stress at work at the Free University of Berlin (Principal investigator: S. Greif) in cooperation with the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (E. Ulich).
- 1978 - 1982: Assistant Professor at the Psychology Department of the Technical University of Berlin; research on stress at work, shift work.
- 1983: Ph.D., Technical University of Berlin. Thesis on "stress-related job analysis"
- 1982 - 1986: Project "Health behavior in childhood and adolescence" at the Institute for Social Medicine and Epidemiology of the Federal Health Office, Berlin;
1982 - 1984: Head of Psychology Team;
1984 - 1986: Co-Principal investigator and project director.
- April, 1987 - March, 1988: Senior Research Fellow and Lecturer at the Psychology Department of the University of Bern, Switzerland, responsible for the Psychology of Work and Organizations.
- December, 1987: Habilitation (second doctoral thesis) at the Technical University of Berlin.
- Since April, 1988: Professor of the Psychology of Work and Organizations, University of Bern.
- 1989 - 1991: Chargé de Cours at the University of Geneva.
- September, 2005 to August, 2007: Dean of the Faculty of Human Sciences, University of Bern

MAIN AREAS OF INTEREST:**Occupational Health Psychology** (Stress and emotions at work):

Assessment, relationship to health, well-being, and performance;
Theory: currently pursuing the “Stress as Offense to Self” approach

Efficiency, quality, errors and safety

Current focus on the influence of team coordination and communication on the performance of medical teams (interdisciplinary cooperation between medical experts from the University Hospital of Basel and psychologists from the Universities of Neuchâtel and Bern)

SELECTED RECENT AND ONGOING RESEARCH PROJECTS

Work and Emotions. Project within the Swiss National Center of Competence in Research on “**Affective Science**”(leading house: University of Geneva, Prof. Klaus Scherer), together with F. Tschan (Neuchâtel). Begin: September, 2005. Funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNF). Ongoing

Appreciation at Work and Its Consequences: A Longitudinal Diary Approach). Funded by SNF, ongoing

Relating Human Factors Aspects during Surgery to Surgical Site Infection; Co-principal investigator; PI: Franziska Tschan, Neuchâtel). Funded by SNF

Work experience and quality of life in Switzerland: Work, stress, and personality development. Funded by SNF

Stress as Offense to Self (funded by SNF)

Medical Emergency Driven Groups (Co-principal investigator, with S. Marsch, Basel, and F. Tschan, Neuchâtel; funded by SNF, ongoing)

The Balance between Different Life Domains (Funded by SNF)

Impact of MR-Morphological, Psychosocial and Workplace Factors on Low-Back Pain and Disability: A prospective, controlled longitudinal study. (Co-principal investigator; PI: PD Dr. med. Norbert Boos, Balgrist Hospital, Zurich). Funded by SNF

Development of strategies in computer supported groups (Co-principal investigator; PI: Franziska Tschan, Neuchâtel). Funded by SNF

Efficiency of different kinds of Computer Software Training (WICOS), funded by SNF

Turnover among computer specialists (funded partly by SNF)

Situational assessment of safety culture. Funded by the Swiss Federal Nuclear Safety Inspectorate

TEACHING

Responsible for the Work and Organizational Psychology program in the Master program of the University of Bern

Teaching at the master and bachelor level on work and organizational psychology, including

- Lectures on work psychology, personnel psychology, and organizational psychology
- Seminars on job design, job stress and well-being, human error, research methods, training, leadership, motivation and satisfaction

Teaching in doctoral programs on stress and emotions

Workshops outside the university on topics such as stress management; appreciation at work; human error and safety; performance quality

Workshops at other universities (e.g., workshop on Stress at Work at Claremont Graduate University, January, 2008)

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND MEMBERSHIPS

Academy of Management

American Psychological Association (APA; Foreign Affiliate)

European Academy of Occupational Health Psychology (EAOHP)

German Society of Psychology

Human Factors and Ergonomics Society

Interdisciplinary Network for Group Research (INGroup)

International Association for Applied Psychology (IAAP)

Society of Behavioral Medicine

Society for Occupational Health Psychology (SOHP)

Swiss Society of Psychology (member of the steering committee, 1988-1992)

Swiss Society of the Psychology of Work and Organizations (member of the Steering committee 1988-1992; president 1992-1995); honorary member.

Applied Psychology. An International Review; Associate Editor 1992-1998

Psychologische Rundschau; Associate Editor 1995-1998

Journal of Occupational and Organizational Psychology; Consulting Editor 1995 - 2003

Zeitschrift für Arbeits- und Organisationspsychologie; Member of the Advisory Board since 1998

European Journal of Work and Organizational Psychology; Editorial Board member since 2001

Scandinavian Journal of Work, Environment & Health; International Advisory Board Member since 2002

Journal of Occupational Health Psychology; Editorial Board Member since 2006

Expert to the Swiss Federal Nuclear Safety Commission (1992 – 2005).

Member of the Swiss Federal Commission on Employment (since 2006)

Ad hoc Reviews:

Academy of Management Journal

Applied Psychology: An International Review

Anxiety, Stress and Coping

Emotion

Journal of Organizational Behavior

Organizational Behavior and Human Decision Processes

Scandinavian Journal of Work, Environment, and Health

Scandinavian Journal of Public Health

Swiss Journal of Psychology

Work & Stress

SELECTED INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Arbeitsunterbrechungen in simulierten Notfallsituationen (Interruptions in simulated emergency situations).

Invited presentation at the workshop „Do not disturb“; Bundesanstalt für Arbeitsmedizin und Arbeitsschutz (BAuA), Berlin: Feb. 2012.

Occupational Health Psychology: The “Stress-as-Offense-to-Self” (SOS) Perspective

Invited address at the 26th Annual Conference of the Society for Industrial & Organizational Psychology; Chicago, ILL, April, 2011.

Coordination and Communication in Medical Emergency Teams

Invited address at the joint colloquium of the Business School and the Psychology Department of Michigan State University; November, 2009

Occupational Stress Research: The “Stress-as-Offense-to-Self” Perspective.

Keynote presentation at the 5th Conference of the German Psychological Society, Division of the Psychology of Work and Organizations, Trier, Germany, September, 2006

Occupational Stress Research: The “Stress-as-Offense-to-Self” Perspective”.

Keynote presentation at the 7th Conference of the European Academy of Occupational Health Psychology, Dublin, Ireland, November 2006

Psychische Belastungen durch Illegitime Tätigkeiten (Illegitimate Tasks as a Source of Stress).

Invited presentation at the workshop „More, faster: Psychological stress and work design in knowledge- and service occupations“; Bundesanstalt für Arbeitsmedizin und Arbeitsschutz (BAuA), Berlin: Sept. 2011

Work, Well-Being, and health

Keynote Presentation at the 37th Annual Conference of the Psychological Society of Ireland, Galway, Ireland, November 2006

Work, Well-Being, and Health

Keynote presentation at the Sixth Conference on Psychology and Health, Kerkrade, The Netherlands, May 2006

Job Stress Interventions and Organization of Work: Where are we, and where should we go? Keynote presentation at the Second ICOH International Conference on Psychosocial Factors at Work, August, 2005

Work, Well-Being, and Health

Invited Presentation at the Third International Positive Psychology Summit, Washington, DC, October 2004

AWARDS

“Innovation in Work and Organizational Psychology” Award of the Work and Organizational Psychology section of the German Psychological Association; Vienna, September, 2009

Member of Academia Europaea; since 2012

Fellow of the European Academy of Occupational Health Psychology, April, 2012

Special Achievements

In the newest version of the Resuscitation Guidelines, the American Heart Association recommends including issues of leadership and team coordination in resuscitation training; this recommendation is, among other research, based on our work on resuscitation (see papers by Hunziker et al. and Tschan et al. in the list of publications)

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