

Looking back to move forward:

# 20 YEARS OF THE HERTIE SCHOOL



# 20 Years

 Hertie School



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Congratulations

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY, HERTIE SCHOOL!



*"The Hertie School is a perfect fit for our cosmopolitan science metropolis Berlin. Happy Birthday!"*

Kai Wegner, Governing Mayor of Berlin



*"Congratulations on 20 years of excellent research and teaching at the interface between politics, business and civil society."*

Anna Lührmann, Minister of State for Europe and Climate



*"Congratulations, Hertie School! At the Hertie School, politics is not only taught in the abstract, but lived in practice. All the best for this anniversary, and keep up the good work!"*

Wolfgang Schmidt, German Federal Minister for Special Affairs

*"Twenty years ago, the Hertie School was an idea whose time had come, and it's so unbelievable the impact you've already had within the global learning space. Happy Birthday!"*

Obiageli "Oby" Ezekwesili, Former Minister of Education of Nigeria



*"In Berlin, the Hertie School offers international training and research that we need to build our common future. Happy Birthday, Hertie School. Vive l'amitié franco-allemande!"*

Emmanuel Macron, President of France



*"Congratulations! Thank you very much for your commitment, and I would ask you to continue and do more!"*

Bettina Stark-Watzinger, Federal Minister of Education and Research of Germany

*"The Hertie School brings together science, politics and business in the best possible way to master the global challenges of the 21st century. Happy Birthday, and here's to the next 20!"*

Robert Habeck, Vice-Chancellor of Germany



*"I would like to congratulate the Hertie School on its 20th anniversary and, above all, I would like to thank it for the many great debates on the preservation of our democracy!"*

Nancy Faeser, Federal Minister of the Interior and Community of Germany



*"Congratulations, Hertie School, on 20 years of excellent teaching and research in the heart of Berlin. With its strong practical orientation and high academic standards, the Hertie School is an ideal place to prepare future decision-makers for modern governance."*

Christian Lindner, German Federal Minister of Finance



*"On behalf of Columbia University, congratulations to the Hertie School on 20 years of educating the next generation of world leaders, groundbreaking research, and major contributions to the public policy debate in Germany, in Europe, and beyond."*

Minouche Shafik, President of Columbia University



# DEAR FRIENDS OF THE HERTIE SCHOOL,



“Nothing is more powerful than an idea whose time has come,” French writer Victor Hugo allegedly wrote about the fundamental impact of words and ideas. Twenty years ago, the Hertie Foundation, together with a group of visionaries, were convinced that the time was right to start a private public policy school in Germany. Former Minister President of Saxony Kurt Biedenkopf, founding Dean of the Hertie School Michael Zürn and Chairman of the Hertie Foundation at the time Michael Endres, were among the key figures who laid the conceptual groundwork for a “School of Governance”. Its aim was to bridge the gap between academia, politics and practice. At the time, this vision was not commonly viewed as an “idea whose time had come” – at least not in Germany. Some frowned on the idea; others thought that it simply could not work.

Yet 20 years on, this ‘experiment’ has proven to be extraordinarily successful. The Hertie School has grown from 30 students and seven professors to around 800 students from over 70 countries and 35 faculty members. Over 2,700 students have completed one of our master’s or PhD programmes, and they continue to stay connected with us through our alumni network. We are now a valued partner of more than 40 of the most prestigious universities around the globe, offering nine dual degree programmes and exchange opportunities in 17 countries.

To celebrate how far we have come, we decided to dedicate a whole year to displaying the diversity, excellence and impact of our school under the motto “Looking back to move forward”. The *Hertie Futures Forum* series of events, co-hosted with our six Centres of Competence, gave us the opportunity to talk with inspiring figures from politics, think tanks and academia about a range of pressing issues, including climate action, threats to democracy and AI regulation. Our *Anniversary Forum* “Europe at a crossroads: Looking back to move forward” is the culmination of this year’s festivities.

Alongside these initiatives, and to recognise the very people who make up the heart of the Hertie community – our students, alumni and staff – we hosted a special International Alumni Month, organised an essay competition for our students, paid tribute to dedicated colleagues past and present, and launched the initiative “20 Years, 20 Women”,

which celebrates just some of the female trailblazers who have enriched our community through their excellent contributions to academia, politics and community service.

Looking back also means expressing gratitude to those who have helped us get where we are today. In this vein, we would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to the Hertie Foundation as well as to all our funders and partners. Their support, combined with the dedication and enthusiasm of our faculty and staff, are what make the teaching, research and outreach of the Hertie School possible, and I am immensely grateful for the continued engagement of everyone involved.

It has been a remarkable journey, but it is not over yet. Moving forward for us also has a literal sense, as the Hertie School will soon be packing its bags and heading off to a new campus, the historic Robert-Koch-Forum, in 2026. To mark this, a key initiative this year was the launch of our Capital Campaign, whose goal is to enable us to offer state-of-the-art facilities in the political heart of Berlin. On our new campus, we will continue to develop the ideas and principles that underpin our institution’s motto: “Understand today. Shape tomorrow.” Through rigorous academic programmes, cutting-edge research, the provision of platforms for vibrant debates, and commitment to fostering ethical leadership, we promise to do our part to address the challenges we face and to shape a more sustainable and equitable future.

Thank you for your support this far, and we look forward to continuing this journey with you!

With warm regards,

**Cornelia Woll**  
President of the Hertie School

## GREETINGS ON THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HERTIE SCHOOL

Good governance is more than just good government – this was a conviction of the Hertie School’s founders 20 years ago. The school was created in 2004, among other reasons because our experiences of large institutions led us to ask whether the attitudes, styles, priorities and ways of working that prevailed in government were really suitable for the transformations everyone was discussing at the time.

Twenty years ago, the establishment of a private university dedicated to good governance was a novelty in Germany – viewed sometimes with scepticism but also curiosity. The central idea was that the new institution should be a “professional school” that focusses specifically on future governance in the state, business and civil society contexts.

Today, we at the Hertie Foundation can proudly say that this pioneering spirit has paid off. From its first graduation ceremony in 2007, with just under 30 graduates, to the largest graduation ceremony in its history in 2023, with over 300 graduates, the Hertie School has continued to develop and set standards in research and teaching. Interdisciplinarity, intersectionality and internationality have characterised research and teaching at the school from the very beginning. With around 800 students from over 70 countries, it has now become an internationally renowned institution offering superlative levels of expertise.

Long before digital media and artificial intelligence multiplied the opportunities for cooperating in global knowledge creation in so many ways, professors at the Hertie School were epitomising exchange and collaboration – regardless of their subject area or academic degree.

At the Hertie School, students work together with professors on practical projects and academic articles or exchange ideas with heads of government on the future of the European Union. In fact, heads of government are even guest speakers at the school!

The 20th anniversary comes at a time when autocracies are becoming ever more visible and common across the globe. This will give rise to new topics and projects for every internationally established university, generating fresh global debates about what “good governance” will mean for our future. It will also shape the experiences of Hertie School students from all over the world.

The Hertie School is doing a fantastic job, taking the reins as a pioneer in public policy studies and gaining international recognition in the process. All of us at the Hertie Foundation are immensely proud of this achievement!

My warmest congratulations and best wishes for the future.

**Annette Schavan**

Chair of the Board of the Hertie Foundation  
Former German Federal Minister of Education and Research





# 20 YEARS OF #HERTIELOVE



2023 Graduation at Admiralspalast



2019 Students win at GPPN Conference



2022 Executive Education



2019 Hertie School faculty



2022 Jessup Moot Court: Hertie students are best European team



2006 Hertie Cabaret



2024 Thesis submission celebration



2023 Hertie School staff



2020 Hertie School IT staff



2018 Henrik Enderlein at his Presidential Inauguration



2011 Alumni Reunion



2023 Henrik Enderlein Prize at Foreign Office Berlin



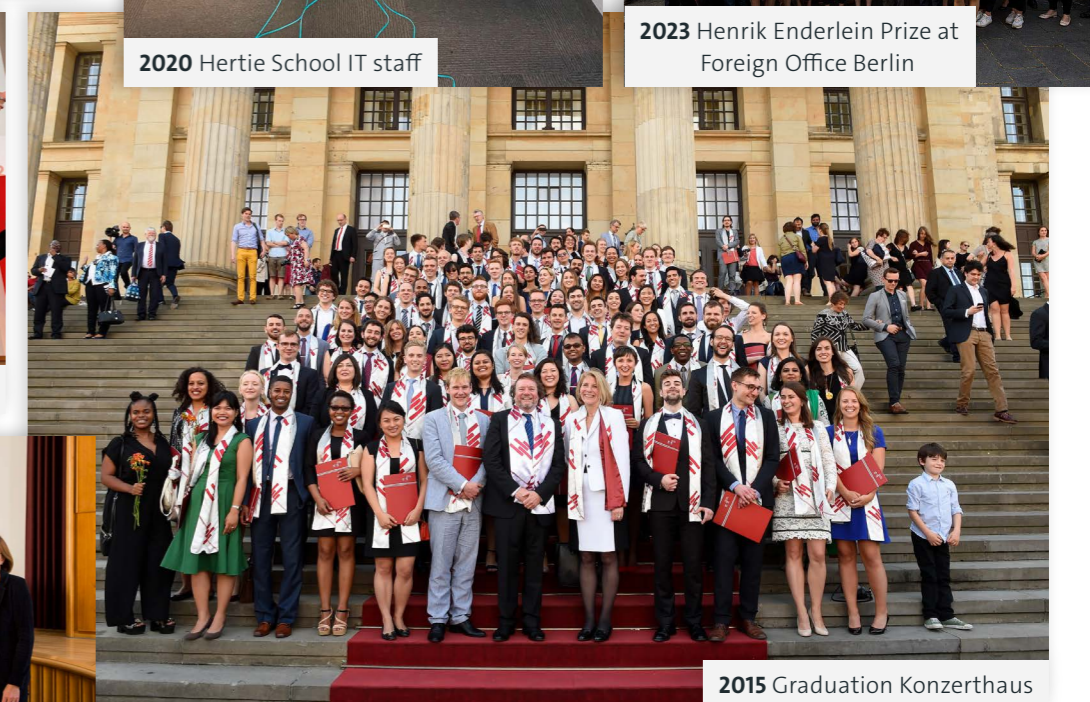
2024 Student essay competition winners



2018 Student Life team



2022 Thesis poster celebration



2015 Graduation Konzerthaus



2022 Hertie School Pride Club



2005 President Michael Zürn with students



2019 Mark Hallerberg at graduation ceremony



2023 Hertie School Leadership



How it started

# ORIGINS OF THE HERTIE SCHOOL



Hans N. Weiler provides a comprehensive overview of the founding of the Hertie School and its first ten years in [Inventing a Private School of Public Policy](#).



Kurt Biedenkopf

Before the actual founding of the Hertie School in 2003/2004, several experts contributed their ideas to its initial conceptualisation, among whom were respected figures in academia, politics and business such as Wolfgang Clement, Ralf Dahrendorf, Bernhard Lorentz, Jürgen Kocka, Renate Mayntz, Fritz W. Scharpf, Gregor Walter-Drop, Hans N. Weiler and Michael Zürn.

Apart from the first Dean, Michael Zürn, two people were instrumental in creating the Hertie School in late 2003: **Kurt Biedenkopf**, who served as the first Chairman of the Board of Trustees, and **Michael Endres**, then Chairman of the Hertie Foundation.



Michael Endres

## MICHAEL ENDRES

Michael Endres, who served as Chairman of the Hertie Foundation from 2000 to 2011, provided the impetus for the foundation of the Hertie School of Governance by gathering several expert groups which deliberated on a concept for the school.

Serving as founding member of the Board of Trustees (2003–2006 and 2012 to date), as well as Chairman of the Supervisory Board (2006–2012), Endres brought his extensive network to the table, which helped the Hertie School of Governance to a successful start and to its later rapid growth and expansion. He also ensured that the Hertie Foundation had the resources to provide the school with the financial means necessary for its success.

His many contributions to the development of the Hertie School were honoured in 2017 with the creation of the Michael Endres Prize and later the Michael Endres Professorship.

## KURT BIEDENKOPF

Kurt Biedenkopf was essential to the founding of the Hertie School of Governance. He devised a [fundamental conception and academic mission](#), one of the key documents of the Hertie School, which sets out the major governance challenges a public policy school should address.

This strategy shaped the debates in 2003 on how the school should best be conceived and led to the first mission statement, developed by founding Dean Michael Zürn.

## HERMANN TIETZ BECOMES HERTIE: THE ORIGINS OF THE HERTIE NAME

The Hertie School bears a household name in Germany, which belonged to a successful chain of department stores – Hertie.

The original stores, the Hermann Tietz Warenhäuser, were founded in 1882 by a German Jewish family, led by Oskar Tietz with the support of his uncle, Hermann Tietz. The name *Hertie* was later derived from abbreviations of his name:

### HERmann TIETz → Hertie

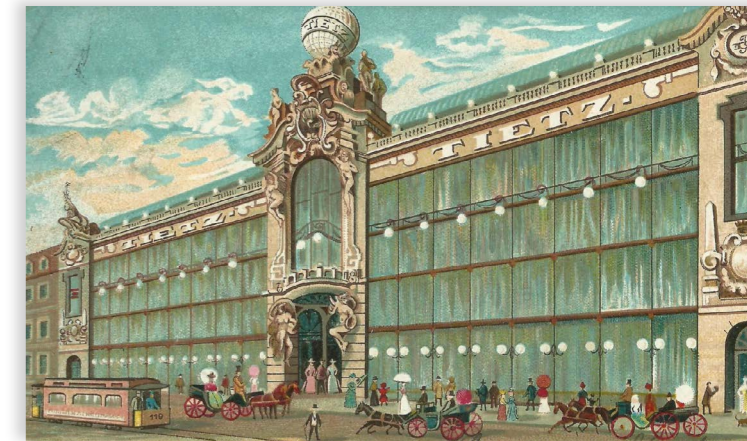
In 1933, the stores were 'Aryanised', and a consortium of banks known as the "Hertie Kaufhaus Beteiligungs GmbH" seized the Tietz family's company assets. The consortium appointed Georg Karg, a long-time salesman and later chief textile buyer, as the new managing director. Many members of the Tietz family emigrated to the US and elsewhere.

The Hertie Foundation was set up in 1974 by Mr Karg. Since its launch, the foundation has spent more than 450 million euros on projects and grants in areas as diverse as multiple sclerosis research, neurosciences, education, integration, democracy, and work-life balance. Currently, the activities of the Hertie Foundation focus on two major themes: brain research and strengthening democracy.

In 2003/2004, the Hertie Foundation founded the Hertie School of Governance (now Hertie School) to institutionalise research and teaching on new forms of statehood and governance.

Biedenkopf served as the first Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Hertie School of Governance from 2003 to 2009, after which he was appointed Honorary Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

His leadership and excellent network were key factors in the prompt and successful establishing of the Hertie School of Governance.



The Hertie Foundation's leadership is strongly committed to acknowledging its past. In November 2020, its board commissioned the Frankfurt-based Gesellschaft für Unternehmensgeschichte (the Society for Business History) to conduct an academic review of the early history of the foundation's assets. This work was initiated by a group of students who in 2017 set up the Her.Tietz Initiative, dedicating their efforts to uncovering the events that led to the expropriation of the Tietz family businesses during the Nazi regime.

The completed study, titled *Verfolgt, "arisiert", wiedergutmacht? Wie aus dem Warenhauskonzern Hermann Tietz Hertie wurde*, was written by Professors Johannes Bähr and Ingo Köhler and published in December 2023 (English: *Persecuted, 'Aryanised', compensated? How the Hermann Tietz department store group became Hertie*). The book details the 'Aryanisation' of the Hermann Tietz group during the Third Reich and the role played by Georg Karg. The authors also presented their study findings at the Hertie School in March 2024.

Copies of this study are available to students of the Hertie School in the university library, and a summary of the study can be found [here](#).



# BEHIND THE SCENES: HERTIE SCHOOL STAFF

Behind the hustle and bustle of university life, there's a dedicated team of administrative staff making sure that the lights are on, the internet is working and our courses are online. We caught up with some of these members of the Hertie family – Faculty Assistants **Dayna Sadow** and **Andrea Derichs-Carlin**, Central Office Facility Manager **Carsten Rabe**, and former Head of Graduate Programmes **Barbara Finke** – to get their insiders' view of working at the Hertie School.



**Andrea Derichs-Carlin** and **Dayna Sadow**

*Andrea, Dayna and Barbara, you worked at the Hertie School in the early days. What was it like back then?*

**Andrea:** There were not many of us back then, so we could all come together weekly. On Fridays, we usually met up and had lunch together.

**Dayna:** In those days, the entire staff and faculty could fit around one table. But it wasn't just lunch, we had a lot of extracurricular activities, too. At our first campus at Schlossplatz, we had a big garden at the back where we had soccer tournaments. It was so much fun.

**Andrea:** We also knew all the students very well, and they knew us too. There were only 30 of them when Hertie started, so there were almost as many staff members as students.

**Barbara:** We had really great encounters with fantastic students. And because Hertie was a start-up, there was a lot of room for creativity, and I think the students all had the feeling they were part of a bigger project. Of course, the whole public policy approach – helping students gain expertise at the interface of business, civil society and public administration – that was something special in Germany at the time.

*How has the Hertie School changed since you began working here?*

**Andrea:** Things have changed a lot because we've grown so fast – maybe a little too fast.

**Dayna:** We really have grown quickly, but I think that's the nature of the beast. You need to grow to stay relevant and continue functioning. I sometimes feel a bit sad that we got so large, because back when we were at Schlossplatz, I think maybe we were a tighter-knit community. On the other hand, growth means that we're surviving, and that's what we like – we want the school to be successful because it really does have so much to offer.

*Carsten, you started working at Hertie during the pandemic. What was that like? And how have things changed since then?*

**Carsten:** When I started, the building was pretty much empty. Most of the students and staff stayed away. To be honest, it felt quite strange taking over the building and knowing that there used to be so much life in it – it felt like an empty shell. As you can imagine, like everyone else we were super happy when people finally returned to campus. It was a real pleasure to watch the hallways come back to life and see students hanging out in the cafeteria again.

*What challenges have you faced in your daily work?*

**Barbara:** Keeping application numbers up and recruiting enough students from English-speaking countries. If you have an English-speaking programme, you want to have native English speakers. So tapping into the US market was important.

**Dayna:** Learning new aspects of technology has always been a challenge for me. Figuring out how to manage our lecture hall equipment was a big undertaking (for me, it's like the bridge of the 'Starship Enterprise'!). But I have to say it's really taught me a lot about different computer programmes and technology in general.

**Carsten:** Communication can sometimes be a challenge. In terms of our work at Central Office – event organisation around the building – there might be some organisers who see *their* event as more important than others. There are times when it can be hard to just get everyone together around a table and actually talk to one another.

*What's special about working at Hertie?*

**Dayna:** We have a great staff. It's a real pleasure to work with everybody here. There's such a lot of camaraderie and support. It's just such a good place to work – I couldn't imagine working anywhere else.

**Carsten:** What I love about working here is the fact that we're so international. We're so diverse – not just culturally but also in terms of age. You have everyone here, and that mix makes Hertie so special. And the students keep the spirit in the hallways young.

**Dayna:** I think it's just so cool to have this young, vibrant atmosphere that the students bring in. And they teach me new slang words all the time!



**Carsten Rabe** (second from the left) and the Central Office team

*What do you like most about working here?*

**Andrea:** My work has never been boring. Also, as I've changed departments during my career, it has always been a good experience to meet and work with new colleagues.

**Carsten:** The flexibility for sure. Especially being able to work remotely. Times are more fixed in my department – we have to make sure someone is always here – but still, the flexibility is great.

**Dayna:** I agree, I really appreciate the flexibility. And again, the colleagues and the support system here. In spite of the fact that we've grown so much, we still feel like we're all in the same boat. Working here, you feel like you belong and that you're part of something special.

*Do you have any wishes for the Hertie School on its 20th birthday?*

**Dayna:** I wish the Hertie School success in its continued growth and in producing top-notch graduates who are equipped to effect lasting change in the world. I also hope the school continues to establish itself as one of the leading public policy schools in Europe.

**Andrea:** I wish the Hertie School a committed works council that negotiates good company agreements for the next 20 years.

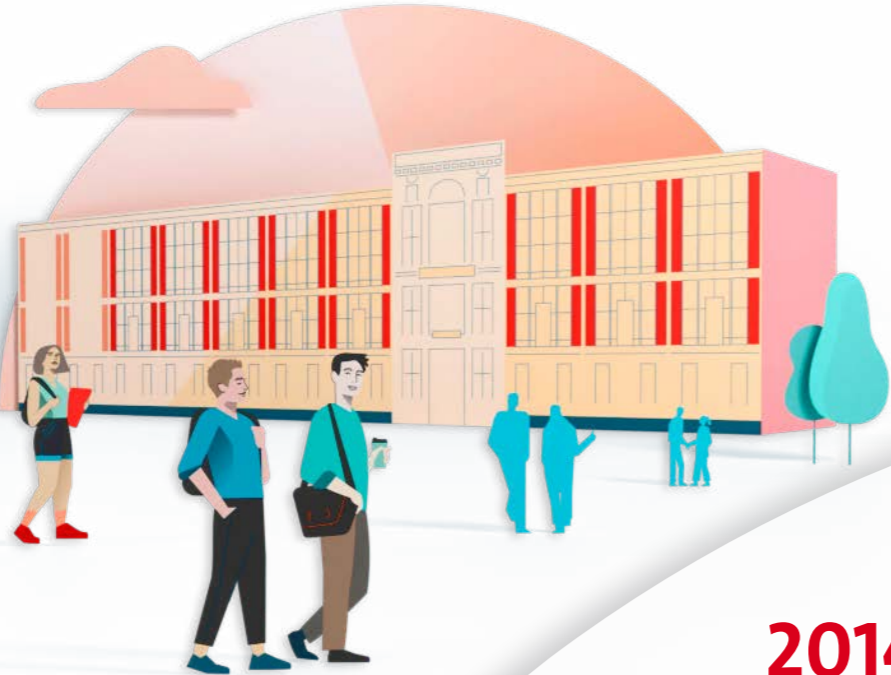
**Barbara:** There are a lot of great people who left the school for one reason or another, but they left on good terms. Why not invite former staff to some kind of alumni get-together? I think it's worthwhile keeping former employees in your network.

**Carsten:** We'll definitely grow in terms of buildings, capacities, students and possibilities – let's all make sure our hearts keep growing, too!



# HERTIE SCHOOL IN NUMBERS

2005



7  
Faculty

0  
Alumni

30  
Students

0  
PhD  
Researchers

2014



21  
Faculty

377  
Students

591  
Alumni

39  
PhD  
Researchers

2024



35  
Faculty

800  
Students

2,700  
Alumni

64  
PhD  
Researchers

# IN THE CLASSROOM: UNDERSTAND TODAY, SHAPE TOMORROW

Every year around 300 people from all over the world head to Berlin with one goal: to understand today and shape tomorrow by doing a master's degree at the Hertie School. But how do you teach good governance, and what are the principles for educating the potential decision-makers of tomorrow?

We caught up with **Michael Okrob**, CEO of the Kinnings Foundation and alumnus of the inaugural Master of Public Policy class, current student **Ximena Docarmo**, and Professor of Public Policy **Anke Hassel** to take a closer look at the Hertie School classroom and find out what makes the Hertie curriculum special.



**Ximena Docarmo**

## *Michael and Ximena, how did you both end up studying at the Hertie School?*

**Michael:** I had my sights set on other institutions like the Harvard Kennedy School and the London School of Economics. I wanted to study public policy but didn't think that was possible in Germany. But then a professor from my alma mater in the US hooked me up with one of his friends in Germany, Christoph Bertram, then head of Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, who mentioned this new, innovative professional school – the Hertie School of Governance.

This was a rare opportunity back then – the idea of studying public policy in Germany was really Hertie's unique selling proposition at the time.

**Ximena:** I come from a small town in Peru, and after I moved to Lima for work, I ended up making short business trips to Germany. I was impressed by the political system here and knew I wanted to come for a longer period to understand better what was working well. I started talking with my friends and mentors in Germany about places to study, and everyone said the Hertie School – and they were people from different networks! After having this conversation for maybe five years, I finally made the big move. To be honest, it's just what I expected – my experience here has been amazing so far!

## *What was and is special about studying at the Hertie School?*

**Michael:** Really, it was the mix of students. I think it takes a certain type of person to want to be part of something brand new. And you have to be a bit adventurous to do this, a bit entrepreneurial. The 30 people I graduated with have gone on to do incredible things, and many are still my friends today.

The spirit at Hertie was also special. Everyone – professors, staff, and of course the students – really pulled together to make a bold idea fly. Bringing Hertie to life was a shared experience for all of us.

**Ximena:** This year I'm graduating along with around 300 people, which is ten times your cohort, Michael – wow!

What stands out for me at Hertie is its amazing community. We have an incredibly supportive network at our university. Even though it's big and I won't be able to meet everyone, the community is very approachable. And I don't just mean current students: whenever I contact a former Hertie student, I'm amazed that people answer almost straight away, and there's always a good rapport between us.



**Michael Okrob**

## *Professor Hassel, why was the Hertie School of Governance launched in 2004, and what was special about it?*

**Professor Hassel:** At the time, there was no public policy school in Germany. The founders of the Hertie School saw the need for such an institution because they thought that things had to change in Germany. In those days, just like now, there was a lot of discussion about the fact that Germany wasn't doing well – low growth, high unemployment, and the government not seeming to be adequately responding to these challenges. The founders thought part of the problem was that civil servants in the government mostly had backgrounds as lawyers.

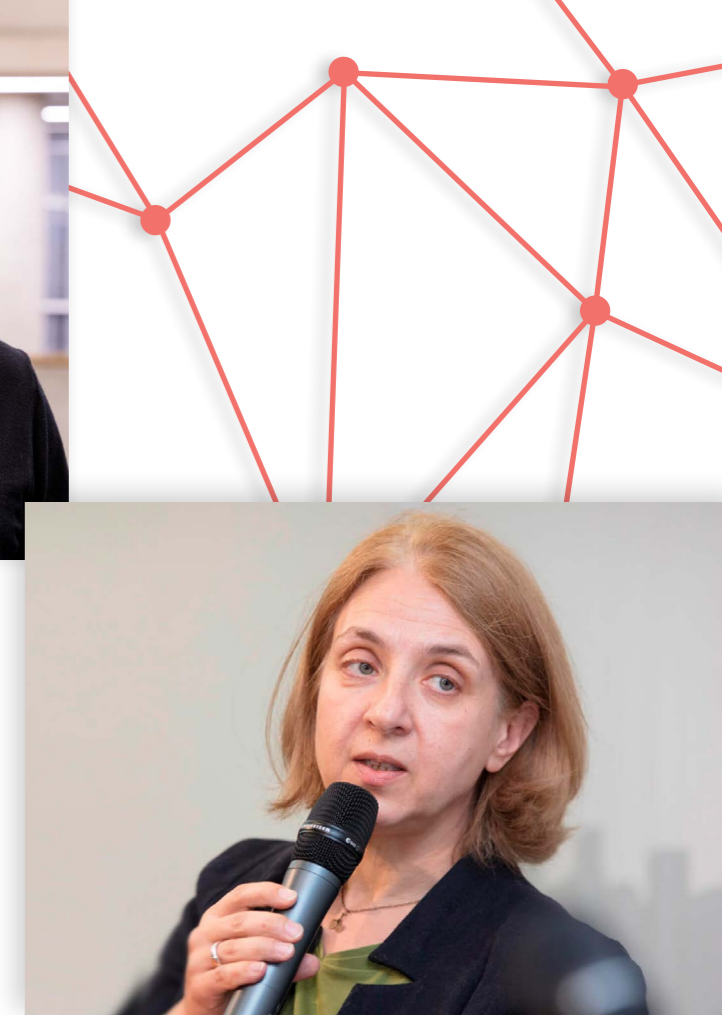
We wanted to move away from the very law-dominated approach of the civil service and to instead offer an interdisciplinary programme. Law would be included, of course, but it wouldn't be the main component.

At the same time, we also wanted to do things differently from American public policy programmes, which were heavily focussed on economics. Of course, you need to have expertise in economics and statistics for public policy, but you also need an understanding of political science and sociology, for example.

## *How has the curriculum at Hertie changed over the years?*

**Professor Hassel:** We initially started out with 30 students and only one degree, the Master of Public Policy. Obviously, with 30 students you can't really branch out in different directions. All the students basically took the same courses – the only variation we had was in the electives they could choose.

As we gained more students and, as a result, more faculty, the curriculum became more varied. Eventually, with more and more students interested in international policymaking, we introduced the Master of International Affairs. Later, because of the need for more expertise in data science, we launched our Master of Data Science for Public Policy.



**Anke Hassel**

## *If each of you had a wish for the next 20 years, what would it be?*

**Professor Hassel:** What I'd like to see in the future is for us to consolidate our success and keep the school on a path of steady growth, that we remain an attractive place not only for students but also for faculty, that we never lose our capacity to innovate and that the school maintains its competitive edge in higher academia.

**Michael:** There's a lot happening in the alumni community – people across the globe are shaping their environments and really making a difference to people's lives. I'd like to see the Hertie School building stronger relationships with its alumni – for the benefit of both sides.

**Ximena:** I agree. The Hertie School should expand its international network even further so it's easier for students to get in touch with alumni who could act as role models.



# AFTER CLASS: STUDENT LIFE AT THE HERTIE SCHOOL



The Hertie School's greatest asset is without doubt its students. Since the school was established, we have welcomed close to 3,000 students from over 95 countries. Their rich and diverse backgrounds find expression in a host of initiatives, making campus life much more than just a classroom experience. Whether you need support in finding the right flat, would like to start your own student club or simply want to relax after a busy exam week, the staff from Student Life is always there to take care of our students and support them.

We sat down for a chat with the Director of Student Life at the Hertie School, **Judith Zylla-Wöllner**, who joined the school in 2007.



**Judith Zylla-Wöllner**, Director of Student Life and Study Abroad

## What is your team's job in the Student Life office?

We assist students in navigating their non-academic paths at the Hertie School in particular, and life in Berlin and Germany in general. This means that one of our main tasks is to support students and help them prepare for their studies in Germany, arrive in Berlin, and above all, find their way around German bureaucracy. Once students have settled in at Hertie, we focus on their (mental) well-being by providing student counsellors, peer advice, a De-Stress Fest, exam care, excursions, country presentations, and cultural outings. Alongside these responsibilities, our international office manages all study-abroad options for in- and outbound students. We also organise and monitor special projects initiated by students, for instance:

- **European Public Policy Conference** – a solely student-managed conference in a European city, financed by the IPLI Foundation
- **Hertie Helps** – a student volunteering project focussing on and engaging in different projects
- **Hertie Pride Network** – a platform where queer and other Hertie students can advocate for diversity and discuss current international and local issues affecting the community

## How has Student Life developed over the past 20 years?

Student Life was originally called Student Services and was only responsible for the application and admission process, onboarding students, and the examination office. The team was basically steered by students' needs and problems. Over the years, we've added different subsidiary units. So, apart from helping students with the formal issues of applying to our school and getting their final degree, we've since grown into a proper counselling and support unit, covering all possible aspects of a student's life.

One of the major issues students face is financial difficulty. Although living costs in Berlin are still quite low in comparison to places like Paris, London or New York, funding is obviously a concern as we're a private university. We've responded to this challenge by compiling a list of over 200 foundations that help students fund their studies. How do I apply for loans? What EU funds are available? Which foundations support international students in Germany? These are among the many questions we try to address and help students answer.

We've also created a mental well-being strategy for our students. The need for mental health and support programmes is quite obvious in further education contexts, where young people might be facing several challenges at the same time – not only in their studies but also when it comes to working and applying for internships. Our well-being strategy includes on-site counsellors, short-term solution-oriented counselling, workshops on social skills, peer advisers, and events on the theme of mental well-being. One of our many highlights in this respect is our regular De-Stress Fest, which takes place after exam week and gives students space and opportunities to take a break from their studies by just making smoothies together, going on field trips, or enjoying leisure activities on campus.

## How are you continuing to grow and develop?

Student Life is always developing and improving to reflect students' evolving needs and wishes. We have a close relationship to our students and the Hertie student representatives, who give feedback to the management of the school about students' needs and challenges. Ideas and projects are set in motion quickly so that current students can benefit from them. This offering is one of the Hertie School's unique selling points and sets it apart from many public universities.

## What makes the Hertie School student community special?

Our student community is coloured by the diverse backgrounds and experiences of our students. Students come with a backpack full of ideas, dreams and hardships, which we as a team are eager to tackle. The work and passion of staff and students alike shape our special Hertie School community. Their complementary perspectives provide useful insights for a proactive service that takes into account the diversity of our students' viewpoints and expectations, as well as reflecting the Hertie School's mission and objectives.

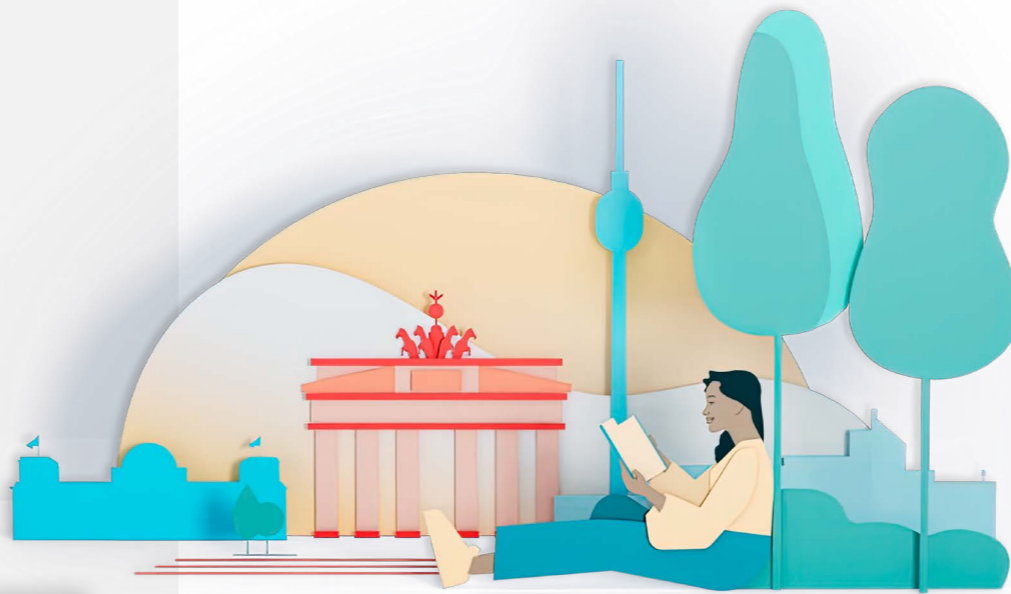
I feel incredibly proud to have worked for more than 15 years with such an enthusiastic and engaged student-facing team, which has developed and shaped the Student Life department into the holistic and smooth-running unit it is today.





# PHD LIFE AT THE HERTIE SCHOOL

Since the Hertie School was officially conferred the right to award doctorates in 2012, over 50 PhD candidates have defended their dissertations. But what's it really like to do a PhD at the Hertie School? We caught up with PhD graduates **Sahil Deo** (2022) and **Lisa Oswald** (2023) to find out.



**Sahil Deo**, co-founder of CPC Analysis

## What was your PhD research about?

My PhD research dealt with how to better regulate algorithms in the context of fintech (financial technology) firms in India. Unlike a lot of algorithms, where only a suggestion is made and humans are left to make the final decision – like with Spotify, for example – in the case of fintech, the decision to make a particular investment is actually made by the algorithm. If these decisions go wrong on a systemic level, it can have major impacts on the economy.

## Why did you choose to do your PhD at the Hertie School?

I'd done the Master of Public Policy at the Hertie School, so I was already familiar with Professor Hallerberg and his research before I joined the PhD programme. Besides that, I was interested in studying the topic of regulation in Germany because Germany is at the pro-regulation end of the tech policy spectrum, whereas the US, where I'm working now, is more at the low-regulation end. Doing my PhD here, I got to know different ways of thinking about tech-related policy.

## What did you like most about the PhD programme?

I liked the fact that the programme was flexible and that I had contact with researchers working in other areas. And because it was a small cohort, we had a lot of exchange. Also, I was really happy with my PhD adviser, Professor Hallerberg. He always had time to chat with me at short notice, and it was an incredibly open and collaborative, friendly environment.

## What was particularly memorable about your time at Hertie?

I met Christian Franz at Hertie and together we founded CPC Analytics. I'm super grateful for that!

Another important experience was having coffee with George Papandreou, then Prime Minister of Greece, in a café in Paris with other students. Getting to speak to such a major statesman helped me break through a mental barrier and gave me the necessary confidence to speak to high-ranking officials. That was a great experience!

## Do you have any wishes for the Hertie School on its 20th birthday?

I think it's important that Hertie is trying to increase the representation of people from developing countries in the PhD cohort. Having a more international group of postdocs would mean different topics can be analysed and different methods applied, adding a richer dimension to the research that the PhD programme produces.

## What was your PhD research about, and why did you choose the Hertie School?

In my dissertation, I studied public discourse in online environments, as I was fascinated by the links between human psychology, digital media and democracy. I heard about the Hertie School by coincidence because I just happened to meet a PhD researcher at the Data Science Lab. It's rare in Germany that your living expenses are fully covered, you have time to focus on your independent research early on, and you can benefit from being in an interdisciplinary environment.



**Lisa Oswald**, Postdoctoral Researcher at the Max Planck Institute for Human Development in Berlin

## What did you like most about your PhD programme?

The PhD researchers at Hertie were organised more around thematic areas than academic disciplines. I learned a lot from exchange with lecturers and fellow students at the Hertie School's other Centres of Competence and with colleagues from joint PhD programmes across Berlin. Also, the programme combines coursework in academic methods training in the first year and gives you lots of useful soft skills. Finally, and most importantly, I had a great supervisor at Hertie, Simon Munzert. He introduced me to teaching causal inference as well as data science, and I had the opportunity to co-author several research projects and get to know his professional network while attending international conferences.

## How did your time at the Hertie School help you to achieve your professional goals?

I learned a lot in discussions and collaborations with more experienced researchers along the way and, while focusing on my core PhD projects, I was free to collaborate on entirely external projects, which was a huge help.

Hertie's international profile revealed new perspectives for me, and it certainly didn't hurt to get extensive teaching experience in English. Not only that, the school's policy focus made me rethink certain assumptions I had from my original training in psychology.

## What was particularly memorable about your time at Hertie?

When I began my PhD work in 2020, it was very much a typical "Covid PhD" experience in the first year, usually remote and with lots of online meetings. But I do remember several fun moments, meeting colleagues for the very first time in person, after collaborating for weeks and months on a project and having a lot of Zoom calls.

## Any wishes for the Hertie School on its 20th birthday?

I wish the Hertie School, its students and researchers, plenty of creative ideas and successful projects to generate evidence to inform policies that address the challenges of the coming decades.



# 20 YEARS TIMELINE

22.04.2004

Chancellor Schröder opens the Hertie School's Inaugural Symposium

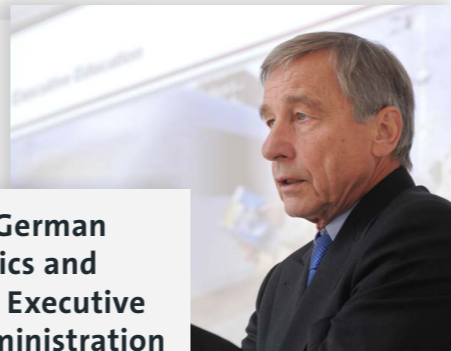


01.09.2008

Hertie School moves into new building at Friedrichstraße 180



Wolfgang Clement, German Minister for Economics and Labour, kicks off the Executive Master of Public Administration



17.09.2008

17.09.2012

Inauguration of the Doctoral Programme



03.09.2012

EU in focus: Conference on the future of Europe with German Federal President Horst Köhler



07.06.2012

Conference on political trust: Hertie School students discuss with EU leaders Angela Merkel, David Cameron and Jens Stoltenberg

2004

2005

2007

2008

2009

2010

2011

2012

2013

01.09.2005

The first 30 students start the Master of Public Policy



02.05.2007

Hertie School hosts "Intellectual Live8 – Forum for Africa" with Bob Geldof



10.05.2011

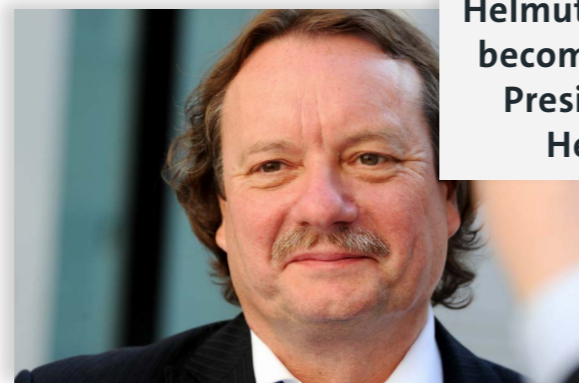
Nobel Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi at the Hertie School



Hertie School hosts the Dahrendorf Symposium with EU leaders including Italian Prime Minister Mario Monti and German Minister for the Environment Norbert Röttgen

09/10.11.2011

Helmut K. Anheier becomes the new President of the Hertie School



04.09.2009

Class of 2007: Hertie School celebrates its first graduates



Francis Fukuyama opens the Academic Year

05.09.2013





**Happy Birthday: German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schäuble and EU leaders celebrate ten years of the Hertie School**

27/28.05.2014



**EU Foreign Ministers Frank-Walter Steinmeier (GER), Laurent Fabius (FRA) and Radosław Sikorski (POL) inaugurate the Jacques Delors Institute**

24.03.2014



**Politics meets philosophy: German Vice-Chancellor Gabriel, philosopher Habermas and French President Macron discuss the EU in a changing world**

16.03.2017



**Hertie School unveils new campus plans with Berlin Mayor Michael Müller to move to the historic Robert Koch Forum**

01.02.2019



**Hertie School hosts Emmanuel Macron at the Munich Security Conference**

16.02.2020

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

2019

2020



**Deputy Secretary of State Antony Blinken speaks on transatlantic cooperation**

05.03.2015

**Hertie School**  
Centre for  
International Security

**Hertie School launches the Centre for International Security**

05.10.2016



**Hertie School introduces the Master of International Affairs**

04.09.2015



**Sigmar Gabriel and Ukraine Ambassador Andrij Melnyk discuss peacekeeping in Ukraine**

19.04.2018



**New President Henrik Enderlein delivers his inaugural address**

06.09.2018

**Hertie School launches the Centre for Fundamental Rights**

20.02.2020

**Hertie School**  
Centre for  
Fundamental Rights



**European Central Bank President Draghi and German Vice-Chancellor Scholz discuss the EU Single Market**

19.09.2018





**Klaus Hurrelmann and Robert Habeck discuss "Generation Greta"**

21.09.2020



**Commemoration ceremony for Henrik Enderlein**

23.06.2021



**Mark Hallerberg becomes Acting President of the Hertie School**

01.03.2021



**Looking back to move forward: Hertie School launches its 20-year anniversary celebrations**

11.09.2023



**Hertie School welcomes Finnish President Alexander Stubb**

21.03.2024

2020

2021

2022

2023

2024

**Hertie School Centre for Digital Governance**

**Hertie School launches the Centre for Digital Governance**

12.10.2020

**Hertie School Centre for Sustainability**

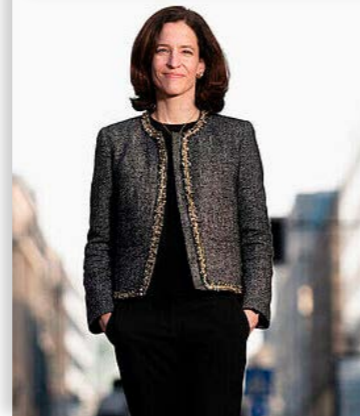
**Hertie School launches the Centre for Sustainability**

21.09.2021

**Hertie School inaugurates the Master of Data Science for Public Policy**

10.09.2021

**Cornelia Woll becomes first female President of the Hertie School**



15.03.2022

**First Henrik Enderlein Prize awarded at the Quai d'Orsay in Paris**

15.06.2022



**Hertie School welcomes Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson**

15.03.2023



**Hertie School welcomes Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte**

13.12.2023



**Anniversary Forum Europe at a crossroads: Looking back to move forward**

10 - 11 June 2024

**Looking back to move forward: Hertie School celebrates 20 years**

10/11.06.2024



# PUTTING THEORY INTO PRACTICE: RESEARCH AT THE HERTIE SCHOOL

Along with teaching, research is the backbone of any university, enabling an institution to gain international recognition, ignite public debate, and eventually attract the next generation of bright minds. Has being a researcher changed in the last 20 years? And what sets a young public policy school apart from other institutions?

We sat down with three of the Hertie School's professors to find out.



*Prof. Mair, you're an internationally recognised scholar also working at Stanford and Harvard, enabling you to compare different academic settings.*

*What's your take on the research environment today?*

**Mair:** I don't think being a researcher today is that much different from 20 years ago, but I think the environment for doing research has changed considerably. You have to distinguish between two aspects: producing and disseminating knowledge. As a social scientist, you're constantly updating how you see your role and how you can ensure your commitment to developing useful theory is aligned with the environment we're in. But what's even more challenging is making our work accessible beyond just those who are working in our own particular area. So the question is, how do I ensure my research reaches the people it could be useful for in the wider world?

*Dream job or huge burden? What's it like being a researcher today and why did you specifically join the Hertie School?*

**Lion Hirth:** Working in academia is absolutely what I wanted to do. I spent five years in industry as an analyst, which was demanding and inspiring, but in academia you can take time to work through your thoughts and discuss complex ideas with brilliant people. The inspiring exchanges with students, postdocs and research colleagues are something you just can't find anywhere else. One thing that does bother me, though, is the sometimes ridiculously drawn-out publication cycle. To make an impact or raise public awareness in times of crisis, you need to act quick. But often, by the time you've got your paper published, the crisis has actually passed!

**Johanna Mair:** For me, joining the Hertie School was a deliberate decision. It has certainly allowed me to grow as a social scientist, as I'm surrounded by colleagues from several disciplines. This is different from a business school, which was my previous experience. At a business school your colleagues often work in the same or very similar research areas as you.



**Mark Hallerberg** is Professor of Public Management and Political Economy.

**Mark Hallerberg:** I joined the Hertie School in 2007 and really liked its start-up culture. My research focusses on fiscal governance, financial crises and EU politics, so it completely made sense for me to leave the US and come to Europe. It was Henrik Enderlein, later President of the school, who actually convinced me to switch to Berlin. He made an elaborate pitch that got me excited about Hertie and, well, here we are.

*What has changed in the last 20 years? Do you think back to the "good old days" of research, or have academia and research environments changed for the better?*

**Hallerberg:** I remember we used to call it "publish or perish", which still sums up today's challenges for researchers, but obviously a lot has changed. For example, digital channels offer researchers more ways to get their voices heard. But the stakes in publishing have risen. Because more people are submitting articles nowadays, there are more rejections. And there's a further ingredient on the menu – ideology. For example, you could propose a paper on the impact of Covid policies, but you might need to legitimise your research questions and intentions beforehand. This isn't a completely new development, but digital media amplifies these challenges.

**Mair:** My approach isn't just to take sides in an ideological debate but, as a social scientist, to really cut through these debates and provide a wider evidence base for phenomena we see and experience. And I think that's helpful today, where it can be hard to disentangle all the evidence that underpins a certain discourse, as some people draw on specific data only to support their own arguments.



**Johanna Mair** is Professor of Organisation, Strategy and Leadership.







**Lion Hirth** is Professor of Energy Policy.

*Professor Hirth, you're strategically using social media to engage in public discourse. When did you start doing this, and how does it work for you?*

**Hirth:** I'm a political economist focussing primarily on energy markets. After Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, which heavily impacted energy markets, I felt an obligation to inform people, participate in public discourse and share the numbers and facts I'd gathered. That was when I started my Twitter account, and I was getting loads of media requests and also opportunities to share my insights with decision-makers. That started me thinking more about how to present my research, making it accessible without 'dumbing it down'. But not everyone needs a social media channel, and there's a certain trade-off. When you become a media figure, you're putting on a different hat, so your research obligations might suffer. In the end, it's up to each researcher to decide for themselves how much they want to participate in public discourse.

*Professor Hallerberg, as you yourself have been Dean and Acting President at Hertie, you know the school very well. What sets Hertie apart from other universities, and what are you especially proud of?*

**Hallerberg:** The great thing about our school is, here you get both theory and practice. We care passionately about understanding real-world problems – and coming up with real-world solutions. I'm also very proud of our research cooperations, networks and partnerships. We've really evolved into a strong research community that connects us, not only in Berlin but with other institutions and programmes across the world. Being part of CIVICA, the European University Alliance and the Global Public Policy Network is a great accomplishment, as are the work we do together here in Berlin with research projects like SCRIPTS and DYNAMICS.

*What are your goals and challenges for the next 20 years?*

**Mair:** I'm not going to be bored, as societal challenges will never stop arising – partly because of the unintended or undesired consequences of our actions today. In the next 20 years, I want to contribute to addressing these societal challenges.

**Hirth:** I'd like to continue establishing our Centre for Sustainability at the Hertie School as an enduring research institution and to carry on communicating the risks and benefits of market volatility to the decision-makers and consumers affected by it.

**Hallerberg:** I want to make sure the Hertie School will continue making an impact on the international research environment and giving our students the tools to succeed in the real world, whether that's in research or managing an NGO or working in public office.



## Executive Education

# LIFELONG LEARNING AT THE HERTIE SCHOOL

How do you train professionals to take on the policy challenges of today, work for the common good, and lead their organisations to success?

The Hertie School's Executive Master of Public Management and its array of tailored Executive Education courses aim to do just that. We talked to the **Executive Education team\*** as well as Professor of Public and Financial Management **Gerhard Hammerschmid** about why the Hertie School developed its continuing education programmes, how the programmes are unique, and what they have achieved so far.

*Why did the Hertie School launch Executive Education?*

Lifelong learning is becoming more and more important in our societies and as a means to advance in our professional lives. We believe that the mission of a public policy school is not just to educate those getting their master's or PhD, but to reach policy professionals on the job, decision-makers, and stakeholders around the world, who might have finished their studies many years ago or who perhaps had never really studied policy or its design. By offering cutting-edge, intensive and practical programmes for professionals, we drive real change.

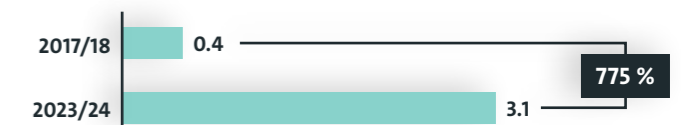
*What do the courses bring to professionals who already have experience in their fields?*

Our programmes are designed not only to update participants' knowledge with the newest findings from academia, research and practice, but also to acquire and practise skills relevant for their day-to-day work. We create a space for professionals to interact with and learn from the school's knowledgeable experts, to meet like-minded professionals and enrich their own networks.



**Executive Education Team** 2023

**Executive Education Programme:** Growth in revenue (€ in millions)



\* Frank Garrison, Manager  
 Mai Hohwy, Project Coordinator  
 Bernhard Knoll-Tudor, Director of Executive Education  
 Andrea Römmele, Dean of Executive Education  
 Eva Savinova, Head of Operations and Programmes





### What sets Hertie School ExEd's offerings apart from those of other policy schools?

We pride ourselves in tailoring our programmes to the needs of our participants, and we actively adjust each session within each programme accordingly. Early needs assessments, country-specific case studies, and group assignments putting theory into practice in real-life scenarios are just a few examples of how we do this. We give participants an immersive experience in the political heart of Berlin and incorporate relevant site visits and expert exchanges, thereby facilitating cross-border learning and the transmission of best practices. The Hertie faculty is an invaluable part of our programmes, sharing years of irreplaceable experience and academic insight with participants.

On top of this, our grant-based approach allows us to offer high-level programmes to people who might otherwise be unable to afford them. We acquire funding from governmental and international organisations and foundations to offer programmes to developing regions as well as to specific groups. These programmes have a track record of creating lasting impact and influential networks. We've witnessed firsthand how former participants drive significant change in the public sector and continue to advance democracy and peace-building in their countries.

### What challenges has the department faced over the years, and how have you overcome them?

We've grown quite fast from a small team of three to a staff of 17. Rapid growth brings its own challenges, which we've addressed by investing in the team's capacities through coaching, participating in upskilling courses ourselves, and fostering an effective work culture in the team.

### What has ExEd achieved since it first began?

We've devised and implemented executive training and capacity-building programmes for over 6,000 participants from over 100 countries. This year, we'll be running some 70 programmes across four continents with a total of 230 days of courses taught, all in the area of public policy, with topics ranging from human rights to female leadership, digital transformation and social innovation. We've also brought projects, programmes and connections into Hertie's orbit that other Hertie programmes have benefitted from.

### What are your vision and goals, as well as the potential challenges, for ExEd in the future?

Continuing our growth, offering transformative programmes and deeply enriching experiences to professionals in Europe and around the world. Our programmes aim to support proven leaders in expanding their capabilities, to empower people aspiring to leadership positions, and to advance careers, all while building sustainable networks and partnerships as well as gaining and transmitting cutting-edge knowledge and skills. Lifelong learning is a crucial ingredient in everyone's development, especially in our fast-paced world of new technologies.

## GERHARD HAMMERSCHMID, PROFESSOR OF PUBLIC AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT, TELLS US ABOUT LIFELONG LEARNING AND WHY THE PUBLIC SECTOR CONSTANTLY NEEDS A BREATH OF FRESH AIR.



### Why did the Hertie School launch the Executive Master of Public Management back in 2008?

When the Hertie School began, we realised the school needed to offer an executive master's degree to reach out to professionals already active in their fields – not just people working within government, but also those working alongside the government. An executive master's programme is a core signature product of a professional school, and it went hand in hand with our mission to modernise government and improve its capacity. In Germany in particular, public administration was (and still is) very much dominated by legal expertise. There was a fundamental lack of policy experience and management expertise, and we wanted to change this.

### Why is the programme unique in Germany?

Our programme is unique because it looks beyond German public administration, takes an intersectoral approach and offers the flexibility needed to study it parallel to an existing job. Many executive programmes are very much focussed on their own national government's system. But right from the beginning, we decided we wanted to provide expertise that goes beyond national public administration and offers an international experience. The programme is also unique because it's intersectoral. As a school of governance, we believe that public policy challenges can't be solved by government alone. You need to collaborate with the private sector and civil society, and so our programme has always brought together participants from civil society, private sector organisations, consultancies, and international organisations. Lastly, our programme is special for Europe because there still aren't that many executive master's programmes in public administration available here.



### What has the programme achieved?

We've now been going for 15 years – that's already some feat for an executive master's programme in public administration! A lot of other programmes have opened and shut their doors before reaching that milestone. And in those 15 years, more than 300 alumni have graduated from the programme to take on leadership positions both within governments and at organisations that collaborate with governments – not just in Germany

### What were the programme's core ideas?

There were two. The first was that if you want to modernise and reform both government and the way it works with other sectors, you need to understand how public policymaking works, how key management areas function within government, and what conditions the government needs to function properly. The second core idea was to offer courses that teach skills such as how to shape the future of government, how to address the key challenges of governing, and how to innovate the ways in which government works.

### What does the future hold for the EMPA programme?

We're continuously working to keep the programme relevant in an ever-changing world of new developments and challenges and to keep track of the current needs in society that governments must address. My deepest wish is that we'll remain relevant over the next ten years and beyond. To do that, we'll need to constantly adapt the programme to reflect these changes and focus on those core competences that leaders – in government and beyond – will require to succeed.



# KEY NETWORKS AND ALLIANCES



## DUAL DEGREE PROGRAMMES

Our dual degree programmes allow students to spend one year at the Hertie School and another year at one of our partner institutions around the world. Students earn a degree from both institutions.

- **BOCCONI UNIVERSITY, MILAN**
- **GRADUATE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY, UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO**
- **IE UNIVERSITY, MADRID**
- **LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE, LONDON**
- **MAXWELL SCHOOL, SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY, NEW YORK**
- **MUNK SCHOOL OF GLOBAL AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC POLICY, UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO**
- **SANFORD SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY, DUKE UNIVERSITY, DURHAM**
- **SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, SCIENCES PO, PARIS**
- **SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, NEW YORK**

## PARTNERS

The Hertie School is extremely grateful to the foundations, companies and other organisations that provide financial support for the university and its students. In addition to the Hertie Foundation, our founder and core funder, our partners finance full professorships, larger initiatives and scholarship programmes for Hertie School students. Our project partners cooperate with us on smaller-scale projects, research initiatives and outreach activities. A selection of partners is listed below.

- Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung
- Banque de France
- Deutsches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung e.V. (DIW Berlin)
- Dieter Schwarz Stiftung gGmbH
- Ernst & Young GmbH
- Friede Springer Stiftung
- International Policy and Leadership Institute
- Karl Schlecht Stiftung
- KPMG AG Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaft
- Mangold Consulting GmbH
- McKinsey & Company, Inc.
- NXP Semiconductors Germany GmbH
- PD – Berater der öffentlichen Hand GmbH
- Santander Consumer Bank AG
- Stanton Foundation
- Stiftung Mercator
- República.org
- Robert Bosch Stiftung GmbH
- VolkswagenStiftung

## OUR MAIN EXCHANGE PARTNERS

Through our networks, the Hertie School offers exchange opportunities with 40 partner institutions worldwide.

## CIVICA

CIVICA – The European University of Social Sciences brings together ten leading European higher education institutions in the social sciences. CIVICA aims to build an inter-university campus that provides joint and long-lasting opportunities in teaching, research and innovative learning, while enhancing academic excellence and facilitating civic engagement in Europe and beyond. CIVICA was selected by the European Commission as one of the pilot European Universities in 2019 and confirmed as a successful alliance in 2022 for its full rollout under the Erasmus+ programme.

CIVICA members are: Bocconi University (Italy), Central European University (Austria and Hungary), the European University Institute (Intergovernmental), the Hertie School (Germany), IE University (Spain), the National University of Political Studies and Public Administration (Romania), Sciences Po (France), SGH Warsaw School of Economics (Poland), the Stockholm School of Economics (Sweden) and the London School of Economics and Political Science (United Kingdom). Read more on [civica.eu](http://civica.eu).



The Hertie School joined the OECD Network of Schools of Government in 2022. It provides direct access to OECD governance expertise and enables exchange of schools' experiences and good practices in ensuring that public sector employees have the skills and competencies to address current and future priorities.



The Hertie School is the only German member of the Association of Professional Schools of International Affairs (APSIA), which includes 40 top International Affairs programmes from the US, Europe and Asia. These include Yale University, Georgetown University, Harvard University and the University of St. Gallen.



The Global Public Policy Network (GPPN) is a network of eight top public policy schools from around the world. Its mission is to address the most pressing public policy challenges of the 21st century.





Fundraising

# JOIN US: SUPPORT THE HERTIE SCHOOL

This year, as the Hertie School turns 20, we have launched the Capital Campaign, a large-scale fundraising project to secure the progress we have made for the future. In addition to funding scholarships and research at our school, we are also seeking donations and sponsors to help support our move to our new campus in 2026.



*Our new campus will be a lively place of ideas and encounters in the heart of the German capital, at the pulse of politics, business and culture.*



Cornelia Woll  
President of the Hertie School

## A NEW CAMPUS FOR THE HERTIE SCHOOL

In 2026, the Hertie School will move into its new campus at the Robert-Koch-Forum, right in the political and historic heart of Berlin. This iconic building will bridge the gap between past and future by offering students a state-of-the-art campus that will be an open and inclusive space for debate, ideas and exchange. With this new campus, the Hertie School will continue to expand its profile as a leading university for good governance and modern statehood in Europe.

## INVEST IN TEACHING AND RESEARCH

Our professors work at the interface between research, politics and society and set the agenda for contemporary public policy debate. They create a link between political actors, fellow experts and our students, the next generation of leaders.

The Hertie School currently hosts five endowed chairs, supported by a variety of foundations and private sector organisations.

## SUPPORT OUR STUDENTS

Our students benefit from an education that combines academic excellence with practical skills, giving them the opportunity to work with and for our partner organisations. In doing so, they develop the skills they need to tackle increasingly complex societal issues through an interdisciplinary, intersectoral and international lens. The Hertie School, in concert with its partners, offers a broad range of scholarship programmes. As a partner, you can make a difference and contribute to our general scholarship fund.

## SUPPORT OUR UNIVERSITY AND HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE WITH US.

For more information, contact our Director of Advancement and Career Development **Sascha Stolzenburg** ([stolzenburg@hertie-school.org](mailto:stolzenburg@hertie-school.org)).





# HERTIE SCHOOL PRESIDENTS



## MICHAEL ZÜRN (2004–2009)

Michael Zürn became founding Dean of the Hertie School of Governance in 2004, and was instrumental in creating some of the school’s most enduring intellectual foundations. He drew up the school’s first mission statement, which at its core still forms the bedrock of the institution.

Under Zürn’s leadership, the founding faculty of seven professors was appointed, growing to 16 in 2009. Furthermore, he introduced the Master of Public Policy (MPP) in 2005 and the Executive Master of Public Management (EMPM) in 2008. During his presidency, the school began to develop its international partnerships and joint programmes with Columbia University and the London School of Economics.

**Digital Version:**  
[Founding Mission Statement](#)



## HELMUT K. ANHEIER (2009–2018)

After the Hertie School’s “start-up” phase, Helmut Anheier initiated a period of considerable and steady growth for the school. He strengthened the school’s research agenda and built an academic infrastructure. Thanks to his leadership, in 2011 the Hertie School received the right to confer doctoral degrees and subsequently launched its stand-alone PhD programme in 2012. In 2015, the Master of International Affairs (MIA), the school’s third master’s programme, was introduced.

Under Anheier’s presidency, the Hertie School expanded: for example, thanks to successfully acquiring funded professorships, the faculty grew from 16 to 27. Third-party funding revenue reached 3 million euros and student numbers tripled, from 160 to 487.

Anheier internationalised the Hertie School by increasing its partner universities from nine to 33.

Having nurtured the university’s growth, Anheier’s success was rewarded in 2017 with the Hertie School being reaccredited as an institution by the German Science and Humanities Council for the following ten years.

## HENRIK ENDERLEIN (2018–2021)

After Henrik Enderlein took on the role of President, he negotiated a comprehensive School Development Plan, which ignited a period of further growth and provided new organisational structures for the school. Thanks to Enderlein’s initiatives, the Hertie Foundation nearly doubled its institutional funding, from 5.6 million to 10 million euros per year.



Six Centres of Competence – covering European integration, international security, fundamental rights, digital governance, and sustainability, as well as the innovative Data Science Lab – were created to tackle the most pressing governance challenges of our time. The scale of the work meant that the faculty had by now grown to 35.

During Enderlein’s presidency, the Hertie School was the first German university to join the Association of Professional Schools of International Affairs (APSIA), as well as becoming a founding member of CIVICA – the European University of Social Sciences. He was also instrumental in launching the project for a new campus in the Robert-Koch-Forum.

Due to ill health, Henrik Enderlein stood down from his duties as President on 28 February 2021. He passed away on 27 May 2021.

**Digital Version:**  
[Inaugural Speech Henrik Enderlein](#)



## MARK HALLERBERG (2021–2022)

Mark Hallerberg, who had served the Hertie School in many capacities as Dean, Dean of Research and Faculty, and Director of the MPP programme, took over as Acting President on 1 March 2021. He steered the school community through the difficult period of the pandemic and the loss of President Henrik Enderlein.

During his tenure, he initiated a major partnership with the Brazilian foundation República and submitted a crucial grant proposal to the Dieter Schwarz Stiftung, which enabled the school to recruit an additional professor in the field of data science.



Under his leadership, the Master of Data Science for Public Policy (MDS) was introduced and the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Office opened. As part of this effort, the Hertie School inaugurated the First-Generation Mentoring Programme for students whose parents did not attend university.



## CORNELIA WOLL (2022–TODAY)

In March 2022, Cornelia Woll took over as the Hertie School’s first female President. Woll initiated a new School Development Plan with a timeline up to 2028, which builds on the school’s already established structures, strengthens its outreach work, and embeds the school more firmly in the world of public policy in Berlin and Europe.

To complement events planned to mark the school’s 20th anniversary in 2024/2025, Woll launched a Capital Campaign to gather resources for research expertise, scholarships and the future campus, and started to build up an endowment, with 16 million euros collected in the first year alone. Under the motto “Looking back to move forward”, a series of high-level events continues to showcase the Hertie School as a valuable forum for exchange between the public, policymakers and academia.

During her time in office, the school’s PhD programme was successfully reaccredited by the German Science and Humanities Council for another ten years.

**Digital Version:**  
[Inaugural Speech Cornelia Woll](#)





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Academic Year 2023/2024



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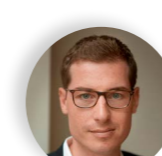
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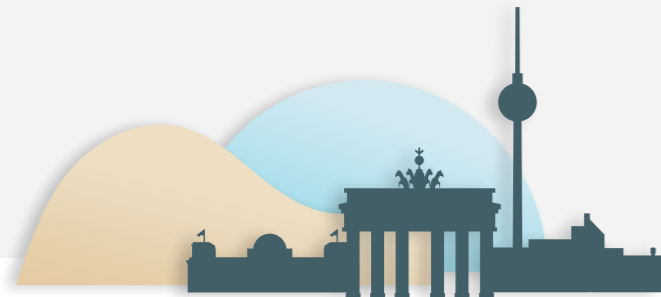
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