

CV of Stephan C. Rist

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Birth date 15.5.1957, married.

Education

- 2016 Appointment as UNSECO Chair “Natural and Cultural Heritage for Sustainable Mountain Development”, hosted by the Institute of Geography of the University of Bern
- 2013 Appointment as Associate Professor for Human Geography at the University of Bern
- 2007 Habilitation in Human Geography, Institute of Geography of the University of Bern, Switzerland
- 2000 PhD in Rural Sociology (suma cum laude). Department for Economic and Social Sciences and Rural Sociology, Technical University of Munich-Weihenstephan, Germany.
- 1984 M.Sc. (Dipl. Ing. Agr. ETH) Agronomical Sciences, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zürich (ETHZ), Switzerland. Specialization in ‘Plant Production’

Professional experience and main projects

- 1999 – Senior research scientist at the Centre for Development and Environment (CDE), University of Bern. Since today 2011: Head of cluster ‘Governance of Land and Natural Resources’ of Centre for Development and Environment (CDE), University of Bern.
- 2016 Research Fellow at the Institute of Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS), Potsdam in Germany (February to May)
- 2016 Leader of a Swiss National Research Programm (NRP-68) Archetypes of transnational land acquisitions: towards a generalization of case study knowledge for informed soil governance (ATLAS).
- 2016 Co-Leader of a transdisciplinary research project on “Enhancing transformative research for sustainable development: mutual learning between research programmes”, financed by Mercator Foundation Switzerland.
- 2016 Project leader of a transdisciplinary research project on the «Importance of solidarity economy for the enhancement and promotion of organic agriculture in Switzerland and surrounding European countries», funded by Mercator Foundation Switzerland.
- 2015 Project leader of a Research for Development (R4D) Project “Towards food sustainability: Reshaping the coexistence of different food systems in South America and Africa” (3 Mio. CHF, 6 years), financed by the Swiss National Science Foundation.
- 2014 Co-Leader of Swiss Sustainable Development at Universities Programme on “Increasing the Effectiveness of Transdisciplinary Research for Sustainable Development”, University of Bern and CDE.
- 2013 Leader of a Swiss National Research Programm (NRP-68) on “Sustainable soil governance and large scale land acquisitions originating in Switzerland” together with World Trade Institute (WTI), University of Bern and Agroscope/ederal Office for Agriculture.
- 2013 Co-leader of the research project on “The effects of large-scale land acquisitions (LSLA) on households in rural communities of the Global South: gender relations, decision making and food security” funded by the Swiss Network of International Studies (SNIS), Geneva.
- 2012 Leading author of a synthesis report of the National Research Program (NRP61) on “Sustainable Water Management”; Topic: “Water Governance: Principles and instruments of successful dealing with sustainable use of Water in Switzerland.
- Since 2011 Co-leader Prodoc Research Module (RM) on “Transcultural Governance of the Environment in Latin America” (TransGELA), financed by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF).
- 2011 External reviewer of the IPCC Special Report "Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation" (SREX) invited by ProClim.
- 2010-2012 Leader of research project on “Governance of Forests Multiple Outcomes in the Bolivian Lowlands (GOFORBO), funded by the Swiss Network of International Studies (SNIS), Geneva.

- 2009 Sabbatical semester at Institute of Geography, Penn State University, USA working with Prof. Karl Zimmerer.
- 2009-2013 Leader of synthesis work package of cooperative research project of the Universities of Bern, Lausanne and Fribourg on “Approaching water stress in the Alps – Water management options in the Crans-Montana-Sierre in the Valais Region (MONTANAQUA), Switzerland. Funded by Swiss National Research Program (NRP61) on “Sustainable Water Management”.
- Since 2009 Project leader of research project “Transformation of Multifunctional Agrarian Systems in Bolivia and Mexico”. Funded by the Swiss National Centre of Competence for Research North-South (NCCR North-South).
- 2008 Contributing author to Chapter 1 of the International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development (IAASTAD) on “Context, Conceptual Framework and Sustainability Indicators”. In: Agriculture at the Crossroads edited by UNDP, FAO, UNEP, UNESCO, World Bank, WHO, GEF. Island Press. London.
- 2005-2009 Senior researcher in the COST-634 programme (European Co-operation in the Field of Scientific and Technical Research) on “On- and Off-site Effectiveness of Soil and Water Conservation in Switzerland – Steps Towards the Integration of Scientific, Experts’ and Farmers’ Knowledge” (in Switzerland).
- Since 2003 Coordination of CDE’s participation in the International University Consortium of COMPAS - Comparing and Supporting Endogenous Development in Central and South America, Asia, Africa and Europe.
- 2000-2004 Coordinator of the research partnership programme on “Social Learning for Sustainability – SOLES“ with partners from the Universities of Cochabamba (Bolivia), Munich (Germany) Córdoba (Spain) and NGO’s from India and Mali. Funded by Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) and (SDC).
- 2000-2002 Support in the capitalization of SDC’s experiences in sustainable development of mountain areas for the „International Year of the Mountains – IYM2002”.
- 1999 Research Scientist at the Swiss Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL). Section of Landscape Ecology and Rural Sociology. Elaboration of a research programme on ‘Indicators for Sustainable Land Use in the Rafzerfeld (Switzerland)’.
- 1990-1998 Co-director and representative of SDC & Intercooperation (NGO), Switzerland in the Agroecology Programme of the University of Cochabamba in Bolivia (AGRUCO).
- 1987-1989 Research Scientist at the Swiss Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL). Lead of the conceptual study on organic agriculture and sustainable regional development “Potentials and Limitations of Organic Agriculture in the Canton of Zug (Switzerland)”.

Lecturing (only regular assignments)

Institute of Geography, University of Bern, Switzerland. Main subjects are: Sustainable regional development, integrative geography, sustainable food systems, environmental justice, sustainability governance and agrarian change at BSc, MSc, PhD levels.

Institute of Sociology and Peasant Studies (ISEC). MSc. and PhD Programme of the University of Córdoba and International University of Andalucía, Spain.

Members in scientific associations

Editor in chief of LaRevista – Journal of the Swiss Society of Americanists (SSA).

Member of the Swiss Committee of the International Union of Nature Conservation (IUCN).

Member of the “Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP) of the “Theme on Conservation and Culture (TCC)” of the International Union of Nature Conservation (IUCN).

Awards

Co-Applicant of the shortlisted project for the Swiss td-award 2015 on “Approaching water stress in the Alps – Water management options in the Crans-Montana-Sierre in the Valais Region (NRP68).

Career development of young researchers and professionals

Supervision and coaching of 25 PhD, 63 MSc students and support of 7 postdocs.

Work experience in other countries: Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Brazil, Honduras, Nicaragua, Mali, Ghana, Kenya, Ethiopia, India.