

Curriculum Vitae: Reto Steiner

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Languages: German (native), English (C2),
French (B2), Italian (B2)



Education

- 1997-2002 Doctoral Studies at the University of Bern (Switzerland). Granted Dr. rer. oec. “*summa cum laude*”. Dissertation: “Interkommunale Zusammenarbeit und Gemeindegemeinschaften in der Schweiz. Erklärungsansätze, Umsetzungsmöglichkeiten und Erfolgsaussichten” [Intermunicipal Cooperation and Municipal Mergers in Switzerland. Triggers, Implementation, and Outcome].
- 1991-1997 Studies of management and law. Granted Master degree “*magna cum laude*” in management and law at the University of Bern (Switzerland). Best graduate of the year.

Academic Positions

- since 2017 Dean and Professor at the ZHAW School of Management and Law in Winterthur (Switzerland).
- Head of Degree programs and Executive Education at ZHAW (since 2020).
- The Triple Crown (AACSB, EQUIS, AMBA-BGA) accredited Business and Law School which is Number 62 in the Financial Times ranking of Best European Business Schools and Number 58 in the ranking of World’s Best Master Programs has a yearly budget of 103 million CHF and 636 employees.
- Responsibilities: Management of the entire Business School with an emphasis on degree programs, research, executive education and services. Own independent research in the field of Public Management. Emphasis on Digital Transformation/Artificial Intelligence, Local and Regional Governance and Public Corporate Governance.
- 2016-2017 Managing Director at the Swiss Institute for Public Management in Bern (Switzerland).
- Responsibilities: Independent research and advice related to organizational structures of public institutions (e.g., Public Corporate Governance, Regional Governance, Public Management, and Education Management). CEO and Founder of Institute.

- 2002-2016 Lecturer and Professor in Public Management, especially organizational management of the public sector, at the Center of Competence for Public Management of the University of Bern. Member of the executive committee since its founding in 2002 (from 2008-2014, as a nontenured professor).
- Responsibilities: Independent research, advice and teaching related to organizational structures of public institutions (e.g., Public Corporate Governance, Regional Governance and Education Management). Co-leadership of Institute.
- 1997-2001 Research and Teaching Assistant to Prof. Dr. Prof. h. c. Dr. h. c. mult. Norbert Thom at the Institute for Organization and Personnel (IOP) of the University of Bern.

Strategic Leadership Roles at Institutions of Higher Education

- since 2015 Chairman of the Board at NMS Bern (since 2010: member of the board).
- This institution has a yearly budget of 21 million CHF with a pedagogical university (only accredited private pedagogical university in Switzerland), a grammar school, and a primary school.
- Responsibilities: Supervision of the rectors, strategic development, selection of top management, financial oversight of the entire institution.
- 2003-2018 Member of the three-person education policy committee of hotelleriesuisse (Swiss Hotel Association) together with the CEO and Head of Education – also President of the Board of the Diploma of Advanced Studies in Hospitality Management.
- Responsibility: Strategic leadership of executive education at Hospitality Schools of the Swiss Hotel Association
- 2016-2017 Vice president of the Board of Directors of Bern University of Applied Sciences (elected by the Cantonal Government, re-elected in October 2014 for the 2015-2018 term) (2011-2012: member of the board, 2013-2015: member of the board committee).
- Responsibilities include membership in Rector Selection Committee, Strategic Development Committee, Committee for University Organization, membership in the standing committee for strategic discussions with the minister of education of the Canton of Bern.
- 2001-2013 Member of the Foundation Board of Hotelfachschule Thun (a hospitality management school).
- Responsibility: Strategic management of hotel management school.

Academic teaching positions (Selection)

since 2017	Lecturer within the framework of the certificate course in Public Governance and Administration of the Swiss School of Public Governance at ETH Zurich (Switzerland).
since 2011	Lecturer and member of the Program Committee within the framework of the certification course in Public Management and Public Policy (CeMap) of the Universities of Bern, St. Gallen and Lausanne (Switzerland).
since 2003	Lecturer and member of the Program Committee (responsible for the module “Government Communication and Digital Transformation”) within the framework of the Executive Master of Public Administration of the University of Bern (Switzerland).
2020	Visiting professor for Global Governance at University of Rome Tor Vergata (Italy).
2016-2019	Contract professor for Strategic Management in the Public Sector at the Free University Bozen-Bolzano (Italy) for the course “Strategic Management in the Public Sector”.
2003-2018	Lecturer in post-graduate course “Management and Business Administration” at the University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland for the subject area of organization and public management.
2013	Visiting Research Fellow at the Department of Politics and Public Administration at the University of Hong Kong (SAR, China).
2013	Visiting Research Fellow at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore (NUS).
2008	Guest professor of Business Administration in the Public Sector at Vienna University of Economics and Business (Austria)

Leadership Positions in Research Projects (Selection)

2025-2029	Project Partner of the research project “The Relevance and Success of Co-Production in Local Governance (CO SUCCESS), financed by the Swiss National Science Foundation (volume: 615,676 CHF)
2022-2026	Principal Investigator of the research project “Digital Transformation at the Local Tier of Government in Europe: Dynamics and Effects from a Cross-Countries and Over-Time Comparative Perspective (DIGILOG)”, financed by the Swiss National Science Foundation (Lead Agency) and German Research Foundation (volume: 1.1 Mio. CHF, together with co-applicants Professor Sabine Kuhlmann and Isabella Proeller from University of Potsdam and Professor Renate Meyer from Vienna University of Economics and Business).
2016-2021	Co-applicant of the research project “Local Autonomy and Local Public Sector Reforms,” financed by the Swiss National Science Foundation (volume: 539,158 CHF).
2015-2017	Principal Investigator of the research project “Local Governance Performance and Reforms,” financed by the Swiss National Science Foundation (volume: 180,000 CHF).
2013-2017	Member of the Managing Committee of the EU COST initiative IS1207 “Local Public Sector Reforms: An International Comparison” and co-leader of the module “Territorial/Functional Re-Scaling”.
2009-2013	Co-applicant of the research project “Challenges to Local Governance”, financed by the Swiss National Science Foundation (volume: 497,239 CHF).

2009-2011	Member of the Managing Committee of the EU COST initiative IS6061 "Comparative Research into Current Trends in Public Sector Organization".
2003-2017	Project leader of the knowledge portal for the public sector www.sgww.ch , financed by the Swiss Society of Administrative Sciences.

Leadership Positions in Academic Committees and at Academic Journals (Selection)

since 2025	Vice President of the European Group for Public Administration (EGPA).
since 2024	Member of the International Advisory Board of the Faculty of Business Administration at Prague University of Economics and Business (Czech Republic) (Triple Accredited Faculty).
since 2023	Member of the International Advisory Board of School of Business, Woxsen University (India).
since 2022	Board of Governor of Beta Gamma Sigma (USA) (Honor Society for Graduates and Professors of Business Schools). Representative of European Universities.
since 2021	Member of the Committee "Academic Affairs" of swissuniversities.
2021-2022	Member of the Executive Committee of the European Academy of Management (EURAM).
since 2013	Full member for Switzerland of the Group of Independent Experts on the European Charter of Local Self-Government at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg (France).
since 2013	Member of the Scientific Boards of the PhD Program in "Public Management and Governance" at the University of Rome Tor Vergata (Italy).
since 2013	Member of the Advisory Board for the book series "Studies in Public and Non-Profit Governance" (Emerald).
since 2010	Member of the Advisory Board for the journal "Verwaltung & Management" (Nomos).
since 2007	Member of the Editorial Advisory Board of the International Journal of Public Sector Management (Emerald).
since 2007	Member of the Editorial Boards of the International Journal of Public Administration (Routledge).
2001-2019	Member of the Executive Committee of the Swiss Society for the Administrative Sciences (SSAS).
2013-2022	Member of the Council of Administration of the International Institute of Administrative Sciences in Brussels (umbrella organization of the Administrative Sciences). Member of the Finance Committee. Swiss representative nominated by Federal Chancellor.
2019	Member of the International Peer Review Committee for the evaluation of the American University of Beirut on behalf of AACSB.
2013-2018	Member of the Advisory Board for the Politforum Thun.
2014-2015	Vice president of the committee for the innovation prize "Excellence Publique 2015" (appointed by Federal Chancellor).

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| 2006-2012 | Treasurer and member of the board of the International Research Society for Public Management (IRSPM). |
| 2011 | Member of the International Peer Review Committee for the evaluation of the Netherlands Institute of Government. Dutch Research School for Public Administration and Political Science (Led by: Johan Olsen). |

Leadership Roles at Academic Conferences (Selection)

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| 2028 | Chair of the Organizing Committee of the 44th Annual Colloquium of the European Group for Organizational Studies (EGOS) in Winterthur-Zurich (Switzerland) (expected participation of 2900 scholars). |
| 2022 | Chairman of the European Academy of Management Conference (EURAM) 2022 in Winterthur-Zurich (Switzerland). |
| 2009-2022 | Member of the Board of the Special Interest Group "Public Management" at the European Academy of Management (EURAM). Program Chair of the annual conference in Valencia (2014). |
| 2019 | Chair of the PhD Summer School on Local Governance (LocRef) of the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) and the European Urban Research Association (EURA) at the ZHAW School of Management and Law in Winterthur-Zurich (Switzerland). |
| 2016 | President of the Organization Committee of the annual conference of the EU COST action "Local Public Sector Reforms: An International Comparison" at the University of Bern. |
| 2013 | Member of the Scientific Committee of the annual conference of the European Academy of Management (EURAM) in Istanbul on the topic of "Democratizing Management." |
| 2011 | Member of the Scientific Board for the annual conference of the International Research Society for Public Management (IRSPM) at Trinity College in Dublin, on the topic "Contradictions in Public Management. Managing in Volatile Times." |
| 2010 | President of the Organizing Committee for the annual conference of the International Research Society for Public Management (IRSPM) at the University of Bern on the topic "The Crisis: Challenges for Public Management." |
| 2006 | Member of the Scientific Board for the annual conference of the European Group of Public Administration (EGPA) at the University of Bocconi in Milan on the topic "Public Manager under pressure: between politics, professionalism and civil society." |
| 2005 | President of the Organizing Committee for the annual conference of the European Group of Public Administration (EGPA) at the University of Bern on the topic "Reforming the Public Sector: What about the Citizens?". Co-funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation. |

Honors

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| since 2018 | President of the Collegiate Chapter of Beta Gamma Sigma (Honor Society for Graduates and Professors of Business Schools). |
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2016	Offered position as Associate Professor at the Graduate School of Public Policy of Nazarbayev University in Astana, Kasachstan (declined).
2015	Listed among the most influential economists in Switzerland 2014-2015 (ranked 51 in the Neue Zürcher Zeitung / Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung rankings of September 5 th , 2015).
2015	Prize for the best paper in the field of Public and Nonprofit Management from the European Academy of Management.
2004	Recognition Award from the Swiss Society for Organization for dissertation.

Activities as Expert since 2007 (Selection)

2025	Artificial Intelligence at the Subnational tier of government in Europe (Mandated expert). Principal: Council of Europe.
2022	Emergency law in the State of Zurich (moderator). Principal: Parliament of the State of Zurich.
2019	Analysis of the Organization of the Notary in the State of Zurich (project leader). Principal: Managing Board of the Notary in the State of Zurich.
2019	Intermunicipal Co-operation in Vorarlberg (Austria) (project leader). Principal: Association of Municipalities in Vorarlberg.
2017	Future Role of Municipal Secretaries (project leader). Principal: Municipal Secretaries of South Tyrol (Italy).
2015	Leading expert for the election monitoring mission to the Ukraine. Principal: Council of Europe.
2015	Training course in capacity building and anti-corruption measures in Ukraine. Principal: Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs.
2014-2015	Expert opinion on the future of the Aarau region (project leader). Principal: the town of Aarau and ten other communities.
2014	Expert for the Introduction of the New Steering Model of the Federal Administration. Principal: Federal Finance Administration.
2014	Expert opinion on the opportunities for participation by the Parliament in inter-canton affairs (project leader). Commissioned by government of canton Uri.
2010-2011	Evaluation of the governance and performance of the Swiss Post, Swiss Railways, and Swisscom. Principal: Audit Commission of the National Parliament.
2009	Concept development for a strategic evaluation of public services in the Canton of Graubünden (project leader). Principal: Cantonal government of the Canton of Graubünden.
2007	Development of a new steering model for the Federal Administration (project leader). Principal: Swiss Federal Council.

Volunteer Work and Public Mandates

since 2023	President of the "Swiss Wildlife Institute" Foundation (since 2012: member of the board)
since 2016	President of the Reformed Church Congregation of Langenthal Yearly budget: 2.7 million CHF, 6500 members. Responsibilities: presiding over church council (executive), strategic leadership of church administration.
2007-2010	Member of the Parliament of Canton Bern Commissions: - Statute on the University - Municipal Merger Law – Report (President) - Report on the Task Division of Finance and the Equalization of Burdens - Municipal law - Human Resources Ordinance (change) - Statute on Family Allowance - Ordinance on the Organization of the Courts - Voting age 16 / E-Voting
2008-2010	President of the Parliamentary group “Pedagogical University”.
2001-2008	Member of the Audit Commission of the City of Langenthal (Switzerland). President: 2007-2008.
2001-2008	Member of the Langenthal City Parliament (Switzerland). President: 2005.