

# Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Sportpsychologie

in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland e.V.

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As president of the German Society of Sport Psychology it is my pleasure to say a few words about Dieter Hackfort and his extraordinary contributions to the development of Sport Psychology, both national and international.

Without a doubt Dieter is one of the most internationally well-known German scholars in Sport Psychology for more than 30 years. After finishing his studies and work as doctoral student and post-doc in Cologne in the department of his supervisor Juergen Nitsch, he already received his first (tenure) professorship at the University of Heidelberg, in Germany, which is now over 30 years ago. To the best of my knowledge Dieter is among the youngest German scholars in Sport Psychology to receive a regular (tenure) professorship. Possible even more impressive is the fact that he is probably the record holder, at least in Germany, with respect to the period of time between receiving his PhD in 1983, and receiving his Habilitation and *venia legendi* in 1984, only 1 year later, then a Guest professorship in 1985 (in Tampa, US) and the mentioned professorship in Heidelberg, 1986. Impressive.

In 1991 he moved to Munich, Germany, as he accepted a call for a Full Professorship in Sport Psychology and Sport Pedagogy at this very University, where he was the founding director. And from 2004 und 2010 he moved to the position of Dean at the Qatar-University in Doha and successfully established the ASPIRE program the Academy for Sports Excellence.

Dieter belongs to the (small) group of the most influential German Sport Psychologists over the last 30 years, with a large contribution to the rising development of the national German Sport and Exercise Psychology, along with a high and significant international visibility.

Firstly, this is obvious regarding his outstanding research output. Among his favourite research topics are the investigation of expertise, for example bringing action theory in con-

nection to Performance Psychology as well as to the Applied fields of top level sports. Among his great research output are among others some seminal editions, e.g. the one the Routledge Companion published in 2014 in collaboration with Athanasios Papaionnou. Furthermore, I can confess that I was flattered when Dieter asked me several weeks ago, together with Rob Schinke, to co-edit a really huge worldwide book project. Meanwhile we found a wonderful publisher in Elsevier and a few days ago started working on it and we will probably work on that the whole coming evening..... When I think about Dieter and our collaborations one day in specific crosses my mind, which has connected me with Dieter forever. Probably when I ask all of you where you were on the day of 9/11 and the terrible attack on the twin towers, each one of you can probably give an answer. My own answer is: I was with Dieter in his home here in Munich, when we were preparing a doctoral defense where we both served as supervisors and we watched the news all night long and discussed what happened, which brought us closer together as good friends.

Back to Dieter and his contributions to our field: Dieter has served the national and international sport psychology in many different formal roles over the last 30 years. The list is too long for my 5 minutes here. A few examples: He has served as long time member of the MC and the International Council for Sport Science and Physical Education: He has been president of the International Society of Sport Psychology, the ISSP and the German Society of Sport Psychology from 89-93, during these years he was confronted with bringing the Western and Eastern German Sport Psychology together as consequence of the fall of the German wall and the unification process in Germany. Dieter managed these very difficult negotiations very well.

Dieter received many awards in recognition of his great performances. Among them is the ISSP honor award, which he received in 2001. Today a new one will complete the list, because I am happy and proud to announce for the first time – as I am sure Dieter doesn't know that until now – that the Managing Council of the German Society of Sport Psychology has decided in September unanimously that Dieter Hackfort receives the honor award of the German Society, in German language “die Goldene Ehrennadel der asp” for his outstanding contributions to the development of the national and international Sport Psychology. Dieter: I am very proud to hand on the award along with the certificate today.

Professor Bernd Strauss, Munich, 18<sup>th</sup> November 2016