

Helmut Rainer Kussler

1. PERSONAL INFORMATION

Date of birth

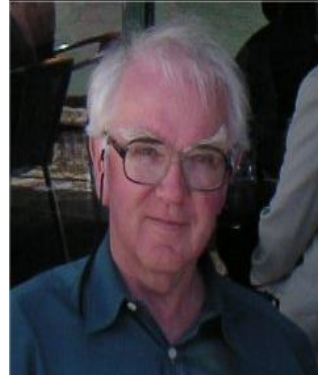
3 November 1943

Nationality

German (South African permanent resident)

Marital status

Married, one daughter



Position

Emeritus Professor of German
Department of Modern Foreign Languages [until 1997: Department of German], University of Stellenbosch / South Africa

Language Proficiency

German (mother tongue), Afrikaans and English (second languages); publications in all three languages

Computing Skills

Professional level in multimedia language learning courseware implementation and development

Contact information

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2. STUDY, TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT

Study

University of Stellenbosch, South Africa: 1963-1969:

- B.A. 1965 [Majors: German with distinction, Latin; Sub Majors: Afrikaans-Dutch, English, History]
- Hons.-B.A. in German *cum laude* (grade: 100%): 1966

- M.A. in German *cum laude* (grade: 100%): 1967

TITLE OF THESIS:

Konzeption und Gestaltung des Abschieds in der modernen deutschen Lyrik.
Untersuchungen zu Gedichten von Nietzsche, Rilke, Benn und Ingeborg
Bachmann

- Doctor Litterarum (D.Litt.) in German: 1969

(Doctoral dissertations are not graded at Stellenbosch University)

TITLE OF DISSERTATION:

Das Abschiedsmotiv in der deutschen Lyrik des 20. Jahrhunderts

Post-doctoral Study and Training

Full time study at the University of Hamburg (two terms: 1971/72)

COURSES COMPLETED (certified):

Einführung in das Studium der deutschen Literatur (Prof. Dr. Gunther Martens)

Lyrik der DDR (Dr. Paul Kersten)

Formen der uneigentlichen Rede (Dr. Werner Eggers)

Deutsche Literatur 1895-1910 (Dr. Werner Eggers)

Lyrik des 17. Jahrhunderts (Dr. Carl-Alfred Zell)

Das Lehrgedicht (Dr. Carl-Alfred Zell)

Training in suggestopedic language instruction:

1983: One-week workshop, Iowa State University/USA
(Dr. Lynn Dhority, Boston University)

1984: Intensive course of three weeks, Institute for Language Teaching,
University of Stellenbosch
(Dr. Charles Schmid, LIND-Institute, San Francisco CA/USA)

Training in computer assisted language instruction:

1985: One-week intensive course, University of Natal, Pietermaritzburg
(Dr. Graham Davies, Ealing College, London)

Training in conducting the examinations of the Goethe Institute:

1992: One week seminar "Testen und Prüfen", University of Stellenbosch
(Mr. Michael Clemens, GI Head Office, München)

Training in *WinCalis* programming:

1996: One-week intensive course, Duke University, Durham NC/USA
(Dr. Richard Kunst, Humanities Computing Facility)

Training in website design and writing HTML:

1997: One-week intensive course, St. Olaf College, Northfield MN/USA
(Prof. Dr. Keith Anderson)

Employment History

DEUTSCHE HÖHERE PRIVATSCHULE, Windhoek/Namibia:

Teacher in German, Afrikaans and History: 1967-1968

UNIVERSITY OF STELLENBOSCH, German Department:

Lecturer: 1969-1970

Senior Lecturer: 1971-1972

Professor of German and Head, German Department: 1973-1997

Professor of German and Head, Department of Modern Foreign Languages: 1998-2001

- Seconded to University of Kassel as DAAD-Comenius Professor in German as a Foreign Language: 1.4.2002-31.3.2004

3. DISTINCTIONS, STIPENDIA AND GRANTS RECEIVED

Distinctions

Croll-Stipendium, Stellenbosch University: 1968 (best MA candidate 1966-1968)

DAAD-Comenius Chair in German as a Foreign Language, University of Kassel (1.4.2002-31.3.2004)

Festschrift: Annas, Rolf ed. (2004): *Deutsch als Herausforderung. Fremdsprachenunterricht und Literatur in Forschung und Lehre. Festschrift für Rainer Kussler*. Stellenbosch: Sun Press.

Honorary Member, Association for German Studies in Southern Africa (2005)

Stipendia

DAAD [German Academic Exchange Service]: Bursary for full-time study in Germany (1971-1972)

DAAD Research bursaries (1978, 1989 and 1994)

DAAD Conference bursaries: IVG Conferences [International Society for German Studies] in Tokyo (1990) and Vancouver (1995)

Grants received

Numerous smaller research and travel grants

Innovation Grant (R300,000) to develop and implement MPhil Programme in Hypermedia for Language Learning (1996)

4. PROFILE

Main Areas of Interest

DISCIPLINE: INTERCULTURAL GERMAN STUDIES / GERMAN AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE [Deutsch als Fremdphilologie, Interkulturelle Germanistik, Deutsch als Fremdsprache]

- Computer Assisted Language Learning (CALL)
- Curriculum development, course and courseware development, innovative approaches to foreign language instruction (Suggestopedia)
- Area Studies [Landeskunde] regarding the German speaking countries
- History of German Studies and German as a Foreign Language in Southern Africa and internationally
- Empirical Reception Analysis
- German Colonial Literature, German Literature on Africa, especially on South Africa and Namibia
- Modern German Poetry

Teaching Experience

SECONDARY SCHOOL:

German (1st language), Afrikaans (2nd language), History

UNIVERSITY:

- **Intercultural German Studies:** Introduction to Intercultural German Studies; German Literary History and Literature from the 18th to the 20th Century; Literary Theory; Thematic Literature Study; Area Studies [Landeskunde]; Reception Theory and Empirical Reception Analysis; (History of) German Studies in Southern Africa (in international context)
- **German as a Foreign Language** (undergraduate): Language instruction from beginners' to advanced levels
- **German as a Foreign Language** (postgraduate): Teacher Training: Didactics of German as a Foreign Language and Literature; Using the computer in foreign language instruction (text processing and presentation software; authoring systems and tools for creating exercises and tests)
- **Hypermedia for Language Learning** (postgraduate): Concepts and principles of Computer Assisted Language Learning (CALL) and Computer Assisted Language Instruction (CALI); Language Courseware / Website Design, Development, Delivery and Evaluation
- **Postgraduate Supervision** [v. ADDENDUM A]
D.Litt. [Stellenbosch]: 5; Dr.Phil. [Kassel]: 4
M.A. and M.Phil. [Stellenbosch]: 33; Master [Kassel]: 5

COMMUNITY SERVICE:

- Presenter (on invitation) at and / or (Co-)Organiser of numerous in-servi-

ce teacher training courses by education departments in Southern Africa (Cape Education Department, Natal Education Department, Namibian Education Department)

- Presenter at and / or (Co-)Organiser of various extramural training courses on suggestopedic language instruction
- Consultant, Languages International (a private language school), Cape Town (1988)
- Foreign language consultant, South African Airways (1983-1986)
- Foreign language consultant, Gold Fields Training Services (1986-1987)

Publications [v. ADDENDUM B]

Books and Published Software: 10

Articles in Journals, Proceedings etc., Chapters in Books: 59

Reviews and Reports: 20

Unpublished Courseware: 2

Conferences attended and Papers read [v. ADDENDUM C]

Conferences attended: 66, Papers read: 62

Departmental Curriculum, Programme and Course Development

1981: Radical transformation of German Department at Stellenbosch University from conventional "Germanistik" to "Deutsch als Fremdsprache", introducing competence in intercultural communication as the global goal, following a learner centered approach, broadening the concept of "literature" to include pragmatic types of text, and studying literature thematically and in reverse chronological order [after years of extensive preparatory empirical text reception research amongst our students]

1984: Introduction of a German beginners' course according to the principles of Suggestopedia, including, from 1985, an integrated computer module of one lesson per week [both the suggestopedic course and the computer module were developed in the Department under my supervision and with my active involvement]

1990: Introduction of "HyperDeutsch", an elaborate hypertext information system on 20th century German literature and culture, to facilitate students' preparation of texts for discussion in class [programme developed by myself]

1992: The Department becomes the Goethe Institute examination centre for the Western Cape region and introduces special intensive courses to prepare candidates for the examinations "Zertifikat Deutsch als

Fremdsprache” [later “Zertifikat Deutsch”] and “Deutsch Mittelstufenprüfung”. The success rate over the years has been nearly 100%.

1995: Introduction of “Landeskunde PC”, a hypertext information system on area studies of the German speaking countries (“Landeskunde”) [published by INTER NATIONES in 1997; a revised and greatly enhanced version was transferred into a website and published by Goethe Institute Inter Nationes in 2000; both versions designed and developed mainly by myself]

1997: Introduction of MPhil programme in Technology Enhanced Language Learning (TELL), later renamed: Hypermedia for Language Learning (HyLL). A **distance option** is added in 1998 [programme devised, developed and offered mainly by myself until 2002]

1998: The amalgamation of the formerly independent French and German departments and the incorporation of Mandarin in a new Department of Modern Foreign Languages necessitate a change in direction to a more pragmatic and service-oriented approach. The teaching programmes undergo a fundamental revision.

Membership of Professional Organisations

- Association for German Studies in Southern Africa (SAGV): 1973-
- Gesellschaft für interkulturelle Germanistik (GIG): 1984-2004
- Internationale Vereinigung für germanische Sprach- und Literaturwissenschaft (IVG): 1975-2004
- South African Association for Language Teaching (SAALT): 1984-2004
- South African Applied Linguistics Association (SAALA): 1993-2004
- Deutsche Pädagogische Vereinigung im Südlichen Afrika (previously Deutscher Lehrerverein): 1969-2004
- EuroCALL: 1994-2004
- Computer Assisted Language Instruction Consortium (Calico): 1996-2004
- Association for the Advancement of Computers in Education (AACE): 1997-2000
- Educational Technology and eLearning for Development (Santec): 2003-2004

Offices held in Professional Organisations

- Association for German Studies in Southern Africa (SAGV)
 - Executive member (1975-1985, 1993-2001)
 - Vice president (1977-1983; 1993-1997)
 - President (1983-1985; 1997-2001)
 - Webmaster (2005-2009)

- Institute for Language Teaching, University of Stellenbosch [INTUS]
 - Project leader, “German for South African Airways” (1983-1986)
- South African Association for Language Teaching
 - Vice-Chairman (1990-1992)

Membership of editorial Boards

- *ACTA GERMANICA. Jahrbuch des Germanistenverbands im Südlichen Afrika* (Editor: 1975-1977, Co-editor: 1977-1984)
- *CALL Journal* (2003-2004)
- *Deutschunterricht im Südlichen Afrika* (Editor: 1975, Co-editor: 1981-1984)
- *PER LINGUAM. Journal of Language Learning* (1993-)
- *CALICO JOURNAL* (referee: 2005-)

External Examiner etc.

University of South Africa (German 1 - 3), Selection Committee: Professorship in German (1984-1985)

University of the North (German 3 & Honours)

University of the Western Cape (German 3 & Honours)

University of Cape Town (M.A., Assessor Ph.D. Board)

University of Natal (German 1 - 3)

University of Port Elizabeth (German 3 & Honours)

University of Namibia (all courses)

University of Kassel (Master's and doctoral programmes)

External Evaluator

University of the Orange Free State: German Department

University of Port Elizabeth: Department of German and French

Membership of professional Committees

- Cape Education Department
 - Departmental Study Committee: German (1973-1989)
 - Committee for Prescribed Books: German (1973-1989)
- Department of Education and Culture
 - Departmental Study Committee: German (1984-1988)
 - Committee for Prescribed Books: German (1984-1988)
- Department of National Education

Research Committee on "The position of French and German in South Africa" (1990-1992; Report published)

- Human Sciences Research Council of South Africa
Commission "An Investigation into Education: Languages and Language Teaching" [author of article on aims of teaching German as a Foreign Language in South Africa]

International Relations

Close relations with the two main German mediating organisations, the German Academic Exchange Service [DAAD] and Goethe Institute - Inter Nations, were developed and maintained.

Among the many international visitors to the Departments of German / Modern Foreign Languages were the following distinguished colleagues [in alphabetical order]:

- Prof. Dr. Horst Arndt [University of Cologne / Germany]
- Prof. Dr. Richard W. Janney [University of Cologne, presently University of München / Germany]
- Dr Bernd Kast [Stichting Opleiding Leraren, Utrecht / Holland, later Goethe-Institute, München / Germany]
- Prof. Dr. Frank Königs [University of Marburg / Germany]
- Prof. Dr. Willy Michel [University of Freiburg / Germany]
- Prof. Dr. Gerhard Neuner [University of Kassel / Germany]
- Prof. Dr. Amadou Booker Sadjji [University of Dakar, Senegal]
- Prof. Dr. David Simo [University of Yaounde / Cameroon]
- Prof. Dr. Karlheinz Stocker [University of München / Germany]
- Prof. Dr. Alois Wierlacher [University of Heidelberg, later University of Bayreuth / Germany]

Conference Organisation

- Cape Education Department, Teacher training course, Stellenbosch University (1973)
- 6th Conference of the SAGV, Stellenbosch (1977)
- 10th Conference of the SAGV, Bellville (1985)
- Goethe-Institute, Training course "Testen und Prüfen", University of Stellenbosch (1992)
- Goethe-Institute, Training course "Fremdsprachenlernen und -lehren: online und autonom", University of Stellenbosch (2001)
- *WorldCALL 2003*, Banff / Canada (2003)

Academic Administration

MEMBER OF i.a. THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES:

- Arts Faculty Executive Committee
- Senate Language Laboratory Committee (i.a. as chairman)
- Management Committee, Institute for Language Teaching (i.a. as chairman)
- Advisory Committee: Computer Based Education
- Arts Faculty Structural Planning Committee
- Various sub-committees of the Senate Staffing Committee
- Senate Sub-Committee on Computer Needs of University
- Sub-committee on mandatory language for B.A.
- Management Committee of the Center for Electronic Services (SED)
- Commission of Inquiry into the Institute for Language Teaching (INTUS)
- Senate sub-committee on Implementation of New Teaching Policy (affirmative action, academic support etc.)
- Senate Advisory Board on Computer Based Instruction
- Faculty Programme Development Committee
- Faculty Committee on Academic Programme Offering

Assessment of Personal Academic Achievement

DURING THE YEARLY ASSESSMENTS (HEADS ARE EVALUATED BY THE DEAN) WHICH PERTAIN TO THE AREAS OF TEACHING, RESEARCH, SERVICE AND MANAGEMENT, I ALWAYS MADE THE HIGHEST CATEGORY (M+, i.e. between 8-9 points out of 9)

External Evaluation of own Departments

THE DEPARTMENT OF GERMAN WAS EVALUATED IN 1994 (result: outstanding) AND THE DEPARTMENT OF MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES IN 2001 (result: very good). THE EXTERNAL EVALUATORS WERE:

- **German Department** (1994): Prof. Dr. David Simo, German Department, University of Yaounde / Cameroon & Prof. Dr. Klaus von Delft, German Department, University of the Orange Free State, Bloemfontein / South Africa
- **Department of Modern Foreign Languages** (2001): Prof. Dr. Frank G. Königs, Information Centre for Research into Foreign Languages, University of Marburg / Germany & Prof. Klaus von Delft, German Department, University of the Orange Free State, Bloemfontein / South Africa