

## CURRICULUM AND BIBLIOGRAPHY updated October 20, 2010

### Curriculum Vitae Klaus Ammann, abstract

Born December 6, 1940 in Bern, he finished studies in botany with a thesis on the history of vegetation and glaciers in the Alps with summa cum laude in 1972 at the University of Bern.

In his years as an assistant in Bern he participated in creating the Swiss Atlas of Plant Distribution, established the first research group in lichenology in Switzerland (dealing with lichen chemosystematics and bio-monitoring air pollution). He lectured in plant biodiversity and vegetation ecology and became director of the Bern botanic garden in 1996 and professor honoris causa in 2000. His sabbatical stays included the University of Bergen, Norway, Duke University in North Carolina, University of West Indies in Jamaica and Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis.

As an emeritus since 2006 he accepted invitations as a guest professor at the Delft University of Technology and at the Sabanci University in Istanbul. For many years he moderated the 'Berne Debates', an early blog on plant biotechnology, which he turned into the web-based activities of the ASK-FORCE placed on the websites of the European Federation of Biotechnology and the Public Research and Regulation Initiative. He served in numerous committees: Chair European expert committee on plant conservation, Council of Europe, founding member of steering committee Planta Europa, Biosafety Committee of the Government of Switzerland, board of directors of Africa Harvest, chair expert group on biodiversity of European Federation of Biotechnology. He was leader of several Swiss and European research projects on gene flow, plant conservation, lichen chemosystematics and monitoring air pollution. His publications embrace biogeography, vegetation history, vegetation ecology, plant systematics, gene flow of crops and their wild relatives and agricultural biodiversity. He also has a special interest in pythagorean harmonics science and holistic questions in evolution.

**The scientific credo:** It is his intention to encourage the learning process leading to solutions of today's crucial problems such as protection of biodiversity, risk-benefit assessment of genetically engineered crops and the public debate about biotechnology. All this should serve to enhance the dialogue between the rich and the poor, hunger being the foremost problem on this planet. Ultimately, risk is the balance between hazard and opportunity. If scientists want to be heard with factual arguments, they must admit that the world cannot be explained exclusively by facts, since the questions about problems and opportunities connected to scientific progress have social and cultural components and are thus extremely complex. Debates on such complex issues need to have a discursive structure taking into account the *symmetry of ignorance* or the *asymmetry of knowledge*.

Klaus Ammann and Biljana Papazov Ammann: <http://www.ask-force.org/web/Wiley/Factors-Discourse-Wiley.pdf>

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### Adresses, Telefon No.

Prof. em. Klaus Ammann, University of Bern

Tel. SkypeIn: from outside CH: +41 33 543 91 52, inside CH: 033 534 91 52, Skype address: klausboga, mobile +41 79 429 70 62

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZK0dxVFafC4>

Permanent: Rue de Monruz 20, CH – 2000 NEUCHATEL, Switzerland Tel. fixline +41 32 721 40 83

[klaus.ammann@ips.unibe.ch](mailto:klaus.ammann@ips.unibe.ch)

Dr. Biljana Papazov Ammann, Philosopher,

fix +41 32 721 40 69, mobile +41 79 652 21 86 [papazov@sunrise.ch](mailto:papazov@sunrise.ch)

and Sophie Ammann, Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama and Innovation,

Liberty House, GB - G1 1EB, Glasgow, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Nfk9OQHlbi> and

Rue de Monruz 22, CH – 2000 NEUCHATEL, Switzerland

Dr. med. Gabrielle Ammann Bouzas, Kiko und Elena Skye, Steigerweg 24, 3006 Bern,

### Portraits

<http://www.ask-force.org/web/Curriculum/Klausportr-600.jpg> Foto Harry Walter

<http://www.ask-force.org/web/Curriculum/Klaus-Portrait-Vat.2009.jpg> Foto Anatole Krattiger

### Studies, Positions

Born December 6, 1940

Studies at University of Berne: Thesis on Vegetation History 1972, summa cum laude Prof. Dr. Max Welten

Studies at Bergen Norway, Prof. Dr. Knut Faegri, 1966,

Duke University NC USA, Drs. Bill and Chichita Culberson 1975

and Kingston, Jamaica W.I. 1992,

Lecturer University of Bern Dept. of Cryptogamic Botany (Lichens and Mosses) 1976 - 2006

Director Botanic Garden, University of Berne 1996 - 2006

Prof.hon. University of Berne 2000

Sabbatical Missouri Botanical Garden, Prof. Dr. Peter Raven 2003

Retirement from Bern University and Botanic Garden: February 28, 2006

Guest Prof. Delft University of Technology 2006-2008 Engineering and Ethics, Communication, Biosafety

Guest Prof. at Sabanci University Istanbul February to June 15, 2009

### Teaching

- Lecturing in Plant Systematics and Evolution, Biogeography University of Bern  
a summary link to many of the biodiversity lecture, loads of slides for teachers  
<http://www.ask-force.org/web/Curriculum/Lectures-Klaus-Ammann-Univ-Bern-2005-6.pdf>
- Lectures on Air Pollution Biomonitoring at the Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich
- Numerous lectures in national and international conferences on biodiversity and biotechnology  
<http://www.google.ch/search?hl=en&q=Klaus+Ammann+conference&meta=>  
recent lectures see bibliography on audio-video contributions
- UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organization): Member of Teaching faculty Global Initiative on Education in biotechnology  
<http://binas.unido.org/binas/> 2002-2005
- Science and the Courts: Occasional participation in teaching <http://www.sehn.org/index.html>
- Ethics and Engineering at Delft University of Technology 2006 – 2008
- Delft Botanic Garden, Netherlands: 2nd World Scientific Congress Challenges in Botanical Research and Climate Change: 29 June to 4 July 2008 <http://botanicalresearch2008.bt.tudelft.nl/>
- Ecology and Biodiversity and Biosafety of Transgenic Crops at the Sabanci University Istanbul 2009  
see the full collection of lectures in Bibliography Audio-Video below

### Committees, among others

- Chair European expert committee on plant conservation, Council of Europe 1998-2004
- Chair Swiss committee for cryptogamic botany in Swiss academy of science 1990-2000
- Member of steering committee Planta Europa – 2002-2006
- Biosafety Committee of the Government of Switzerland 1995-2007,  
[http://www.umwelt-schweiz.ch/buwal/de/fachgebiete/fg\\_efbs/index.html](http://www.umwelt-schweiz.ch/buwal/de/fachgebiete/fg_efbs/index.html)
- Chairman of Section Biodiversity of European Federation of Biotechnology 2004 -  
[http://www.efb-central.org/index.php/Main/section\\_on\\_biodiversity](http://www.efb-central.org/index.php/Main/section_on_biodiversity)
- Editorial Board (Ecology) of Environmental Biosafety Research, <http://www.edpsciences.org/ebr/> 2001-2010
- Board of Directors Gensuisse <http://www.gensuisse.ch/> 2000-
- Advisory Board Internutrition <http://www.internutrition.ch/internutrition/who/advisory.html> 2000-
- Member Board of Directors Africa Harvest [www.ahbf.org](http://www.ahbf.org) 2004-2006
- Member Advisory Board African Technology Development Forum ATDF, <http://www.atdforum.org/>
- Member of Steering committee PRRI [www.pubresreg.org](http://www.pubresreg.org) 2005 -
- Member of Scientific Committee 2nd World Scientific Congress Challenges in Botanical Research and Climate Change Delft, Netherlands, 29 June - 4 July 2008 <http://botanicalresearch2008.bt.tudelft.nl/>
- Harmonics Network, Chairman international section, <http://harmonik-netzwerk.org/> 2009 -
- Editor Journal New Biotechnology, Elsevier Co. Amsterdam 2010 -
- Guest Editor Journal of New Biotechnology: Vatican conference on GM crops and developing countries May 2009, online publication 2010  
abstracts: [http://www.ask-force.org/web/Vatican/PAS-Study-Week-booklet\\_transgenic\\_34.pdf](http://www.ask-force.org/web/Vatican/PAS-Study-Week-booklet_transgenic_34.pdf) and 2010 Nov. 30
- Black Sea Biotechnology Association, Board of Trustees, [http://www.bsba.ag/BSBA/Home\\_en.html](http://www.bsba.ag/BSBA/Home_en.html) 2010 -

### Research Projects

Closed: Collaboration Atlas of the Swiss Flora, Chemotaxonomy of Macro-Lichens, Calibrated biomonitoring of Air Pollution with Lichens, Ecological Monitoring SANW, Ethnobotany in Jamaica, Ecological Monitoring in Bulgaria.

Ecological Risk Assessment of Vertical Gene Flow in Switzerland, <http://www.bats.ch/>

### 5 EU-Projects on Gene Flow and Plant Conservation of Europe

1. Safety Assessment of the Release of Transgenic Crops: Spread of Herbicide-resistance Genes from Wheat and Foxtail Millet to Weedy Species. In collaboration with INRA Dijon, France, closed 2002.  
[http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/infocentre/export/01-09-agr03d\\_35.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/infocentre/export/01-09-agr03d_35.html)
2. Euro+Med, coordinator work packages Atlas Florae Europaeae Helsinki, Finland, Caryological Data Base Patras, Greece, European Red List and Website on Popularized Flora Europaea Contents, Botanic Garden, University of Berne, a joint venture with IUCN SSC Group European Plants, Planta Europa and the Council of Europe. <http://www.s2you.com/euomed/> closed 2003
3. SIGMEA, Gene Flow of Maize in Europe, in collaboration with the Federal School of Technology, Zurich Switzerland,  
<http://sigmea.dyndns.org/> started 2004, closed by January of 2008, draft final report: <http://www.ask-force.org/web/SIGMEA/SIGMEA-Bern-Final-Report-20090831.pdf>
4. Science 4 BioReg, TU Delft contract code Contract number TNW 06.158, Contract number EC 43012, FOOD-CT-2006-43012 Project "Science 4 BioReg", [www.pubresreg.org](http://www.pubresreg.org)
5. Database on Invasive Plant Species with Herbarium Solothurn incorporated in Herbarium Bernense:  
<http://www.ask-force.org/web/Herb-Solothurn/Jutzi-Schlussbericht-Solothurner-Herbarien-2008.pdf>
6. ASK-FORCE moderation within Public Research and Regulation Initiative PRRI 2006 -  
[http://pubresreg.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=blogcategory&id=70&Itemid=71](http://pubresreg.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogcategory&id=70&Itemid=71)
7. ASK-FORCE moderation European Federation of Biotechnology <http://www.efb-central.org/index.php/forums/viewforum/26/>
8. ABC Database IFPRI-PRRI, Overview public research activities world wide <http://ifpri.catalog.cgiar.org/abc/index.htm>

**2006-2008:** Projects in development on Micro-Biomimetics and Biofuels in collaboration with Drs. Bob Ursem, Director Botanic Garden in Delft, see his article: <http://www.bgci.org/cultivate/article/0399/>

### Website Activities

- Website of the Botanic Garden in Bern: First edition 2005-2006 in collaboration with partners from Fruitcake:

- <http://www.botanischergarten.ch/web/boga/home.html>
- Berne Debates: Closed mid 2005, selected links are shown on <http://www.efb-central.org/Biodiversity/berndebates.html>
- Report on the Impact of Biotechnology on Biodiversity, occasionally updated, (see publication in Trends of Biotechnology, cited in Bibliography) <http://www.ask-force.org/web/Biotech-Biodiv/Report-Biodiv-Biotech12.pdf>
- Podcast on Monsanto website:  
Press release: <http://prweb.com/releases/2006/3/prweb364229.htm>  
Podcast: <http://www.monsanto.com/biotech-gmo/index.htm> and <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZKOdxVFafC4>
- Podcast Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Biovision 2004: Poverty Alleviation and Biotechnology: <http://www.ask-force.org/web/Alexandria/Biovision-Alexandria-2006-Panel-B-2.wmv>
- Contributing member of the Faculty of 1000 2006-2009  
<http://www.facultyof1000.com/>  
and <http://www.ask-force.org/web/Facultyof1000/Evaluations-F1000-20070214.pdf>
- Website of EFB, European Federation of Biotechnology, Section Biodiversity  
<http://www.efb-central.org/Biodiversity/homepage.htm>
- Moderator ASK-FORCE <http://www.efb-central.org/index.php/forums/>
- Moderator ASK-FORCE <http://pubresreg.org/>
- Summary ASK-FORCE February 2010: <http://www.ask-force.org/web/ASK-FORCE-Summary/ASK-FORCE-Summary.pdf>
- Website PRRI: [www.pubresreg.org](http://www.pubresreg.org) see pages on public research, ABC-Database and ASK-FORCE
- Important website: [www.hanskayser.com](http://www.hanskayser.com) on the harmonics of the world,  
see also <http://harmonik-netzwerk.org/> and [http://www.hans-henny-jahnn.de/Mitteilungen\\_Kayser.html](http://www.hans-henny-jahnn.de/Mitteilungen_Kayser.html)  
[www.syntropia.de](http://www.syntropia.de)
- **All the links and documents to be loaded down with the old link [www.botanischergarten.ch](http://www.botanischergarten.ch) have been migrated until July 14, 2010 to the new domain [www.ask-force.org/web/](http://www.ask-force.org/web/) , the old links are all automatically redirected to the new domain when you click them, wherever you find them on the internet.**

## Bibliography updated 20. October 2010

Publications, Books, Book Chapters, Conference Abstracts, News, Interviews, Reports

<http://www.ask-force.org/web/Bibliography-new/Bibliography-KAmmann-Publ-Books-Bookchapt-20101020.pdf>

Slideshows, Audio, Video

<http://www.ask-force.org/web/Bibliography-new/Bibliography-KAmmann-Slideshows-Audio-Video-20101020.pdf>

## My Scientific Credo and final remarks

It is my intention to encourage the learning process leading to solutions of today's crucial problems such as protection of biodiversity, risk-benefit assessment of genetically engineered crops and the public debate about biotechnology. All this should serve to enhance the dialogue between the rich and the poor, hunger being the foremost problem on this planet. Ultimately, risk is the balance between hazard and opportunity. If scientists want to be heard with factual arguments, they must admit that the world cannot be explained exclusively by facts, since the questions about problems and opportunities connected to scientific progress have social and cultural components and are thus extremely complex. Debates on such complex issues need to have a discursive structure taking into account the *symmetry of ignorance* or the *asymmetry of knowledge*.

<http://www.ask-force.org/web/Wiley/Factors-Discourse-Wiley.pdf>

Please join the initiative to enforce active participation of public science in the Cartagena negotiations, an initiative under the name Public Research and Regulation Initiative, PRRI: <http://pubresreg.org/>

See also the Wiki on my person [http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Klaus\\_Ammann\\_\(Botaniker\)](http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Klaus_Ammann_(Botaniker)) which is written independently by others, needs now some updating, it's in German.

And lastly, a rather biased view of spin-watch, needs some corrections, because it leaves out lots of important details, in order to produce a one-sided picture, so – *actually it is spin by itself*, but basically (except a few details) accurate in what they have selected – compare yourself:

[http://www.spinprofiles.org/index.php/Klaus\\_Ammann](http://www.spinprofiles.org/index.php/Klaus_Ammann) AND [http://www.powerbase.info/index.php?title=Klaus\\_Ammann](http://www.powerbase.info/index.php?title=Klaus_Ammann)

It is actually classic spin itself – especially if you consider how easy it is to read my detailed full curriculum above, which is given as a link to all my emails distributed with all sending to friends and foes in order to produce full transparency. It's the old fashioned and cheap tactics of activists to vilify unwelcome opinions of people like me with the false message, that I am closely working with biotech industry and getting a lot of bribery money from it, which is untruthful: I have earned my whole life a first very small and later modest salary as a first assistant of the University of Bern, subsequently getting the title of a honorary professor without any salary improvement. This sums up to the fact that in total I received from private side less than 0.1 % of support. And anyway, people from the industry have often a very precise knowledge on the matter, specifically biosafety, and many of them I am proud to call my friends, and for the sake of a balanced science view its good to work with all partners available.

See also all other honourable members of the club of MYTHMAKERS: <http://www.gmwatch.org/myth-makers>

All members of this club have deserved and received the following medal

<http://www.ask-force.org/web/Caroons/GM-Watch-Medal.pdf> <http://www.ask-force.org/web/Caroons/GM-Watch-Medal.ppt>