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Biosketch
Rainer K. Silbereisen

Rainer K. Silbereisen is currently Research Professor of Developmental Psychology at the University of Jena (Germany), and Director of the Center for Applied Developmental Science (CADS). He was Chair of the Department of Developmental Psychology and Dean of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences at this university, and Adjunct Professor of Human Development and Family Studies at the Pennsylvania State University (USA). Prior to his current duties he held faculty positions as Full Professor and Dean at the Technical University of Berlin and the University of Giessen (Germany), and was Full Professor at the Pennsylvania State University. He was Chair of the Board of a large government-funded, non-profit company offering infrastructural services for the social sciences in Germany (Gesis). He is member of the Board of Governors of the University of Haifa (Israel), and was for 6 years on the Jury for the Klaus J. Jacobs Research Grant. His publication list entails more than 20 edited books and about 300 scholarly papers.

The main research interests concern human development across the life-span, particularly adolescence and adulthood. The theoretical framework focuses on dynamic interactionism, stressing the combined role of biological, psychological, and socio-cultural determinants of human development. For many years, longitudinal studies have been conducted on substantive topics such as problem behaviors in adolescence, effects of early adversities on the timing of psychosocial transitions, the impact of social change on development, acculturation among immigrants, psychological dimensions of entrepreneurship, and biobehavioral aspects of adolescent development. Many of these studies were designed in an explicit cross-national and cross-cultural format, and consequently he has been enjoying many international collaborations. The application for prevention of maladjustment and promotion of positive development is part of the research program, including its relevance for social policies. The recent research program has been dominated by large-scale cross-sectional and longitudinal studies on the comparison of adolescent and adult development before and after political unification in Germany and similar political and economic transformations in other countries. A large range of psychosocial consequences are research targets, from changes in life-course transitions to mental health and civic engagement, including resilience and other sources of interindividual differences.

His research has been funded continuously by numerous national and international foundations (e. g., German National Science Foundation DFG, W. T. Grant Foundation, Jacobs Foundation), many state and federal governmental funding agencies, and private companies. He is a member of a large-scale research consortium (SFB 580, funded by DFG) on the social and political transformations in Germany, and also chairs a large international research network on acculturation of immigrants, funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, with research sites in Germany and Israel.

The strong commitment to the dissemination of developmental science to international bodies, and in particular the devotion to the promotion of young scientists around the globe, is manifested in various activities. With the support of the Jacobs Foundation, for more than a decade he was active in providing research grants to young scholars in Third World and Eastern European countries. He is also Co-Director of the Interdisciplinary Graduate School on Human Behaviour in Social and Economic Change (GSBC), and of the International Post-doctoral Fellowship Program on Productive Youth Development (PATHWAYS), and is engaged in various mentoring programs for young women scientists. With grants from foundations (German Academic Exchange Service, DAAD) and from international science organizations (International Council for Science, ICSU), he has established a series of capacity building programs on psychological research and application for young scientists and professionals, targeting economically challenged countries in Eastern Europe, Central Asia, and the Asia-Pacific region, with a special emphasis on human-made and natural disasters.

He is the Editor of the International Journal of Psychology, and was Editor of the European Psychologists and Associate Editor of the American Psychologist, and was Editor of the International Journal of Behavioral Development, and Co-Editor of Developmental Psychopathology. He was for many years Co-Chair of the Review Board for psychology of the German National Science Foundation, and has been involved in regular review and consulting activities for numerous scientific journals, foundations, and government bodies in Europe and worldwide. He chaired evaluation committees for academic programs in university systems of various countries.

He was President of the International Society for the Study of Behavioural Development (ISSBD), the German Psychological Society (DGPs) and the Federation of German Psychological Associations, and was Member of the Executive Council of the European Federation of Psychologists Associations (EFPA). In addition, he held officer and committee positions at various international learned societies (eg, Society for Research on Adolescence SRA, Society for Research in Child Development SRCD). Until recently he was President of the International Union of Psychological Science (IUPsyS), the umbrella organization of about 90 national psychological associations around the globe. His scientific work was honored by membership of the European Academy of Sciences (Academia Europaea, London), and of the Akademie gemeinnütziger Wissenschaften, Erfurt (Germany). For sustained outstanding contribution to the science of psychology, he was elected Fellow of the Association for Psychological Science (APS), the American Psychological Association (APA), and the ISSBD. He received the Franz-Emanuel-Weinert Award of the DGPs, the Distinguished Scientific Award for the Applications of Behavioural Development Theory and Research of ISSBD, the Lifetime Award of the European Association for Research on Adolescence (EARA), and the Mentoring Award of the DGPs Developmental Division.