

## ***CV: Ortwin Renn***

Prof. Ortwin Renn is a social scientist focusing on risk governance. He retired as scientific director at the *International Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies* (IASS) in Potsdam (Germany) in December 2022 and serves as a professor emeritus for environmental sociology and technology assessment at the University of Stuttgart. He directs the non-profit company *DIALOGIK*, a research institute for the investigation of communication and participation processes. Renn is *Adjunct Professor for "Integrated Risk Analysis"* at Stavanger University (Norway), *Honorary Professor* at the Technical University Munich and *Affiliate Professor* for "Risk Governance" at Beijing Normal University. His research interests include risk governance (analysis, perception, communication), stakeholder and public involvement in environmental decision making, transformation processes in economics, politics and society and sustainable development.

Ortwin Renn has a doctoral degree in social psychology from the University of Cologne. His career includes teaching and research positions at Clark University (Worcester, USA), the Swiss Institute of Technology (Zuerich) and the Center of Technology Assessment (Stuttgart). His honours include the National Cross of Merit Order, honorary doctorates from the Swiss Institute of Technology and the Midsweden University, the "Outstanding Research Award" of the Society for Integrated Disaster and Risk Management (IDRiM) and the "Distinguished Achievement Award" of the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA). In 2019, he was awarded the Order of Merit from the State of Baden-Württemberg for special achievements in scientific policy advice.

Renn is a member of the German National Academy of Sciences "Leopoldina", the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences (Berlin), and of the Board of Directors of the German National Academy of Technology and Engineering (Acatech). He chairs the Sustainability Council of the State of Brandenburg and the associated sustainability platform in which ca 170 sustainability initiatives are organized. In 2011 he served on the Ethics Commission "The Future of Energy" appointed by Chancellor Angela Merkel. Until 2014, he was a member of the "Science and Technology Advisory Council", an advisory body for EU Commission's President Jose Manuel Barroso.

Renn has published more than 30 monographs and over 250 peer reviewed articles. His most prominent English publication is the book "Risk Governance. Coping with Uncertainty in a Complex World (London: Earthscan 2008).

**Prof. Dr. Drs. h.c. Ortwin Renn**

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**Present Positions:**

- Since 2023     Affiliate Scholar of the Research Institute for Sustainability – Helmholtz Center Potsdam  
Since 2003     Director of the non-profit company DIALOGIK, a research institute for investigating communication and participation processes in environmental policy making.  
Since 2009     Affiliate professorship at Beijing Normal University

**Professional Career**

- 1970-1978     University education in sociology, economics, and journalism (German diploma)  
1980            Ph.D. in Social Psychology (Dr. rer. pol.) (summa cum laude)  
1978-1986     Social Scientist at the Federal Research Center Juelich (Germany)  
1986-1992     Associate Professor of Environment, Technology, and Society at Clark University (Massachusetts, USA)  
1988-1990     Acting Director of the Center for Technology, Environment and Development (CENTED) at Clark University  
1992-1993     Visiting Professor of Environmental Sciences at the Swiss Institute of Technology Zurich (Switzerland)  
1993-2003     Member (from 1999-2003 Chair) of the Board of Directors at the Center of Technology Assessment in Stuttgart (Germany)  
2003-2012     Director of the Interdisciplinary Research Unit of Risk Governance and Sustainable Technology Development” at the University of Stuttgart (ZIRN)  
2012-2016     Director of the Center for Interdisciplinary Risk and Innovation Research at the University of Stuttgart (ZIRIUS)  
2013-2016     Dean of the Department of Economic & Social Sciences (University of Stuttgart)  
1994-2021     Full Professor and Chair of Environmental Sociology and Technology Assessment at Stuttgart University (retired in 2021).  
2016 -2022    Scientific Director at the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS) in Potsdam (Retired in 2022)  
2008-2022     Adjunct professor for “integrated risk analysis” at Stavanger University in Norway (Retired 2022).

**Awards and Honors:**

- 2023:   Kjell Andesson award for the significant achievements in social sciences and humanities research on ionising radiation.  
2020:   Honorary Doctorate for outstanding academic contributions to risk and sustainability governance from the Mid-Sweden University  
2018:   Medal of Honor awarded by the State of Baden-Württemberg for outstanding scientific and public services to the State  
2017:   Outstanding Research Award of the International Society for Integrated Disaster and Risk Management (IDRiM)  
2013:   „Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany” (*Bundesverdienstkreuz Erster Klasse*) in recognition of the scientific achievements in Germany and internationally  
2012:   Best Published Article in Risk Analysis 2012: Award by SRA  
2012:   Third Place in National Competition for the Best University Instructor Award

- 2011: Honorary Distinguished Professorship of the Technical University Munich
- 2009: Honorary Doctorate from the Swiss Institute of Technology (Dr. sc. h.c.)
- 2007: “Distinguished Achievement Award” of the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA)
- 2005: “Fellow”: Society for Risk Analysis (SRA)
- 2004: „Fellow“: American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)
- 2003: Outstanding Publication Award from the ASA Environmental and Technology Section

### **Academic Memberships:**

- Member of the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences (Berlin)
- Member of the Leopoldina, German National Academy of Sciences
- Management Board of the German National Academy of Technology and Science (Acatech)
- European Academy of Science and Arts (Vienna and Salzburg)
- National Academy of Disaster Reduction and Emergency Management of the People’s Republic of China (Beijing)

### **Academic and Policy Oriented Activities**

- Chair of the Sustainability Council of the German State of Brandenburg
- Chair of the Civil Society Platform for Sustainability established by the State Government of Brandenburg
- President of the Association GAIA (publisher of the Journal GAIA)
- Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Technical University Berlin
- Chair of the Jury for the Science Award of Northern Germany
- Member of the Advisory Board of the Hans-Böckler Foundation
- Member of the Board of Trustees for the *Little scientists’ House* (Germany’s largest early childhood education initiative)
- Foundation Board of the International Risk Governance Council, Swiss Institute of Technology, Lausanne
- Commission for Ecology and Society of the German Catholic Bishops’ Conference
- Scientific Advisory Board of the Nexus Institute, Berlin
- Scientific Advisory Board of the Einstein Foundation, Berlin
- Scientific Advisory Board of the Swiss Foundation “Risk Dialogue”
- Scientific Advisory Board „Myclimate“

### **Editorial Boards**

- Editorial Board of the book series: „Environment, Sociology and Policy“ (Palgrave)
- Editorial Board of the book series: “Risk and Society” (Springer)
- Associate Editor: Risk Research
- Editorial Board: GAIA
- Editorial Board: Environmental Sociology
- Editorial Board: Advanced Theory and Simulation
- Editorial Board: Risk Analysis and Crisis Response
- Editorial Board: Risk Analysis
- Editorial Board: European Journal of Futures Research
- Advisory Board: Energy, Sustainability, and Society

## Past Public and Academic Service (selection)

- President of the European Society of Risk Analysis (SRA-Europe) (1998)
- German Federal Advisory Council for Global Environmental Change (1996-2000)
- Prime Minister's Future Commission in the State of Baden-Württemberg (1998-2000)
- Chair: Ad hoc Federal Commission on the Institutional and Procedural Reform of Risk Management (2002-2004)
- Expert panel on “Public Participation in Environmental Assessment and Decision Making” of the U.S.-National Academy of Sciences in Washington, D.C. (2005-2007)
- Member of the German Government’s Ethics Committee on the Future of Energy Supply after Fukushima (2011)
- Expert Committee on Sustainability of the German Chancellor (2011-2012)
- President: International Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) from 2013-2014
- Board of Trustees of the Foundation: Environment and Disaster Prevention
- Member of the President’s Science and Technological Advisory Council to the President of the EU Commission (2014-2015)
- Member of the Scientific Steering Committee of the Scientific Platform for Climate Protection of the German Federal Government (2020 to 2023)
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## Major Research Interests

- Risk governance (assessment, perception, management, communication)
- Sustainable development (concept, social science perspective)
- Public participation (theory and practical application)
- Technology assessment and foresight with emphasis on energy

## Publications

- Author or co-author of 30 monographs
- Co-author of 34 committee reports
- Editor or co-editor of 25 edited volumes
- More than 350 articles in journals and edited volumes (230 peer reviewed journal articles)
- Hirsch Factor (Google): 90

## Relevant publications in English (selection)

### *Monographs*

Niederberger, M. and O. Renn (eds): *Delphi Methods in the Social and Health Sciences: Concepts, Applications and Case Studies*. Wiesbaden (Springer 2023)

Renn, O.; Ulmer, F. und Deckert, A.: *The Role of Public Participation in Energy Transitions*. London (Elsevier Academic Press: 2020)

Renn, O., Karafyllis, N. C., Hohlt, A. and Taube, D. (eds.): *International Science and Technology Education: Exploring Culture, Economy and Social Perceptions*. London (Routledge 2015)

Renn, O.: *Public and Stakeholder Involvement in Risk Governance*. Ark Publications: London 2014

Rosa, E.A.; Renn, O. and McCright, A. M.: *The Risk Society Revisited. Social Theory and Governance*. Philadelphia (Temple University Press: 2014)

Renn, O.: *Risk Governance. Coping with Uncertainty in a Complex World*. London (Earthscan 2008)

*Peer Reviewed Articles (selection)*

- Chabay, I.; Renn, O.; van der Leeuw, S. and Droy, S.: Transforming scholarship to co-create sustainable futures. *Global Sustainability*, 4, E19 (2022), doi:10.1017/sus.2021.18
- Renn O., Gloaguen R., Benighaus C., Ajjabou L., Benighaus L., Del Rio V., Gómez J., Kauppi S., Keßelring M., Kirsch M., Komac M., Kotilainen J., Kozlovskaya E., Lyytimäki J., McCallum C., Mononen T., Nevalainen J., Peltonen L., Ranta J-P., Ruiz S., Russill J. & Wagner F.: Metal Sourcing For a Sustainable Future. *Earth Science, Systems and Society*. Special Issue: Sustainability in the Extractive Industries, Vol. 2 (2022), [doi.org/10.3389/esss.2022.10049](https://doi.org/10.3389/esss.2022.10049)
- Renn, O.; Laubichler, M.; Lucas, K.; Schanze, J.; Scholz, R. und Schweizer, P.-J.: Systemic Risks from Different Perspectives. *Risk Analysis*, Vol. 42, Issue 9 (2022), 1902-1920  
Renn, O.; Beier, G. and Schweizer, P.-J.: The opportunities and risks of digitalisation for sustainable development: a systemic perspective. *GAMA*, 30,1 (2021), 23-28
- Renn, O.: Transdisciplinarity: Synthesis towards a modular approach, *Futures*, 130 (2021), 102744, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.futures.2021.102744>
- Collins, A.; Florin, M.-F. and Renn, O.: COVID-19 risk governance: drivers, responses and lessons to be learned. *Journal of Risk Research*, 2, 3 (2020), DOI:10.1080/13669877.2020.1760332
- Klinke, A. and Renn, O.: The Coming Age of Risk Governance. *Risk Analysis*, 11, (2019), DOI:10.1111/risa.13383
- Aven, T. and Renn, O.: Improving Government Policy on Risk: Eight Key Principles. *Reliability Engineering & Safety*, 1 (2018), <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.res.2018.04.018>
- Lucas, K.; Renn, O. and Jaeger, C.: Systemic Risks: Theory and Mathematical Modeling. *Advanced Theory and Simulations*, 4 (August 2018), <https://doi.org/10.1002/adts.201800051>
- Renn, O. and Marshall, J.P.: Coal, Nuclear and Renewable Energy Policies in Germany: From the 1950 to the “Energiewende”. *Energy Policy*, 99, C (2016), S. 224-232
- Renn, O.: Stakeholder and Public Involvement in Risk Governance. *International Journal for Disaster Risk Science*, Vol.6, Issue 1 (2015), pp. 8-20
- Renn, O.: Towards a Socio-Ecological Foundation for Environmental Risk Research. In: S. Lockie, D. A. Sonnenfeld and D. R. Fisher (Eds.): *Routledge International Handbook of Social and Environmental Change*. London (Routledge 2014), pp. 207-220
- Renn, O.: The Social Amplification/Attenuation of Risk Framework: Application to Climate Change, *Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Climate Change*. Vol. 1, Issue 1 (January/February 2011) DOI: 10.1002/wcc.99 (2011), 154–169
- Renn, O. and Schweizer, P.: Inclusive Risk Governance: Concepts and Application to Environmental Policy Making. *Environmental Policy and Governance*, No. 19 (2009), 174-185
- Renn, O.; Jaeger, A.; Deuschle, J. and Weimer-Jehle, W.: A Normative-Functional Concept of Sustainability and its Indicators. *Int. J. Global Environmental Issues*, Vol. 9, No. 4, 2009, 291-317
- Renn, O.: Science and Technology Studies: Experts and Expertise. In: N. J. Smelser and P. B. Baltes (eds.): *International Encyclopedia of the Social and Behavioral Sciences*. Volume 20. Cambridge, US (Cambridge University Press: 2001), pp. 13647-13654

**Personal Data**

- 1951          Born in Schmidtheim, Germany
- 1974          Marriage with Regina Kozikowski (three children)