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He has done research and taught at the universities of Munich, Aachen, Augsburg, Eichstaett, Nairobi, Stellenbosch/South Africa, SciencesPo/Paris, and Berkeley.

From 1988 to 2000, he has been Chair of the Research Committee on "Democratization in Comparative Perspective" of the International Political Science Association (IPSA). From 2003 to 2006, he was Chair of the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR), from 2006 to 2009 Vice-President of IPSA. As IPSA Coordinator for the Summer Schools on "Concepts, Methods and Techniques in Political Science", he has initiated and organized such regular events and taught at the universities of Sao Paulo/Brazil, Stellenbosch/South Africa, the National University of Singapore, the Middle East Technical University at Ankara/Turkey, FLACSO in Mexico City, and the Higher School of Economics in St. Petersburg/Russia.

His major research interests include empirical democratic theory, development studies, political culture, comparative politics and comparative methodology. Recent major publications include:

*Democratization – the State of the Art*

*International Encyclopedia of Political Science* (8 vol., ed. with Bertrand Badie and Leonardo Morlino)

*Mixed Methods in Comparative Politics*

*Political Science – A Global Perspective* (with Bertrand Badie and Leonardo Morlino)

*The SAGE Handbook of Political Science* (3 vol. ed. with Bertrand Badie and Leonardo Morlino)