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EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL CAREER

Marco Vencato was born in Liestal, where he also grew up. He studied history and Italian linguistics and literature in Basel, Strasbourg and Zurich, also completing the transdisciplinary study programme “Man – Society – Environment”. His doctoral studies took him to Naples and to the Istituto Svizzero in Rome. After obtaining his PhD, he was appointed assistant lecturer under Professor Achatz von Müller at Basel University’s Department of History. He also participated on behalf of Basel University in the CLIOHRES Network of Excellence under the 6th EU Research Framework Programme.

From 2009 to 2016, Marco Vencato served as scientific advisor to the Swiss Science and Innovation Council. In this role he was responsible for the planning, coordination and execution of major projects and worked on numerous science policy topics (“Encouraging Young Scholars”, “The Constellation of Actors in the ERI Sector”, “A Broad Understanding of Innovation”, etc.). His remit also covered the evaluation of national research bodies such as the technology competence centre inspire AG and the Swiss National Science Foundation as well as overseeing the Science Council’s external communications and its publications.

FUNCTION AND CURRENT MAIN PRIORITIES

Appointed Deputy Director in 2017, Marco Vencato performs an operational role in the foundation’s activities. He coordinates selected support programmes for the foundation, advises university researchers considering submitting a project application, and provides assistance to foundation-funded project managers in the conduct of their research work.

Within the framework of the foundation’s strategic grant-making cluster, he is primarily responsible for leading the “BREF – Brückenschläge mit Erfolg” and “Scientainment” programmes. The ongoing development of these support programmes and the launch of new areas of activity in consultation with the board of trustees likewise form part of his remit.