



CONTACT JACOBS FOUNDATION

Klaus J. Jacobs Awards
CEO: Dr. Bernd Ebersold
Head of Communication: Alexandra Güntzer
Program Officer: Gelgia Fetz

Seefeldquai 17, PO Box
8034 Zurich, Switzerland
Phone +41 44 388 61 23
Fax +41 44 388 61 37
jf@jacobsfoundation.org
www.jacobsfoundation.org

AWARDS CEREMONY

2011

KLAUS J. JACOBS

.....
RESEARCH PRIZE

.....
BEST PRACTICE AWARD

.....
Honouring groundbreaking achievements
in child and youth development



*«Young or old, rich or poor,
man or woman – everyone has
the right to a good education.»*

Klaus J. Jacobs, 1936–2008

THE KLAUS J. JACOBS AWARDS

In honour of its founder, the entrepreneur Klaus J. Jacobs, who passed away in 2008, the Jacobs Foundation has awarded two annual prizes since 2009. Endowed with a total of 1.2 million Swiss francs, the prizes recognize exceptional achievements in research and practice in the field of child and youth development.

The Klaus J. Jacobs Research Prize acknowledges scientific work of high social relevance to the development of children and young people. The Jacobs Foundation attaches great importance to scientific findings from interdisciplinary research which can yield practical applications. The Klaus J. Jacobs Research Prize is endowed with one million Swiss francs.

The Klaus J. Jacobs Best Practice Award recognizes the exceptional commitment of institutions or individuals who put innovative solutions in the field of child and youth development into practice. The Best Practice Award is worth 200,000 Swiss francs.

LAUREATES TO DATE

2010

The Research Prize 2010 was awarded to **Terrie Moffitt** and **Avshalom Caspi** (Duke University and King's College London) for their trail-blazing research into the interplay between genetic disposition and environmental influences in the development of children and youth.

The Best Practice Award 2010 was given to two organisations, **Opstapje Deutschland e. V.** and **a:primo**, for their sustained commitment to providing early support for socially disadvantaged children by successfully implementing a play and development programme in Germany and Switzerland.

2009

The Research Prize 2009 was awarded to **Laurence Steinberg** (Temple University) for his pioneering work in the psychopathology, risk-taking and decision-making behaviour of young people.

The Best Practice Award 2009 was presented to **Father Johann Casutt** for successfully adapting the Swiss model for the vocational training to the needs of young people in Indonesia.



Dr. Joh. Christian Jacobs,
Chairman of the Jacobs
Foundation

RECOGNIZING OPPORTUNITIES, UTILIZING POTENTIAL

My father, Klaus J. Jacobs, was convinced that all children and youth have the potential for positive development. He believed that the energy, enthusiasm and motivation of young people is the motor that drives social change. During his lifetime, he was committed to strengthening children and youth and providing them with opportunities for successful education and development.

The Jacobs family and the Jacobs Foundation are carrying on this commitment. In honour of its founder, the Foundation awards the two Klaus J. Jacobs prizes each year for outstanding achievements in the field of child and youth development. These two prizes aid in ensuring that excellent research and practical endeavours in the area of child and youth development are acknowledged and given the recognition they deserve based on their significance for the future of every society. Furthermore, they aim at creating a platform for social discourse on the core issues and challenges facing child and youth development.

In their work, both laureates focus on the potential and skills of children and youth. Michael Tomasello, recipient of the Research Prize 2011, shows with comparative empirical studies that humans are born to cooperate and that this is the primary factor that distinguishes them from the great apes. Christiane Daepf builds upon the natural human ability to cooperate, too. She is given the Klaus J. Jacobs Best Practice Award 2011 for her development of "Ideenbüro", a programme in which school children assume responsibility and work together to solve the problems of fellow pupils.

I congratulate this year's laureates for their important work, which clearly and remarkably embodies the deep conviction of my father, Klaus J. Jacobs.



BORN TO HELP: THE UNIQUE HUMAN ABILITY FOR COOPERATION

Klaus J. Jacobs Research Prize recipient Michael Tomasello sees the uniqueness of humans in their natural ability to cooperate. Klaus J. Jacobs Best Practice Award recipient Christiane Daepf uses this ability to encourage school children to work together.

One of the greatest debates in western civilization involves the question of whether humans are born with empathy and a willingness to help others that society later corrupts, or if humans are intuitively ruthless and egoistic in their actions and society trains them to behave more compassionately. Among philosophers in the modern era, Jean-Jacques Rousseau postulated that the “natural man” is born to cooperate and live in peace. However, civilization creates social injustices that lead to social inequality and conflicts. His antipode, Thomas Hobbes, opined, however, that man is a wolf to man and only cooperates with others because it benefits him, resulting in the famous “war of all against all”.

Michael Tomasello’s empirical research shows that children are capable of acting selflessly without having to learn how or being taught by others, and that this early altruistic behaviour is neither culturally nor socially influenced. Even one-year-old children cooperate in a manner that is unique to the human species. They form common goals with others and create joint attention and a common realm of experience.

The thesis that children are fitted with species-specific capacities for cooperation provides starting points for promising practice-oriented projects in which children take centre stage as natural problem solvers, particularly in areas that concern them personally. Christiane Daepf’s “Ideenbüro” takes this approach literally and fulfils the desire for children’s participation in an exemplary manner. A setting is created in which school children develop solutions to everyday problems among their fellow pupils and thus learn to assume responsibility. Children counselling other children forms the cornerstone of this concept as it builds upon their natural ability for cooperation and ultimately encourages them to work together. This very spirit underlies this year’s awarding of both Klaus J. Jacobs prizes.



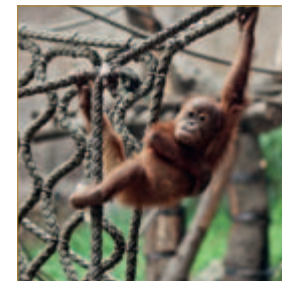
Michael Tomasello

Recipient of the Klaus J. Jacobs Research Prize 2011



Learning from and with one another

Michael Tomasello has shown how children are capable of learning from and with each other, whereas great apes tend to act individually.



HUMAN SENSE OF UNITY



Michael Tomasello researches how children relate to the world through others and how this sets them apart from great apes.

Michael Tomasello's original focus was developmental psychology. He began researching child development in the USA, then discovered his fascination with chimpanzees and has since then been conducting comparative empirical studies with infants and great apes at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig.

Using cognitive tasks, Michael Tomasello was able to show that early in their development of social-cognitive skills, young children display certain advantages compared to great apes. Although they do not perceive space, quantities, or causal relations any better than great apes do, two-year-old children have more sophisticated social skills. Individual cognitive skills are not responsible for this advantage but it is rather the human ability to learn from others and share intentions with others. The central factor here is the phenomenon of shared intentionality. Unlike great apes, young children are capable of trusting one another and pursuing common goals. They form a sense of unity, which in turn leads to rights and obligations that do not appear among apes. According to Tomasello, apes act from a more self-centred motivation, and as rational "maximizers" they are less interested in sharing with others – especially when it comes to food.

In contrast, children just one year of age already display impressive evidence of their ability to cooperate. The developmental psychologist and primate researcher has demonstrated that young children will spontaneously help an adult to complete a specific activity, such as fetching objects that are out of reach and sharing information. During this process, the children show that they are motivated by an intrinsic desire to cooperate as they cannot be bribed by promised rewards.

Human cognition differs from that of great apes most clearly in that it functions while embedded within cultural groups. Children are equipped with species-specific capacities for cooperation, communication and cultural learning, which according to Michael Tomasello are direct expressions of biological adaptations that make children capable of participating in the culture into which they are born.

The Jacobs Foundation is honouring Michael Tomasello with the Klaus J. Jacobs Research Prize 2011 for identifying these uniquely human forms of cooperation already present in young children.



.....
Finding solutions together
“Ideenbüros” offer school children the opportunity to work together to find solutions to everyday problems and thus assist children, parents and teachers.

CHILDREN COUNSELLING CHILDREN: “IDEENBÜROS” CREATE A SETTING FOR COOPERATION

.....

Christiane Daepf has realized that children are excellent problem solvers in areas that affect them personally and created a setting for children to get involved in helping others at Swiss schools.

Christiane Daepf is a passionate educator and began her career 38 years ago as a primary school teacher in Bern. She started up the first “Ideenbüro” in 2002 as a contact point at school for problems of all kinds. Christiane Daepf’s basic idea was that school children who are unhappy or feel excluded or misunderstood need to have a place where they will find a sympathetic ear.

However, there are no adult teaching staff working at the “Ideenbüro”. It is school children who listen to the concerns of their fellow pupils and work together with the child involved to find solutions. Thus, younger children turn to a committee of older children, known as the “Ideenbüro” team. In contrast to other forms of school counselling, what qualifies as a problem is not set forth beforehand but rather determined by each child who seeks help from the “Ideenbüro” counselling team. Problems may involve obstacles to social integration such as mobbing and conflicts or specific academic challenges. Every issue is put through a structured problem-solving process that leads to concrete ideas for solutions. At the end of the counselling procedure, special attention is paid to ensuring that the suggested solutions result in long-term success. Thus, children counselling other children comprise the cornerstone of the “Ideenbüro” concept.

Christiane Daepf has successfully implemented “Ideenbüros” in over 40 Swiss schools so far, the majority of which are in the canton of Bern and a few are in the cantons of Zurich, Aargau and Basel-Land. Interest in the concept has increased greatly over the past years. As important vehicles for communication in schools, “Ideenbüros” offer a wealth of opportunities for learning and gaining experience and thus have a motivating and meaningful effect. They take the pressure off children, parents and teachers, strengthen and encourage the children’s social and communicative skills and sense of personal responsibility and as a consequence create a better social and academic climate. Additionally, “Ideenbüros” fulfil the desire for children’s participation in an exemplary manner – therein lies the true value and potential of this concept.

The Jacobs Foundation is presenting Christiane Daepf with the Klaus J. Jacobs Best Practice Award 2011 for the development of the “Ideenbüro” concept, which helps children to assume responsibility, cooperate, and view problems in life as challenges.



Christiane Daepf

Recipient of the Klaus J. Jacobs
Best Practice Award 2011





THE JACOBS FOUNDATION

The Jacobs Foundation is active worldwide in the area of child and youth development. The Zurich-based private foundation was established in 1988 by entrepreneur Klaus J. Jacobs. It is operated according to the vision of its founder, who believed that a society can only experience long-term success when as many of its members as possible are given the chance to receive quality education.

The Jacobs Foundation supports research projects, scientific institutions and intervention programmes with an annual budget of approximately 35 million Swiss francs. It promotes activities that provide answers to how the living and learning conditions of young people can be designed and supported so that they will become successful members of society. As far as its methods and approaches are concerned, the Jacobs Foundation is particularly committed to scientific excellence and evidence-based findings, and subscribes to an approach in child and youth development that emphasizes positive development opportunities for young people. This approach covers a wide spectrum of scientific disciplines and approaches that include the psychological, cognitive, emotional, intellectual, social, vocational, academic, economic and physical development of children and youth.

JURY FOR THE RESEARCH PRIZE

Professor Albert Bandura, Stanford University, USA

Professor Monique Boekaerts, University of Leiden, the Netherlands, President of the International Academy of Education

Professor Jeanne Brooks-Gunn, Columbia University, USA

Professor Meinrad Paul Perrez, University of Fribourg, Switzerland

Professor Anne C. Petersen, University of Michigan, USA

Professor Rainer K. Silbereisen, Friedrich Schiller University of Jena, Germany, President of the International Union of Psychological Science

Professor William Julius Wilson, Harvard University, USA

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE JACOBS FOUNDATION

Dr. Joh. Christian Jacobs, chairman of the Jacobs Foundation Board, Partner, White & Case, Attorneys at Law, Hamburg, Germany

Professor Jürgen Baumert, former director of the Max Planck Institute for Educational Research, Berlin, Germany

Professor Ernst Buschor, former councillor and director of education for the canton of Zurich, Zollikerberg, Switzerland

Pascal Couchepin, former President of the Swiss Confederation, Martigny, Switzerland

Lavinia Jacobs, freelance art consultant, Zurich, Switzerland

Professor Eduardo Missoni, professor at the Bocconi School of Management, Università Bocconi, Milan, Italy

Dr. Auma Obama, Global Technical Advisor, Care International, Nairobi, Kenya

Professor Marta Tienda, professor at Princeton University, New Jersey, USA