

My profile is characterised by its atypical combination of a scientific culture and a penchant for politics.

I have experienced scientific research in an internationally recognised laboratory, recently selected for an ERC Advanced Grant. My thesis on the Scala programming language uses formal and experimental research methods. The scope of my research is widened by publications in usability research that applies tools from psychology.

My scientific culture, and indeed my general culture, extends beyond this domain of expertise. I grew up in a stimulating environment in which science and the arts played an important role. Today, I eagerly follow scientific news concerning both “hard” and “soft” sciences, and still experience the enchantment of research.

Moreover, I have first-hand experience of the innovation process. During my PhD, the Scala project became highly attractive to industry. It is now supported by a startup and is used by some of the largest companies in the field. I also founded a company during my undergraduate studies.

My scientific culture is doubled with a fascination for political and policy issues, which is a rather unusual combination in my field of work. I was involved in university politics throughout my studies. I also got elected to the city council of Morges, where I was quickly asked to join my party’s committee. I clarified my interest in recent years by participating in conferences on democracy and on the relation between science and politics.

What fundamentally connects my interests for science and for politics is my aptitude for analysis and communication. My ability to understand and share problems mixing technical, human, and political aspects has often been noted. I published two psychology articles in a laboratory that had never done such research. To give an anecdote that I hope is significant: at the end of a conference on democracy, one of the speakers, a professor in political sciences, thanked me for my interventions and concluded by saying that “you should have been a political scientist”.

Furthermore, I believe that my skills for analysis help me to collaborate. Indeed, they allow me to understand, combine and speak about the factual and human issues arising in a team. I led the weekly meetings of my laboratory for many years, which I enjoyed. My professor particularly appreciated the way in which I was framing the discussions, taking into consideration facts, previous decisions and the varied opinions, and trying to bring them together.

Lastly, I am bilingual in French and English. I also speak German quite aptly, as I lived in Germany for seven years. Furthermore, I have a number of technical skills, notably related to computers, which are useful to solve a number of problems.

What am I looking for?

Having concluded my PhD, I wish to pursue the long-time interest I have in politics. I am searching for a new career centring on governance issues and in which my research experience may remain relevant. My thinking on this matter prompted my interest in scientific policy.

Indeed, I am preoccupied by the lack of interaction between researchers and wider society. The world is becoming increasingly complex and counter-intuitive, and there is little hope of acting upon it without the help of science. I am convinced that good governance is essential to connect researchers and society. Furthermore, I am fascinated by the role that science & technology policies can play in shaping the destiny of people.

The shared vision for the European research area or UNESCO’s constitution are inspiring examples of their importance.

In time, I would like to work on such questions. I am now looking for a position allowing me to venture onto this track.

- ▶ PhD in computer science from école polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), formal and experimental research in languages and psychology of programming. Experience of innovation.
- ▶ Prolonged interest in policy making; experience of local and academic politics.
- ▶ Recognised capacity for analysis and communication. Particularly for the analysis of problems combining aspects of a technical, human and political nature.
- ▶ Skilled with a variety of computer tools. Good language, communication and interpersonal skills.

Research & Education

PhD, EPFL	2005–2011
Research in computer programming languages.	
Master project, Uni. of Edinburgh	2005
Master in computer science, EPFL	2003–2005
Excellent grade average (5.78 out of 6).	
Diploma in informatics, EPFL	2000–2004
Swiss scientific <i>maturité fédérale</i>	1999–2000
École R. Steiner, Lausanne	1994–1999
Semester abroad, New York	1997

Selected experiences

In the “Scala” team	2005–2011
Project with a strong innovation component. High industrial impact and large open-source community	
Teaching at EPFL	2005–2010
University politics	2001–2010
Represented undergraduate and graduate students.	
Elected city councillor	2001–2004
Participation in non-scientific conferences	
Subjects: democracy and science, political theory, technologies for development, UN, Human Rights Council.	
Cofounder of VnV software	2001–2004

Education & Experiences detailed on next page.

Skills

Interpersonal:	Agreeable, with natural leadership. Ability to work in a team.
Communication:	Skilled writer & speaker. Wrote scientific articles as well as other documents: scientific vulgarisation and promotion, politics, opinion. Course in media communication.
Documentation:	Excellent ability to search and assess scientific sources and other online documentation.
Engineering:	Software architecture and programming in Scala, Java, OCaml. Database conception. Creation of web sites and applications. Simple system administration & security (Mac/UNIX).
Miscellaneous:	Command of Office and other productivity software. Ability for design & layout. Experience with applied statistics. Basic accounting.

Language skills

French, English, German, Swiss German.

Language levels detailed on next page.

Personal details

Born on 2 September 1980. Unmarried, no children.
Swiss national. Mobile in the world.

Contact

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Research & Education

PhD, EPFL 2005–2011

Embedding Domain-Specific Languages using Libraries and Dynamic Metaprogramming, in computer science (programming languages), laboratory of prof. Martin Odersky.

Scientific skills : performance analysis, statistics, formal techniques, software engineering, psychology of programming. Multiple peer-reviewed publications.

Master project, Uni. of Edinburgh 2005

Laboratory of prof. Philip Wadler.

Master in computer science, EPFL 2003–2005

Excellent grade average (5.78 out of 6). Advanced theoretical and practical courses in computer science and engineering.

Also: human-computer interaction, professional communication, accounting, marketing & finance.

Diploma in informatics, EPFL 2000–2004

Fundamental courses in mathematics (numerical and formal), statistics, logic, biology, physics ...

Also: management of technological innovation, intellectual property law.

Swiss scientific maturité fédérale 1999–2000

Express track at école des Arches, Lausanne.

École R. Steiner, Lausanne 1994–1999

Waldorf education. Emphasis on artistic and creative subjects: acting, painting, literature, music, crafts, etc.

Semester abroad, New York 1997

Language skills

French :

Native language.

English :

Everyday working language for six years. One year in the USA & UK. Level C2.

German :

Born in Germany where I lived six years. Fluent conversation. Lack of practice, particularly in writing, but level C1–C2 quickly accessible.

Swiss German :

Understanding at level A2–B1. Mother is from Basel.

Experiences

In the “Scala” team 2005–2011

Involved in the development of Scala’s open-source community. In the core team for technical decisions and planning. Appreciated by my supervisor and colleagues for my driving role.

Scala is used by Sony, Twitter, IBM, NASA, etc.

Open doors days, EPFL 2010

Creation of a concept and of an interactive system to demonstrate language research to children.

Teaching commission, EPFL 2006–2010

Representing graduate students to the informatics teaching commission.

Teaching at EPFL 2005–2010

Teaching of programming and compilation. Supervision & conception of exercises. Received a bonus for my special engagement in teaching.

Supervised multiple student projects.

Google Summer of Code mentor 2010

Supervision and organisation of a four month project.

Participation in non-scientific conferences

ACADEMIA ENGELBERG, challenging democracy (2010).

UNIL, political theory colloquium (2010).

EPFL/UNESCO, tech. for development (2010).

HCDH on the Human Rights Council (2006).

Harvard Model United Nations 2007

One week simulation of the United Nations Council (1000 delegate from 50 countries).

Faculty council, EPFL 2001–2005

Representing my undergraduate classmates at the informatics faculty council.

Elected city councillor, Morges 2001–2004

Very active involvement; member of 12 commissions, presiding four. Management oversight commission for three year. Invited to party committee shortly after election.

Cofounder of VnV software 2001–2004

Cofounder & codirector of VnV software (later sàrl).

Conception of software and web sites. Involved in management, programming and client relations.