

Research without limits: Researchability for persons with disabilities

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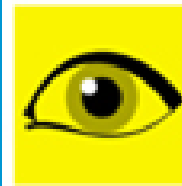
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Who is that ...?

**Associate
Professor at WU**

**Chairman of the
Board at HG**



Hilfsgemeinschaft
der Blinden und Sehschwachen Österreichs



**Permanent
Deacon**



I did it my way ...

I was lucky, having a mother and family ...

... focussing on my strengths,

... giving me comfort and security,

... helping me develop a good self-consciousness and self-confidence,

... talking about my abilities and not my disability,

... giving me challenges relative to opportunities,

... opening doors and giving me the right education as well as the right to choose.

- Good conditions are essential:
 - **Personal** support: awareness, need for co-operation: family, friends, teachers, professors, colleagues, support from associations, ...
 - **Technical** support (needs to be financed)
 - Schools and **learning environment** with the right equipment
- Like for other researchers without (obvious disabilities), own **ambition, self-motivation** and **commitment** are probably the most crucial factors.

Recommendations

■ For **institutions**:

- Be aware that people with disabilities add substantial **value** to your organisations. Give people a chance and motivate them.
- They will often be grateful for the **opportunities** offered and will do their best to meet their own and your expectations.
- **Invite** and support students: Otherwise you will not get such people in your staff.

■ For **young researchers** wanting to succeed:

- Follow your **talent, interest and goals**.
- Do **on your own** whatever is possible and do not wait for others.
- Research is a **profession**, not a job!
- Get the **help and equipment you need**, try things and keep what works best. **Decide** on your own.
- Learn from the experience of others but go your own way.
- **Never give up!** If something does not work, something else will.

Thank you!



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