

# Curriculum Vitae

## **Prof. Dr. Thomas Kern**

Head of Working Group: Sociological Theory  
Department: Theoretical and Normative Foundations

University of Bremen  
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## **Research Interests**

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Sociological Theory  
Sociology of Religion  
Protest Movements  
Political Sociology

## **Professional Positions**

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Since 04.2022	<b>Professor of Sociology, esp. Sociological Theory (W3)</b> University of Bremen, Germany
04.2016 – 03.2022	<b>Professor of Sociology, esp. Sociological Theory (W3)</b> University of Bamberg, Germany <u>2019 – Present</u> : Dean of the Faculty for Social Sciences, Economics, and Business Administration <u>2016 – Present</u> : Chair of the Section Political Sociology in the German Sociological Association (DGS)

- 06.2013 – 03.2016 **Professor of General Sociology, esp. Sociological Theory (W3)**  
 Institute of Sociology, Chemnitz University of Technology, Germany  
2015 – 2016: Director of the Institute of Sociology  
2013 – 2015: Vice-Director of the Institute of Sociology  
2013 – 2016: Dean of Studies of the Faculty of Behavioral and Social Sciences
- 03.2009 – 06.2013 **Research Professor of Sociology, esp. Economic and Social Aspects of Global Institutional Development (W3)**  
 Max Weber Institute of Sociology, Heidelberg University, Germany  
2010 – 2013: Head of the Research Training Group (for six doctoral students) “The Boundaries of Civil Society” (granted by the Landesstiftung Baden-Württemberg)  
2011 – 2013: Board Member of the Heidelberg Center for Environment (HCE)  
2009 – Present: Faculty Fellow of the Center for Cultural Sociology, Yale University (invited by Prof. Jeffrey Alexander)
- 09.2008 – 02.2009 **Interim Professor of Comparative Cultural Sociology**  
 European University Viadrina in Frankfurt/Oder, Germany
- 04.2008 – 02.2009 **Heisenberg Fellow**  
 Max Weber Center for Advanced Cultural and Social Studies, University of Erfurt, Germany (invited by Prof. Hans Joas, supported by a Heisenberg Grant of the DFG)
- 04.2003 – 03.2008 **Postdoc Research Assistant**  
 German Institute of Global and Area Studies (GIGA), Hamburg, Germany
- 04.2000 – 03.2003 **Visiting Postdoc Researcher**  
 Institute of Social Development Research, Department of Sociology, Yonsei University, Seoul (invited by Prof. Kim Yong-hak and supervised by Prof. Kim Wang-bae, supported by grants of the Humboldt Foundation and the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft)
- 08.1997 – 12.1999 **Postdoc Research Assistant**  
 Institute of Sociology, University of Bamberg, Germany

## Professional Education

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20.07.2005	<b>Habilitation (postdoctoral degree) in Sociology,</b> University of Hagen <u>Reviewer:</u> Prof. Uwe Schimank, Prof. Franz-Xaver Kaufmann
31.07.1996	<b>Ph.D. in Sociology (summa cum laude),</b> University of Bamberg Reviewer: Prof. Gerhard Schulze, Prof. Ottmar Fuchs
1989-1994	<b>Diploma in Sociology</b> University of Bamberg <u>Reviewer:</u> Prof. Reiner Dinkel, Prof. Gerhard Schulze

## Research Awards

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Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft	<b>Heisenberg Fellowship</b> Funding Period: 2008 – 2011
Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft	<b>Research Fellowship</b> Funding Period: 2002 – 2003
Humboldt Foundation	<b>Feodor Lynen Fellowship</b> Funding Period: 2000 – 2002

## Teaching Awards

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2015	Teaching Award for Outstanding Performances in the Seminar “ <b>Umwelt und Gesellschaft</b> ” (Engl. “Environment and Society”), Faculty of Behavioral and Social Sciences, Chemnitz University of Technology
2014	Teaching Award for Outstanding Performances in the Lecture “ <b>Politische Soziologie sozialer Ungleichheit</b> ” (Engl., “Political Sociology of Inequality”), Faculty of Behavioral and Social Sciences, Chemnitz University of Technology

## Research Grants (Principal Investigator)

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Bayerisches Forschungsinstitut für Digitale Transformation (bidt)	<b>“How are the Main Social Conflict Structures in Germany Changing? Social Media Analysis of Collective Protests and Social Movements”</b> – Project Coordinator – Collaborative project with Prof. Kai Fischbach (Information Systems and Social Networks) and Prof. Marc Helbling (Political Sociology) from the University of Bamberg. Funding Period: 2020 – 2023 Budget: 736.000 €
Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft	<b>“How do Religious Markets Emerge? The Case of Protestantism in the United States”</b> Funding Period: 2019 – 2022 Budget: 397.000 €
Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft	<b>“Why Are Megachurches Attractive? Network Structures and Cultural Reproduction of a New Organizational Form in the U.S.”</b> Collaborative project with Prof. Uwe Schimank from the University of Bremen. Funding Period: 2012 – 2019 Budget: 351.000 €
Landesstiftung, Federal State of Baden-Württemberg	<b>“The Boundaries of Civil Society”</b> Research training group for PhD students Funding Period: 2010 – 2013 Budget: 265.000 €
Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft	<b>Heisenberg Fellowship</b> Funding Period: 2008 – 2011 Budget: 140.000 €
Volkswagenstiftung	<b>“Innovation and Contention. Waves of Protest in South Korea (1988 – 2005)”</b> Funding Period: 2006 – 2008 Budget: 250.000 €

## Further Grants

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2015	Federal Ministry of Education and Research	<b>“Post Socialist Civil Societies in Transformation – A Comparison of (East-) Germany and Russia.”</b> Funding for three workshops in cooperation with the Higher School of Economics in Moscow. Budget: 22.000 €
2010	Ministry of Science, Federal State of Baden-Württemberg	<b>Startup-Funding for Research Projects</b> Budget: 30.000 €
2009	Ministry of Science, Federal State of Baden-Württemberg	<b>Startup-Funding for Research Projects</b> Budget: 30.000 €