

Christian R. Schmidt: Curriculum Vitae

Active for conservation for forty-eight years in four zoos in three countries on two continents

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 1943 Born in Zurich
- 1974 Married to Annemarie Schmidt-Pfister; three children: Michael (philosopher, German philology), Fabian (zoologist, in Zoo Leipzig), and Philippa (historian, political scientist, editor)
- Fifteen monkeys and apes raised in family: one buffy-headed capuchin, two brown woolly monkeys, one Sulawesi crested macaque, two spectacled langurs, two pileated gibbons, one siamang, two Sumatran orangutans, three western lowland gorillas, one bonobo
- 1976 PhD on Behaviour of a Zoo Group of Collared Peccaries at University of Zurich, supervision by Prof. Dr. Heini Hediger, animal psychologist and founder of scientific zoo biology
- 1956 Discovery of the blue neon tetra, *Hyphessobrycon simulans*
- 1959–1962 Volunteer keeper in terrarium and monkey house at Zoo Zürich during holidays
- 1963–1970 Scientific Assistant at the Department of Animal Psychology of the University of Zurich at the Zoological Garden (Director: Prof. Dr. Heini Hediger)
- 1966–1994 Scientific Assistant, Curator of Mammals and Birds (1974–94), and Assistant Director (1991–94) at Zoo Zürich. Main participation in new exhibits, among them Ape House, Exotarium, Cloud Forest for Spectacled Bears, as well as master plan. Creation of important breeding groups, including pileated gibbons, Sumatran orangutans, western lowland gorillas, black rhinoceros, vicuñas, king penguins, waldrapps, and Arabian oryx (including consulting on the reintroduction in Jordan).
- Introduction of ear-notching as individual marking of mammals in zoos
- 1967 Twice holiday replacement of the Director of Heidelberg Zoo
- 1969–present Suggestion to start and keep the International Studbook for the Vicuña, as the longest acting studbook keeper
- 1974–present Radio and TV programs, among them with Prof. Dr. Bernhard Grzimek, Prof. Dr. Heini Hediger, and Prof. Dr. Konrad Lorenz; actor in *Tatort*, Episode 412: “Blinde Kuriere,” 1999, Regie Sylvia Hoffmann



- ~1977 One of the “Bamberg Rebels,” together with Dr. Wolf Everts, Dr. Michael Gorgas, Dr. Fritz Jantschke, Dr. Klaus Robin, Dr. Paul Vogt, Dr. Rüdiger Wandrey, who founded scientific meetings for zoo assistants in view of the later fusion with the Verband Deutscher Zoodirektoren (VDZ) 1981 in Wuppertal
- For some years, member of the Advisory Panel of the *International Zoo Yearbook*
- 1979–2009 Member (since inception) of Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG) (originally Captive Breeding Specialist Group) of International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Species Survival Commission (SSC) and, since the start, member of the CBSG Steering Committee
- For some years, member of the Board of Trustees of International Species Information System (ISIS), now Species360
- 1980–1994 Lectured at Veterinary Faculty of University of Zurich on zoo biology and conservation
- 1985 One of the eight founders (including Fred Daman, Dick van Dam, Dr. Bart Lensink, Bent Jorgensen, Ilkka Koivisto, Dr. Jean-Marc Lernould, and Prof. Dr. Gunther Nogge) of the Europäisches Erhaltungszucht-Programm (EEP) in June 1985 in Antwerp—and the only one acting as member of the EEP Committee since the start until 2009. As the only non-director, invented the name EEP, prepared all the EEP regulations, including the procedure to select species, and proposed the first nineteen species and coordinators for the EEPs that were approved in the meeting in November 1985 in Cologne
- 1985–present EEP Coordinator for the vicuña (increase of the average annual population growth from before 0.2% to 5.9% after starting the EEP)
- 1994–2005 For twelve years, EEP Coordinator for the gorilla
- 2006–2009 Special Advisor for the Gorilla EEP
- Co-Chair of the Primate Taxon Advisory Group (TAG) (together with Dr. Miranda Stevenson) that prepared the first Regional Collection Plan in Europe and later coordinated a Global Primate Collection Plan together with North America and Australia in a meeting at Zoo Frankfurt (after having attended the CBSG Primate CAMP [Conservation Assessment and Management Plan] in Minneapolis)
- Member of the following TAGs until 2007: Great Ape, Rhinoceros and Antelope and Giraffe; still member of the Cattle and Camelid TAG
- Member of the following Species Committees until 2007: Aye-Aye, Orangutan, Gorilla, Bonobo, Okapi
- Several TAG and EEP meetings were held at Zoo Frankfurt.

- 1988–1994 Vice President and then President of the conservation organization Friends of Serengeti Switzerland (FSS)
- 1989 For three months, Visiting Scientist in Zoo Atlanta, studying zoo management and doing research on behavioral enrichment in orangutans
- until 1994 For some years, member of the Committee for the Wildpark Langenberg of the City of Zurich
- 1992–1994 President of the Federal Commission on Species Conservation (responsible for CITES [Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora], as well), elected by the Swiss government
- 1994–2007/2008 Director of Zoo Frankfurt: First mission statement and master plan; seventeen new exhibits with a value of €25 million, among them Cat Jungle, Maned Wolf Pampa, Seal Cliffs, two okapi enclosures, owl taiga, Grzimek Camp, and—under construction—Gibbon exhibit and 10,000-square-metre Bonoboland; new interactive information system—including special system for blind people—and volunteer system started.
- Reintroduction of several Mhorr gazelles to Morocco and of three female black rhinos (so far two calves and an additional pregnancy) to South Africa. This resulted in the transfer of two black rhinos from South Africa to Tanzania and of five additional ones to Zambia sixteen years after the extinction of the species in the country.
- Addition of several rare species, such as aye-aye (female mate arrived 2007), buffy-headed capuchin (breeding), white-cheeked gibbon (so far males only), tamandua (breeding), sloth bear, clouded leopard (breeding), Indian lion (breeding), Mishmi takin (breeding), Congo peafowl (breeding), Glauert’s monitor (breeding). Excellent breeding records continue with Sumatran orangutans, western lowland gorillas, bonobos, rusty-spotted cats (reactivated), okapis (reactivated), reticulated giraffes (increased), southern brown kiwis, and Australian freshwater crocodiles (started).
- 2000/2001–2007/2008 Gave lectures at Veterinary Faculty of University of Giessen on zoo biology and conservation breeding
- 1994–2015 Member of the Trust Board of Natur- und Tierpark Goldau, Switzerland
- 1995–2008 Member of the Board of Directors
- 1996–2008 Vice President of Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS), and, since the inception, Vice Chair of the FZS Trust
- 2000–2008 Member of the Board of Trustees of the Senckenberg Nature Research Society in Frankfurt
- 2004 Cofounder of BioFrankfurt and member of the core group until 2007



- September 2007 Recipient of EAZA Award for Professional Excellence from the European Association of Zoos Aquaria (only third German-speaking recipient after Dr. Wilbert Neugebauer and Dr. Gunther Nogge)
- May 2008 Honour Kolloquium for Christian R. Schmidt: Zoos and Conservation at Senckenberg Natural History Museum with lectures from the doyen of the American zoo biologists Dr. George Rabb, the EAZA President Dr. Bert de Boer, the WAZA Director Dr. Peter Dollinger, and seven additional German-speaking zoo biologists
- 2008–2012 Advisor for the ape facility Darwineum at Zoo Rostock
- 2009–2011 President of the Zoological Society of Zurich; and later, board member
- 2010–2015 Vice President of the Nature and Bird Conservation Society Künsnacht (NVVK)
- August 1, 2012 Speech on the Swiss National Holiday at Künsnacht-Forch

Additional memberships include:

Tierpark Goldau, Honorary Member (2015)

Verband der Zoologischen Gärten (VdZ), Honorary Member

European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA)

World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA), Life Member

Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA)

Pan African Association of Zoos, Aquaria and Botanical Gardens (PAAZAB)

Malaysian Nature Society (MNS)

American Society of Mammalogists (ASM)

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Säugetierkunde (DGS)

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Herpetologie und Terrarienkunde (DGHT)

Tours to fifty-four countries on all continents, except Antarctica, to visit over five hundred zoos and more than 130 national parks and reserves, partly as tour guide; thirty-eight safaris to Africa—twenty-seven to Tanzania

Publication of over fifty scientific articles and contributions to books (among others, *Grzimek's Animal Life Encyclopedia*) and of five children's books (among them, *Sirih*, *kleine Schwester*, together with his wife Annemarie Schmidt-Pfister)

Hobbies include breeding Mediterranean Tortoises, along with enjoying nature photography and his nature library.