

Dr Benoît GIRARDIN, 1943

**Professor & Senior Advisor on Ethics and Political Governance
with a wide exposure to intercultural management and evaluation**

retired from the Swiss Foreign Office

Benefiting from over 30 years of thorough, wide experience in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, successively as project manager, policy advisor, cooperation programme country director and ambassador, then as vice-chancellor

« Les Peupliers », rue du Petit Faubourg 10, CH 1147 Montricher
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Holder of a PhD degree in theology (University of Geneva, 1976) and having considerable track record as lecturer, manager and leader of multicultural teams,

My core expertise is now applied to lecturing, advising and training on

- ◆ **Ethics in Politics; Religions, Ethics and International Relations**
- ◆ **Governance related issues, in particular decentralisation and electoral processes**
- ◆ **Organisational Development, Inter-cultural management; Time management; Evaluation**

Professional expertise

- ◆ **Vice-Chancellor** of Protestant Institute of Arts and Social Sciences in Butare – Rwanda (today Protestant University of Rwanda)
- ◆ **Professor** of Ethics, Political Philosophy and International Relations at Geneva School of Diplomacy and international Relations (Master degree); Religions, Ethics and International Relations (Bachelor and Master degrees)
- ◆ **Ambassador** of Switzerland in Madagascar and **Country Director** of Swiss Development Cooperation in Madagascar, Romania, Pakistan.
- ◆ **Evaluator** of policies, programmes and projects in institutional and social development
- ◆ **Advisor** on ethical dimension of politics as well as on democratic and electoral processes, at local or central level, with a particular focus on the delineation of power, resources and roles, effective decentralisation and governance
- ◆ **Mediator** in multi stakeholders' negotiations, allowing Governments, civil society, private sector, academics and foreign aid partners to interact positively, find institutional and long lasting solutions, and check the quality of their implementation

Special skills

- ◆ Executive education, moderation of meetings, teamwork, stress and time management
- ◆ Inter-cultural negotiation, mediation, conflict management
- ◆ Organisational strengthening, fostering evolving processes within institutions
- ◆ Languages: French as mother tongue, English & German fluent; Romanian & Spanish: basic

Personal

Married to Claire FALCY, photographer; one son Simon, born in 1984, IT engineer

Born in 1943; Swiss national; retired from the Federal External Affairs Ministry in June 2008.

Interests in international literature and philosophical essays, political culture, water painting, tennis, gardening.

Presently resident in Switzerland, 50km far from Geneva.

Professional experiences and achievements

Switzerland and abroad as of mid 2008

- ◆ **Professor** of Religions, Ethics, and International Politics (BAIR), Ethics, Political Philosophy, and International Relations (EMIR) and International Relations. Theories and Practice (MIR) at Geneva School of Diplomacy and International Relations (2010-). Supervisor of PhD candidates.
- ◆ **Vice-Chancellor (Rector)** of Protestant Institute of Arts and Social Sciences in Butare (Rwanda) (2011-2015), a private university institute comprising of three Faculties with 7 departments and 1'000 students.
- ◆ **Visiting fellow** at University of Rajasthan – India (2010, 2016) and Catholic University of Madagascar (2009).
- ◆ **Freelance advisor** in the field of good governance, institutional development, decentralisation, elections, time management, program and project assessments.

Main tasks and achievements

- ◆ Overall Management of a private University Institute in Rwanda, with regular two-monthly presence on the spot and distance management.
- ◆ Delivering a course on “Ethics, Political Philosophy and International Relations” to graduate students of Geneva School of Diplomacy and International Relations as of 2010 to 2015; then on “Religions, Ethics and International Politics” (2017 -), supervisor of PhD candidates.
- ◆ Main drafter of a Declaration about *Ethics and Politics*, endorsed and published by Globethics.net in 2012, translated into 2 major international languages as well as author of *Ethics in Politics. Why it matters more than ever and How it can make a Difference* (2012) (140'000 downloads end of 2021).
- ◆ Main drafter of *Water Ethics. Principles and Guidelines*, as a result from an electronic Working Group, endorsed and published by Globethics.net in 2019, translated into 3 major international languages, as well as co-editor of a collective book *Blue Ethics. Ethical Perspectives on Sustainable, Fair Water Resources Use and Management*, translated into French and Spanish (2020, 2021) (20'000 downloads end of 2021).
- ◆ Evaluation of programmes/projects in the fields of governance, youth migration, teenagers in prisons, food security in Rwanda, Burundi and Western Africa region, Georgia and Ukraine.

Madagascar (Antananarivo)

June 2003 – March 2008

- ◆ **Swiss Ambassador to Madagascar along with Country Director of Swiss Development Cooperation programme**

Main tasks and achievements

- ◆ Advocating Swiss political and economical interests in Madagascar: negotiation of a bilateral Investment promotion agreement as well as of juridical cooperation

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- ◆ Setting up a support programme to the national decentralisation policy and process and commenting key aspects of the national policy
- ◆ Mediating and encouraging a wide international support for several electoral processes and keeping close links with civil society organisations in that domain
- ◆ Attending many policy dialogues on governance, local development, environmental issues

Switzerland (Berne)

2000 – mid 2003

- ◆ **Deputy Head, Evaluation and Controlling Division, Swiss Aid Agency (SDC)**

Main tasks and achievements

- ◆ Designing a specific comprehensive controlling tool to monitor SDC' long term strategy
- ◆ Identifying and contracting professionals capable to conduct independent evaluations of programmes and policies
- ◆ Training SDC staff at HQ and local level as well, in programme/project cycle management and evaluation
- ◆ Representing Switzerland in international networks such as the Comprehensive Development Framework Evaluation Steering Committee (a World Bank initiative) as well OECD Evaluation Committee

Romania (Bucharest)

1996 -1999

- ◆ **Counsellor to the Swiss Embassy for International Co-operation and Humanitarian Aid**
- ◆ **Country Director of technical co-operation and financial assistance programmes sponsored by Swiss Government**

Main tasks and achievements:

- ◆ Programme supervision, drafting of strategies, monitoring of projects, partners' identification
- ◆ Mediation between the Romanian Government, Donors, private business and NGOs to improve Emergency Health Services, Energy saving programmes and to develop schemes for microenterprises to access financial services
- ◆ Setting up SDC country office and building-up a small team of local professionals

Pakistan (Islamabad)

1991-1996

- ◆ **Counsellor to the Swiss Embassy for International Co-operation**
- ◆ **Deputy Country Director of technical co-operation and financial assistance Programmes sponsored by Swiss Government**

Main tasks and achievements:

- ◆ Programme supervision, from drafting strategies to project monitoring and partners identification

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- ◆ Negotiating with the Pakistani Government, Donors, civil society organisations, private business designing micro leasing schemes for microenterprises to access financial resources and setting up a platform to address Human Rights related issues
- ◆ Persuading Government and World Bank to insert in its Community Infrastructure Development schemes based on communities' involvement in priority setting, co-funding and monitoring along with provincial and national Governments

Switzerland (Berne)

1987-1991

◆ SDC advisor in the field of urban development in developing countries (50%)

Main tasks and achievements:

- ◆ Drafting of a policy in the field of urban development, focusing on secondary cities
- ◆ Networking with other International and Bilateral Development Agencies and setting up a pool of Swiss experts
- ◆ Extending advisory support to SDC staff for the appraisal, planning and monitoring of sponsored projects in Burundi, Burkina Faso, Indonesia, Pakistan, Bolivia and Argentine

◆ SDC desk officer for selected programmes carried out in West Africa (50%)

Main tasks:

- ◆ Supervision of a regional post-graduate education project for electrical engineers

Cameroon (Douala)

1982 - 1987

- ◆ Advisor to the most important slum upgrading project in Sub Saharan Africa, implemented by Cameroon Government with the support of World Bank and Swiss Government
- ◆ Head of "ARAN' Liaising and Land Titling Office" as well as Leader of the Swiss Experts Team

Main tasks and achievements:

- ◆ planning and implementing the whole process of resettling displaced families as well as of land tenure regularisation and access to housing credit
- ◆ liaising with local administration and community organisations
- ◆ fostering building companies to subcontract the construction of public facilities to small, local enterprises

Cameroon (Yaoundé) and Switzerland (Geneva)

1973 -1982

- ◆ Professor and Librarian at the Protestant Theology Department, Yaoundé (1978-1981)
 - ◆ Teacher and tutor at Geneva "Atelier Oecuménique de Théologie" (1973-1978)
 - ◆ Teacher at Social Workers Educational Institutes of Geneva and Lausanne (1974-78)
- (all under free lance, local working contracts)

Areas *History of Christianity, Christian Missions, Social Ethics, Assessment of Racial Discrimination, Communication Theories and Practices*

Subjects of Research i) *Transcription of and annotations to hand written Calvin's sermons, ii) Christianity being introduced in African Villages in the early XXth century as remembered by elderly villagers, iii) Missionary history in Africa (XVIIth c) and iv) History of Swiss missionary and antislavery movements,*

Education

- ◆ **Acquisition of several professional skills, through short term executive training, in the following fields: institutional development and organisational strengthening, negotiation and conflict management, risk management, time and stress management, trans-cultural communication, preparation and moderation of meetings, planning and monitoring, teamwork, gender balance.**
- ◆ **PhD** in Protestant Theology awarded by University of Geneva, 1978, with a dissertation: "Theological and Rhetorical. The interpretation of Romans' Epistle by Calvin (1540)" published by Beauchesne in Paris in 1979
- ◆ Master in Divinity (University of Fribourg, 1969) with a dissertation on Language philosophy of Edmund Husserl and Jean Nabert
- ◆ Bachelor in Philosophy (College of Huy, Belgium) 1963-64
- ◆ A level (High school diploma) : mathematics and sciences, Lausanne, 1962

Membership

- ◆ Globethics.net. Academy
- ◆ University of Rajasthan, Social Sciences Research Centre. Editorial Advisory Board of Social Science Explorer
- ◆ International Network for Ethical Governance
- ◆ Workshop for Water Ethics
- ◆ Transparency International, Swiss Chapter
- ◆ SEVAL: Swiss Evaluators' Association

Recent lecturing and training activities

- ◆ Course on **Religions, Ethics, and International Politics**, for International Relations bachelor's degree of Geneva School of Diplomacy and International Relations, Geneva, 2016-22
- ◆ Keynote speech on **Key Challenges for Today and Tomorrow Governance. Ethical Requirements for Public Administration**, delivered at the University of Rajasthan, Department of Public Administration, Jaipur March 29, 2017
- ◆ **Ethical Perspectives about Oceans flooded with Plastics**, W4W Interdisciplinary Colloquium, Geneva March 21, 2017
- ◆ Course **Theory and Practice of International Relations**, for International Relations Master's degree of Geneva School of Diplomacy and International Relations, Geneva, 2016-17
- ◆ Courses on **Ethics, Political Philosophy and International Relations**, for International Relations master's degree of Geneva School of Diplomacy and International Relations, Geneva, 2010-11, 2011-12
- ◆ On **Ethics and Politics** for Master students in Social Sciences Faculty at Rajasthan University Jaipur, India (Sept 2010), Master students at Université Catholique de Madagascar (April 2009) as well as young political and opinion leaders of the "Young Leaders Training Programme" conducted by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in Antananarivo (2007, 2008)
- ◆ Presentation of **Political Federal Structures** (decentralisation) with a focus on power delineation, resources mobilisation and coordination: to Executive Summer University on Federal Studies at Fribourg University in 2009 as well as to University professors and graduate students of Diplomatic and Strategic Studies Centre in Madagascar (2005 – 2008)
- ◆ **Political Communication**, along with Prof Ramandimbilahatra, Advisor to the President of Madagascar, for the "Young Leaders Training Programme" in Antananarivo (2005 - 2008)
- ◆ **Evaluation, Monitoring, Quality control** in Programme/Projects for junior staff of SDC as well as Swiss NGOs (2000 – 2003) and for culture managers (2010)
- ◆ **Risk Management** and **Strategic Controlling** for senior staff of Swiss Administration (2002, 2003)

Publications

- "Interactions culturelles mises en œuvre au travers de pratiques et politiques éditoriales d'entreprises missionnaires protestantes en Afrique australe au XIXe siècle", *Evolution des politiques et techniques éditoriales dans la mission (XIXe-XXIe siècles)*, Paris, L'Harmattan, 2022, p. 115-150.
- "Ethics, economics, ecology joined to each other. The case of Nestlé-Waters managing along with local farmers a spring in Henniez (Switzerland)", Musée d'Histoire des Sciences, Geneva 2021
- "Covid-19 impacting societies and social sciences. What the pandemic has revealed in terms of weaknesses, failures, dilemmas, opportunities. An essay", *Social Sciences Explorer*, Social Sciences Research Centre, Rajasthan University, Jaipur, vol XI, 2020
- "Towards a Culture of Holistic and Interdisciplinary Approaches through Electronic Negotiations in Higher Education for Sustainability and Peace", *Building New Bridges Together Strengthening Ethics in Higher Education after COVID-19*, Globethics.net, Online Education for a Sustainable Future: Quality and Ethical Standards in Higher Education June 21, 2020
- *Blue Ethics. Ethical Perspectives on Sustainable, Fair Water Use and Management*, co-editor, Globethics.net, Geneva, Oct 2019 (ISBN 978-2-88931-309-9). Translated into French (2020), Spanish (2021) and Chinese (2022).
- Main writer of the *Water Ethics. Principles and Guidelines*, endorsed by Globethics.net Foundation Board, Globethics.net, Geneva, Oct 2019 (ISBN 978-2-88931-313-6). Translated into French (2020), Spanish (2021) and Chinese (2022).
- "Water Stress. Ethical Overview" in *Education. Gender Partnership. Finance: Decisive Keys to combat Water Stress?* Proceedings of the Fifth Interdisciplinary Colloquium organized by the W4W Group, Geneva, March 2018, p. 18- 20.
- "Creation, Care and Sustainability. Ethical Challenges" in H. Bedford-Strohm, Th. Gatwa and al. eds (2017). *African Christian Theologies and the Impact of Reformation*. Münster-Wien-Zürich, LIT Verlag, p. 263 - 292 (ISBN 978-3-643-90820-9)
- "Creation, Care and Sustainability. Christian and African Legacies" in H. Bedford-Strohm, Th. Gatwa and al. eds (2017). *African Christian Theologies and the Impact of Reformation*. Münster-Wien-Zürich, LIT Verlag, p. 403 - 443 (ISBN 978-3-643-90820-9)
- "Oceans Flooded with Plastic. Ethical considerations" in *Oceans Flooded with Plastic. Myth or Reality?* Proceedings of the Fourth Interdisciplinary Colloquium organized by the W4W Group, Geneva, March 2017, p. 21- 27.
- "Just management of cross-border aquifers" in Ev. Fiechter-Widemann (2017).; Engl. transl in *The Human Right to Water. Justice or ...Sham*. Pickwick 2017 (ISBN 13: 978-1-4982-9406-5); original en français: "Gestion juste des aquifères transfrontaliers" in Ev. Fiechter-Widemann, *Droit humain à l'eau: Justice ou ...imposture*. Genève, Slatkine, 2017, p 625 - 633

- "Conflict Prevention and Management: Plea for an Ethic of Responsibility", in *Managing Conflicts and Violence in Families and Communities. Factors contributing to failure and successes in Rwandan traditions and modern approaches*, Butare 2016, PIASS Publication Series N°7, p. 9-34 (ISBN 978-2-9543193-6-0)
- "Conflict Management and Prevention at Family and Community Levels. Ethical Perspectives", in *Violence and Conflict Management in Families and Communities* , Butare 2014, PIASS Publication Series N°6, p. 9-26.
- "Ethique politique et lutte contre la corruption dans la région des Grands Lacs", in *L'Analyse Topique. Revue interdisciplinaire des Facultés de l'ULPGL*, Goma (RDC), N°8, juin 2014.
- *L'éthique : un défi pour la politique. Pourquoi l'éthique importe plus que jamais en politique et comment elle peut faire la différence*, Globethics (series Focus N° 5B, Genève 2014 en imprimé (ISBN 978-2-940428-91-5) et également en version électronique (ISBN 978-2-940428-90-8) sur www.Globethics.net/publications, ou Amazone.
- "Ethics and Gender Equality" in *Family, Gender and Community Development*, p.9-52, PIASS Publication Series N°5, Butare, 2014, p. 9-52 (ISBN 978-2-9543193-3-9).
- "Drug Abuse and Drug Addiction. Ethical Considerations" in *Drug Abuse and Addiction in Rwanda. Can Rwanda win the war on its own !*, Butare 2014, PIASS Publication Series N°4, p. 133-219 (ISBN 978-2-954193-3-9).
- "Entrepreneurship Promotion as Key Factor towards Poverty Reduction: Main Lessons and Ethical Perspectives" in *Entrepreneurship and Poverty Reduction in Rwanda*, pp. 133-157, PIASS Publication Series N°3, Butare, 2013 (ISBN 978-2-954193-1-8)
- "Structured Reforms relying on Structured Ethics" in *Public Reforms in Rwanda*, pp. 111-124, PIASS Publication Series N°1, Butare, 2012 (ISBN 978-2-954193-1-8)
- *Ethics and Politics. Why it matters more than ever and How it can make a difference*, Geneva: Globethics, 2012 (series Focus N° 5) in print (ISBN 978-2-940428-20-5) as well as electronic (ISBN 978-2-940428-21-2) on www.Globethics.net/publications .
- "L'eau a-t-elle un coût? et si oui, lequel ? considérations éthiques." actes du 1er colloque interdisciplinaire organisé par le W4W, Eau Besoin Vital et Justice Globale (mars 2011). http://www.ville-ge.ch/mhs/anima_2011_eau.php; in english "Does Water Have a Cost, and If So, What? Ethical Considerations." <http://www.fiechter.name/w4w>.
- "Language Setting the Stage for Diplomacy. Diplomacy based on Interpretation, Rhetoric and Ethics. Philosophical Considerations" in Jovan Kurbalija and Hannah Slavik (eds.): *Language and Diplomacy*, MEDAC, Malta 2001, p. 139 – 152 (ISBN 99909-55-15-8)
- "From Donors Co-ordination Towards Policy Dialogue". Two and a half years of experience in Pakistan" in *Small Enterprise Development. An International Journal* , Durham 1995
- (co-editor) *For a conducive Policy Framework towards Small and Micro Enterprises Promotion*, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Publications, Islamabad 1995

- (editor) *Small Enterprises Promotion in Pakistan*, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Publications, Islamabad 1992
- "Partenariat social et restructuration urbaine" in *Espaces et Sociétés*, Paris 1991, No 65 (Succès de la ville, crise de l'urbanité. Analyses à partir de situations non européennes)
- "Cooperacion Internacional y Desarrollo Urbano. Balance de las Experiencias Hechas" in *Habitat Popular Urbano. Politica de Desarrollo o Situacion de Emergencia*, Lausanne - Cochabamba, 1990
- "Les sociétés anti-esclavagistes genevoises à la fin du XIXe siècle" in *Genève-Afrique*, t.20, 1986: 14-36
- "Périodiques missionnaires protestants romands 1819-1981" in *Basler-Afrika Bibliographie*, Basel 1982
- "Christianisme et Territoire. Le cas des aumôniers de la *Westindische Compagnie* en Guinée aux XVIIe et XVIIIe siècles" in *Nouvelle Revue Missionnaire*, Lucerne, t. 38, 1982 / 1
- *Rhétorique et Théologique. Calvin: Le commentaire de l'Épître aux Romains*, Paris, Beauchesne 1979, 400 p. (collection "Bibliothèque Théologique" No 54)
- "Le langage et le mythe" in *Freiburger Zeitschrift für Philosophie und Theologie*, vol.13/14, 1966/67, No3, 401-412.

References

H.E. Marcel RANJEVA, Minister for External Affairs, Government of the Republic of Madagascar

H.E. Livia LEU, Secretary of State Swiss Government, Federal Ministry of External Affairs, Berne

H.E. Jean-Claude BOIDIN, European Union Ambassador to Madagascar, Antananarivo, retired

James BOND, World Bank Regional Director Western Africa, Abidjan

Rev. Dr. André KARAMAGA, General Secretary, All Africa Conference of Churches, Nairobi

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