

# Arnold Bergstraesser Institute for Socio-Cultural Research

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## Fields of research

The Institute focuses on basic research in the social sciences, often complemented by projects of applied research. It is also engaged in teaching and training, e. g. university seminars and non-university training courses in development studies. Co-operation in research with non-European universities has a long tradition. The majority of ABI research projects are intercultural, empirical and interdisciplinary.

### Areas of basic research:

- genesis, containment and regulation of ethnic and regional conflicts in the Third World;
- issues of governance:
  - parliaments, parties, elections and democratisation in countries of the South;
  - structure and functions of public sector management in developing countries;
  - regional and multilateral co-operation in international relations and global governance;
- education and political development;
- migration and development;
- culture and development;
- development policy in theory and practice.

**The Institute**

The Arnold Bergstraesser Institute (ABI) is an independent non-profit research institute for the purpose of comparative analysis of development issues in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Founded in 1959 by Arnold Bergstraesser, then a professor of political science and sociology at the University of Freiburg, the institute nowadays has a permanent research staff of about ten and a number of affiliated researchers. The Institute is able to provide office space for Ph. D. candidates and visiting scholars.



**Applied research and consultancy** cover the following topics:

- basic education, formal and non-formal training;
- local governance, decentralisation and urban development;
- promotion of democracy and political education;
- international election observation;
- feasibility and evaluation studies.

## Library

The Institute's specialised social-science reference library on non-European countries houses about 80,000 volumes and 400 periodicals. The library is open to the public.



## Publications

Research findings of the Institute are published in monographs or articles in specialised journals. Beside some series, the Institute regularly publishes the journal *Internationales Asienforum / International Quarterly for Asian Studies* which is of high repute.

## Administration

### Director:

Dr Heribert Weiland, professor of political science, Freiburg.

### Advisory committee:

Dr Theodor Hart, honorary professor of political science, Freiburg; director, International Centre for Human Sciences (UNESCO), Byblos, Lebanon.  
Dr Jürgen Rüland, professor of political science, University of Freiburg.

### Board of trustees:

The Institute's board of trustees are drawn mostly from the Arnold Bergstraesser school of social science. Chairman is Dr Dr h. c. Dieter Oberndörfer, professor emeritus, Director of the Institute 1964-2000.

Since December 2000, an Advisory Committee promotes the interests of the Institute in the public. Its members are leading personalities of public and business life. Its chairwoman is Margret Böhme.