

Thomas Benedikter

Thomas Benedikter is an economist and a social researcher born in Bolzen (South Tyrol, Italy) in 1957. He graduated in Economics at the University of Munich (Germany) and in Political Economy at the University of Trento (Italy). Besides many years of professional activity in empirical social and economic research in his home region South Tyrol, since 1983 he has been continuously committed to activities in development co-operation projects and human rights NGO activities with particular regard to minority and indigenous peoples rights, peace and international conflict, information on North-South-issues. He has been the Director of the South Tyrolean branch of the international NGO “Society for Threatened Peoples” (based in Germany) and some other international solidarity initiatives. Committed to journalistic and humanitarian purposes, he spent about two years with research and project activities in Latin America, the Balkans and South Asia (especially in Nepal, Kashmir and Sri Lanka). He wrote several books on ethnic conflict, language policy and autonomy and is working for several news magazines and journals. From 2003-2009 he was collaborating with the European Academy of Bozen for an “Exchange Programme for the Politics of Recognition” (minority protection systems) with South Asian partners. Since 2003 he has been active in several organizations and institutions in research, teaching and publication activities on regional territorial autonomy. Today he is the responsible Director of the South Tyrol's Centre for Political Studies and Civic Education POLITiS.