

Successes are visible, failures are often invisible or hidden, telling together a wrong story about my academic career. Writing a CV of Failures is an attempt to counterbalance the bias and provide some perspective instead of giving the impression that most things work out for me.

The idea for a CV of Failures is not mine, but inspired by a thought-provoking article in *Nature*<sup>1</sup> by biomedical scientist [Melanie Stefan](#)<sup>2</sup> and other colleagues, following Melanie Stefan's example [here](#)<sup>3</sup>. As CVs in general also this CV is unlikely to be complete, due to my memory and due to the many ways, we tell us streamlined story about our self. Here is what I remember:

#### Degree programmes I did not get into

- 1983 Medical study programme

#### Academic positions and fellowships I did not get

- 1990 Cusanuswerk fellowship for gifted students (MA)
- 2004 Professorship for German studies at the University of Basel
- 2005 Professorship for German studies at the University of Vienna

#### Research funding I did not get

- 2015 Volkswagen Stiftung Research Grant
- 2017 University of Goettingen Research Funding
- 2017/2018 European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme
- 2019 Swiss National Science Foundation Research Grant
- 2021 Alexander von Humboldt Professorship

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nature.com/articles/nj7322-467a> or <https://doi.org/10.1038/nj7322-467a>

<sup>2</sup> <http://melaniestefan.net/>

<sup>3</sup> [http://everydayscientist.com/CV/sjl\\_CV-failures.pdf](http://everydayscientist.com/CV/sjl_CV-failures.pdf)