

Thomas Allmendinger: Biography (October 2019)

Born 1947 in Zurich, I went through the Swiss school and education system, followed by studies at the ETH (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology) and a Master degree (Diploma) in general and organic chemistry in 1971. My career started in a private environmental-lab, especially involved in research at sewage plants. It was followed by an interlude as a chemistry teacher at a private grammar school. Subsequently, the development of a time-/temperature-indicator for deep frozen foods was privately pursued which had been started at the environmental-lab by order of an industrial firm. Moreover, my interest for alternative energies was awakened, particularly with respect to electrochemical fuel cells. It finally led on to a R&D-project about an internal reforming methanol/air fuel cell, carried out at the ETH in cooperation with the PSI (Paul Scherrer Institute). Related to that, I finished my PhD thesis in 1992. Afterwards, I operated a private lab, offering professional support for industrial firms. This work was done in association with the AFIF (Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Industrielle Forschung / Consortium for Industrial Research) at the Technopark in Zurich. But since this institution was shortly dissolved, my work could not be continued either, requiring an appointment at a company. This could be found at an electroplating firm (Collini AG), where I was engaged as a lab-head till my retirement in 2012. Subsequently, I tackled climate physics as a novel research field within a private occupation, delivering considerable results. Besides, quantum mechanics arouse my interest since it delivers the foundations of physics.