

Hans Mathias Kepplinger

Danksagung anlässlich der Verleihung des Helen Dinerman Awards
am 15. Juni 2012 in der Hong Kong University

Dear Tom Smith, Dear Robert Chung:

When I first learned about this year's Helen Dinerman Award, my spontaneous reaction was: Why me? I'm not a typical opinion pollster! When I learned that prior recipients include such eminent social scientists as Robert King Merton, I proudly asked myself: Why not? He was not a typical pollster either. Having enjoyed my upgrading for a while, I felt a little embarrassed because of the presumption and looked for possible reasons for the jury's decision. Finally, I found a few – but the past president of WAPOR mentioned far more in his encomium, and I will neither repeat, nor contradict him. Therefore, I could stop here – but I have to add a few words.

Since 1970 I have worked with many students and research assistants who have become prominent social scientists and who helped me to develop codebooks and questionnaires – Wolfgang Donsbach, Rainer Mathes, Hans-Bernd Brosius, Carsten Reinemann, Jochen Peter, Gregor Daschmann and Marcus Maurer – to mention but a few in chronological order. I thank all of them –for their creativity, commitment and patience. I also want to thank the selection committee – Kathleen Frankovic, Michael Traugott and Thomas Petersen – who decided to honor my contributions with the Helen Dinerman Award – and last but not least Renae Reis who has helped me a lot to come here and feel happy.