



**European Forum on Philanthropy and
Research Funding**

**Innovative funding models for
research: The Sequential Model**

(FNP, MPG)

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The end of the science superpowers

(J. R. Hollingsworth, K. H. Müller, E. J. Hollingsworth)

- "An evolving multi-polar world economy is leading to multiple centres of science — the United States, the European Union, Japan, China, Russia and possibly India."
- Excellence in science requires nimble, autonomous organizations — qualities more likely to be found in small research settings.,,

In the recent past, some of the most creative small centers were the Rockefeller University in New York, the Salk Institute in San Diego, California, the Basel Institute for Immunology in Switzerland, the Laboratory of Molecular Biology in Cambridge, UK, and various Max Planck Institutes in Germany. In the past decade Nobel Prizes have been awarded to scientists for work done in relatively small settings.

- A priori statement:
 - Firstly: universal nature of science, in particular of basic research
 - Secondly: borders and „Internationalization“
- Thus: combination and interaction of
 - basic research by its nature and
 - its embedment in effective conditions (being national, international or rather transnational)

Those who want will find a way

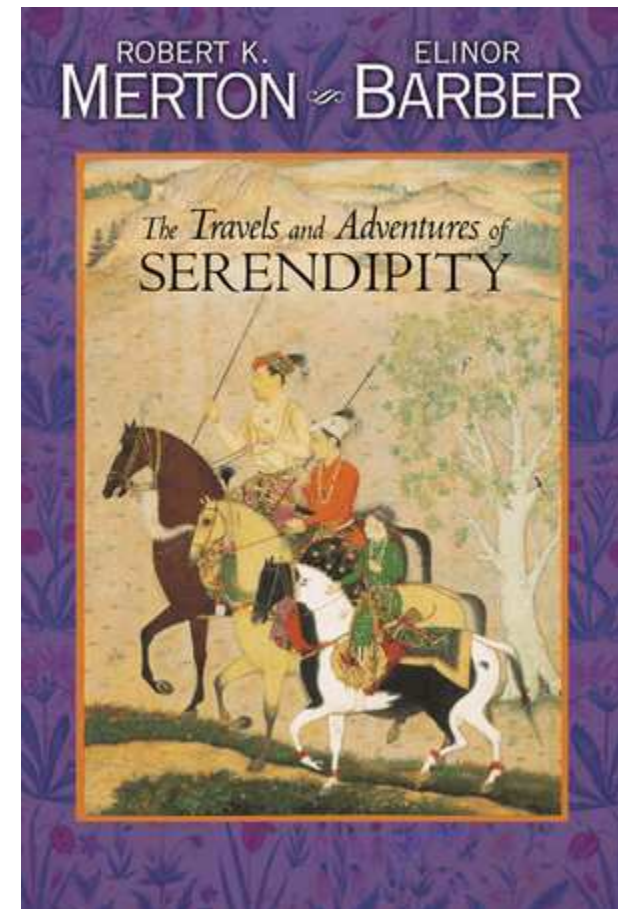


source: www.geo-reisecommunity.de

Those who don't, will find excuses

Serendipity

- individualism, people
- environment
 - flexibility
 - freedom
 - responsibility
- trust and quality control
- transparency
- competition
- internationalization or rather transnationalisation



Basic Research – Impact

- broadening the frontiers of knowledge
- providing profound answers to relevant sociopolitical questions
- essential momentum for economic and technological progress

We refer to...

- to the original concept of **Independent Junior Research Groups** for the promotion of young scientists – developed and successfully conducted by the MPG (sequential model is based upon this concept) as well as to the MPG experience with **Partner Groups**
- to the example of long-term and successful cooperation between Germany and Argentina / converted into „Argentinian model” in 2007/2008 by four partner institutions: MPG, VW Foundation, CONICET and MINCyT
- to the long-term and fruitful German-Polish cooperation in life sciences (e.g. MPG – IIMCB)

- Trilateral co-operation to be started between:
 - Max Planck Society (MPG), Germany
 - Foundation for Polish Science (FNP), Poland
 - Hosting research institution, Poland
- Establishment of an independent junior research group with a quasi-tenured and long-term perspective in Poland
- „Tenure“:
 - 5 years at a Max Planck Institute in Germany (funded by MPG)
 - 5 years at a hosting research institution in Poland (funded by FNP)
 - long-term commitment by the hosting Polish research institution

- equal financial contribution of both FNP and MPG (1,2 M € each)
- equal rights of funding partners (including the right to veto at every phase of the project)
- evaluation procedure preliminary foreseen after first 2,5 years and before the transfer to Poland
- transfer to Poland is not obligatory for the leader and the group although necessary for the continuation of funding

Why we think it is special:

- research funding and research performing organisations
- transnational
- support for independent young scientists, no matter which nationality
 - international competition
 - Joint Commission
- High visibility and feedback in both countries
- Bottom-up:
 - flexible
 - individual

What we want to achieve:

- to stimulate Polish-German cooperation in the selected field (previous and very positive experience in life sciences)
- to positively motivate other scientists working in the host institutions on both sides (competitiveness)

in case of the FNP also...

- to prove that Poland might be an attractive place for research
- to strengthen the best scientific unit and help it become even better
- to give younger scientists (and students) a chance to join or at least observe a new leader and his/her group (inspiration)

- high level of trust
- independent
- flexible
- bottom-up
- quality standards
- focus, here on young researchers

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