

Curriculum Vitae

Born in 1976, I grew up with my three sisters in a family that was actively opposed to the socialist government in East Germany. I belong to the last East German generation that grew up in a divided Europe.

However, as a student after the peaceful revolution in 1989, the opportunities of Europe and the rest of the world became accessible. Suddenly, we started to live with the enjoyment of the independent press, freedom, and peace that we had struggled so long for. I recall the student exchange with the old Danish Kingstown Ribe that I organized while being the elected student representative, or an international concert trip through France that I was able to experience. I even hitch hiked through Europe at the age of sixteen. These trips through Europe fascinated me and left a lasting impression.



Instead of military service, I worked with the NGO, **Action Reconciliation Service for Peace**, in Boston, USA, alongside with the educational organization, **Facing History and Ourselves**, and the **Goethe-Institute**. Furthermore, I studied history, politics, and educational science at the **Humboldt-Universität in Berlin** and **University of Cape Town** in South Africa. I then worked again for Facing History and Ourselves in the USA, Germany, and England. Afterwards, I worked for the **Federal Center for Education** in Germany.

Due to my interest in politics, I started working for the **SPD** member of the German Bundestag, Engelbert Wistuba, in 2007. The electoral district included Dessau, Roßlau, Lutherstadt Wittenberg, and Köthen. From 2010 to 2014, I worked as a personal assistant for the Mayor of **Lutherstadt Wittenberg**, Eckhard Naumann.

In 2008, on Reformation Day, I joined the **SPD**. I was then elected as the local **SPD-Chair** of Lutherstadt Wittenberg in 2011, and as the leader of the **regional SPD association** in Wittenberg in 2012. For the federal elections of 2013, I ran as a candidate in the Dessau-Wittenberg district. In May 2014, I was elected to the European Parliament and have been the SPD representative for Sachsen-Anhalt since July 2014. I am a member of the **S&D group** and work on the **Foreign Affairs Committee** as well as the **Development Committee**. I also am a **substitute** for the **Security and Defence Sub-Committee** and the **Panama Papers Inquiry Committee**.

Education

- **1997-2004:** Studied History, Politics and Education at Humboldt University, Berlin and University of Cape Town (South Africa), graduating with a Master's in Modern History

Professional Career

- **2004-2006:** European representative of the American educational organization 'Facing History And Ourselves' (Berlin, Boston, London)
- **2006:** Call center worker, Hollywood film script agent, dishwasher
- **2007-2009:** Academic assistant to Engelbert Wistuba, Member of the German Bundestag, Berlin
- **2010-2014:** Consultant to Eckhard Naumann, Mayor of Wittenberg

Political Career

- **2011-present :** Chair, committee on Christians, SPD in Saxony-Anhalt
- **2011-2014 :** Chair, local SPD association, Lutherstadt Wittenberg
- **2012-present :** Chair, Wittenberg district SPD association,
- **2012-present :** Regional party conference delegate
- **2014-2016 :** Spokesman, committee on culture, Saxony-Anhalt SPD
- **2014-present :** Member of Social Democratic East Germany forum
- **2014-present :** Spokesman, committee on Europe, Saxony-Anhalt SPD
- **2014-present :** Member of executive, local SPD association, Lutherstadt Wittenberg
- **2015-present :** Delegate to Party of European Socialists (PES) congress
- **2015-present :** SPD Federal Party Conference delegate