

Curriculum Vitae

Alois M. Holzer



Education and Occupation

- 1995 Final secondary-school examinations (Matura) at Handelsakademie (business school) in Wiener Neustadt, Austria.
- 1995-1996 Military service.
- 1995-2000 Self-employment in the field of applied meteorology.
- 1996-2002 Student at the University of Vienna, Institute of Meteorology and Geophysics, besides meteorology additional courses in hydrology, geophysics and glaciology. Tutor for glaciology field works and sinkhole temperature field experiments.
- 1997-present Weather Forecaster at the ORF Weather Forecasting Department in Vienna, since 2000 senior forecaster.
- 1998-2006 TorDACH representative for Austria (center of competence for severe local storms in Germany, Austria and Switzerland).
- 2000-2010 Trainer for marine meteorology and tropical meteorology (mariners' courses)
- 2003-2004 Project leader at ZAMG for the development of a convective storms and tornado database.
- 2003 Initiator and project leader for the first public severe weather warnings concept in Austria (ORF Öe3 Wetterwarnungen in cooperation with ZAMG and ACG).
- 2003 Organizer of the Austrian Severe Weather Warning Workshop.
- 2006 ESSL founding member
- Since 2007 Reviewer for the journal Atmospheric Research.
- Since 2007 ESSL Treasurer (member of the Executive Board), re-elected in 2010 and 2012.
- 2008-2012 Trainer at the ORF internal human resources department, topic weather forecasting.
- 2009 Member of the Scientific Programme Committee for the ECSS in Landshut, Germany.
- 2010-2013 Member of the Broad Management Team of the EU-FP7-project EWENT
- 2011 Member of the Local Organizing Committee for the ECSS in Palma (Mallorca), Spain.
- 2011 Organizer of the Austrian Hail Forecasting Symposium.
- 2011 First founder of the ESSL subsidiary "European Severe Storms Laboratory – Science and Training" in Wiener Neustadt, Austria.
- Since 2012 Elected "Director of Operations" of the "European Severe Storms Laboratory – Science and Training" and Co-Organizer of the "ESSL Testbed"
- Member of the EMS media awards select committee.
- 2012 Keynote presentation at the EUMETSAT conference in Sopot, Poland: "Climatology of (sub-) tropical cyclones in the waters surrounding Europe"
- 2013 Member of the Organizing Committee for the ECSS in Helsinki, Finland.
- Member of the Scientific Programme Committee and Co-Chair of the Communication-Session of the EUMETSAT-Conference in Vienna, Austria.
- Since 2014 Chair of the EMS media awards select committee for the "Award for Achievement in Journalism" (founder)
- Since 2014 Reviewer for the Journal "Meteorology, Hydrology and Water Management – Research and Operational Application – MHWM", based at the Meteorological Institute in Wrocław, Poland.

- Since 2015 Associate Member of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) in the standards committee (at the structural engineering institute SEI) for Wind Speed Estimation in Tornadoes (being one out of 3 non-US-members, the only European representative), representing the ESSL in the EF-Scale revision process.
- 2015 Organizer of the RAIN (EU-FP7 project) workshop on past severe weather hazards at the FU Berlin Institute of Meteorology and panel-host in the final panel-discussion.
- 2015 Chair of the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) for the 8th European Conference on Severe Storms (ECSS2015) in Wiener Neustadt, Austria.

Languages:

German (mother tongue), English (fluent), Austro-Bavarian (fluent), French (proficient), Spanish (basic knowledge)

Professional Life

Alois M. Holzer (born 1976) is a senior weather forecaster and in 2003 initiated the Austrian severe weather warnings project at the weather forecasting department of the Austrian Broadcasting Corporation (ORF). There he started as a volunteer in 1997, shortly after beginning his studies at the meteorology department (University of Vienna) in 1996, where besides his interest in mountain meteorology, tropical meteorology and the neighbouring sciences of hydrology, geophysics and seismology he also worked as a tutor in glaciology.

From 1995 to 2000 he self-employed in the field of applied meteorology and in 1996 he wrote a book about the local climate of his home region in Lower Austria. From 1997 to 2006 he was the Austrian representative of the TorDACH network, 2000 the sole Austrian representative at the EUROTORNADO conference in Toulouse, and in 2006 he was a founding member of the ESSL. Since 1998 he authored or co-authored scientific papers focussed on tornadoes and severe weather climatology in central Europe and worked as a trainer for operational meteorologists. In 2007 he has been elected Treasurer of the European Severe Storms Laboratory and since then not only managed ESSL finances, but also prepared the budget for several scientific projects (e.g. EWENT, where he is member of the broad management team). He co-organized the ECSS 2009 in Landshut together with Nikolai Dotzek. He co-organized the ECSS 2011 in Palma (Mallorca) and the ECSS 2013 in Helsinki (Finland). In 2012 he has been elected Director of Operations in the ESSL subsidiary association “European Severe Storms Laboratory – Science and Training”, hosting the “ESSL Testbed”. From 2011 to 2013 he worked on a climatology of so called subtropical and tropical cyclones in the waters surrounding Europe.

His preferred fields of activity are interdisciplinary works based on his knowledge of severe weather climatology, media meteorology applications and business skills. The combination of climatology experience and severe weather research as well as his interest in tropical, historical and media meteorology combined with interdisciplinary studies with psychology is unique in this environment.

Publications (peer-reviewed papers in bold letters)

Holzer A.M., 1995: Wetterchronik der Buckligen Welt, self-published monography. ISBN 3-9500671-0-8. Zweite und neu bearbeitete Auflage 1997.

Holzer A.M., 1998: Untersuchung und Dokumentation von Tornados in der südlichen Steiermark im Sommer 1998, Wetter und Leben 50, 103-114.

Holzer A.M., 2001: Tornado climatology of Austria, Atmospheric Research 56, 203-211.

Dotzek N., Holzer A.M., Schmidt W., 2003: TorDACH – Kompetenzzentrum für lokale Unwetter, DMG Mitteilungen 03/2003 5-6.

Svabik O., Holzer A.M., 2005: Kleinräumige, konvektiv verursachte Stürme und Wirbelstürme (Tornados) in Österreich, Österreichische Beiträge zu Meteorologie und Geophysik, 36 (monography). ISSN 1016-6254.

Steinacker R., Whiteman C.D., Dorninger M., Pospichal B., Eisenbach S., Holzer A.M., Weihs P., Mursch-Radlgruber E., Bauchman K., 2007: A sinkhole field experiment in the Eastern Alps”, BAMS 88-5 701-716.

Dotzek N., Groenemeijer P., Feuerstein B., Holzer A.M., 2009: Overview of ESSL’s severe convective storms research using the European Severe Weather Database ESWD, Atmospheric Research 93, 575-586.

Holzer A.M., Pistotnik G., 2008: Analyse der Gewitterfallböen im Bereich von St. Peter am Hart am 1. März 2008, VERBUND Publikation, monography.

Keul, A.G., Holzer A.M., Sterzinger, P., Rudolf, S., Reinmüller, A. & Messerklinger, S., 2009; Are Austrian radio weather warnings user-friendly?, Proceedings, 5th ECSS Landshut, p. 133.

Pistotnik G., Holzer A.M., Kaltenböck R., Tschannett S., 2011: An F3 downburst in Austria – A case study with special focus on the importance of real-time site surveys, Atmospheric Research 100, 565-579.

Feuerstein B., Groenemeijer P., Dirksen E., Hubrig M., Holzer A.M., Dotzek N., 2011: Towards an improved wind speed scale and damage description adapted for Central Europe, Atmospheric Research 100, 547-564.

Keul, A.G and Holzer A.M., 2013: The relevance and legibility of radio/television weather reports to the Austrian public, Atmospheric Research, 123, 32—42.