Education and scientific career

1975	Abitur Gymnasium Augustinianum Greven / Westfalen
1976	Study of History, Philosophy, Geography and Biology at the University of Bielefeld and the Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität in Münster
1983	Diploma in Biology (Botany), Münster
1989	Dissertation Osnabrück, 1989: *Sippenstrukturen in der Gattung Lepidium L. (Brassicaceae): Isoelektrische Fokussierungsmuster der Untereinheiten von Ribulose-1,5-Bisphosphat Carboxylase*
1996	Habilitation (Venia Legendi) in Botany
Since 1999	Assistant Professor at the Department of Biology of the University of Osnabrück
2002 – 2010	Chairman of the advisory board of the Botanical Garden of the University of Osnabrück
2002	Assigned to the official Professor`s group
2005 – 2007	Deputy for the chair of Systematic Botany at the University of Osnabrück
Since 2008	Head of the Examination Office of the Biology Department
DFG projects	Hu 148/10-1, 10-2, 11-1, 14-1; Mu 1137/ 1-3, 1-4, 1-5, Mu 1137/ 2-1; Mu 1137/7-1, 7-2 MU 1137/8-1, MU 1137/8-2, MU 1137/9-1, KO 2302/13-1, MU 1137/12-1, MU 1137/16-1

Numerous funded field trips to Europe, Turkey, Russia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Middle and South America, Ethiopia, Kenya, Morocco, Madagascar, S Africa, Australia and USA

I am generally interested in questions addressing the phylogeny, evolution, biogeography, and radiation of the Brassicaceae in the light of recent progress in paleoclimatic and genomic research. Furthermore, I am aiming for understanding the genetic basis of fruit and seed characters and regulation of character changes. I am also studying the influence of distinct fruit and seed traits on spatio-temporal diversification patterns within and among populations of selected weed species in Mediterranean habitats and S Africa, the role of abiotic and biotic stress factors on phenotypic plasticity of fruit and seed characters in a heterocarpic species, and the impact of distinct glucosinolate patterns in herbivory of diaspores. Finally, I am involved in studies how the origin of a single developmental control gene, *GORDITA* (*GOA*), by gene duplication and sequence divergence contributed to plant fitness and adaptation.
My projects are at the interface of phylogenetics, developmental biology, molecular genetics and evolutionary ecology (evo-devo and eco-evo), providing fundamentally novel, comprehensive and increasingly predictive insights into evolution and solutions that plant species have developed to match local environmental demands.