Daniel Meßner

"As an SSH researcher, you have to dare to break down theories and concepts in a way that it is interesting for the general public."Astr

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Daniel Meßner has a background in History and Philosophy having studied in Regensburg and Vienna. He did a PhD in History in Vienna on the topic of the history of biometry.

In 2015, along with a past study colleague, Richard Hemmer, he started an award-winning podcast 'Geschichten aus der Geschichte' (translated as *Stories of the Past*).

The podcast involves the two historians telling each other an interesting story from history on a weekly basis. Yet, they don't know what the other will tell them. The podcast centres around forgotten events, extraordinary personalities and surprising connections of history from all eras.

Stories of the Past: Bringing History to Life

On the basis of friendship, Daniel Meßner & Richard Hemmer used their personal experiences to form an award-winning podcast in Germany. The podcast centres around bringing interesting stories from history, such as forgotten events, extraordinary personalities, and surprising connections of history from all eras.

The story highlights the possible impact of how a friendship network can be a springboard for collaborative projects regarding research.

It started as a sort of 'passion project' where they were producing content of their own choice and without any forms of burdens. However, a realisation appeared that the podcast could become financially viable, which came as a surprise to both of them. This has been a 'good' method to form a company, as they were able to start out creating content freely and without any form of external pressure.

Through the use of the podcast, Daniel discovered a way to stay close to the field of his studies while doing it in a way where he is able to apply the skills he gained from being a researcher without being tied to the structures and restrictions of a university.

Daniel hopes to be able to do the podcast for many more years and to be able to show that topics like history and science are important also for many people outside of academia.

KEY TAKEAWAYS
& ADVICE

Start with passion without any financial pressure to produce content in a particular manner. At the beginning, it should revolve around content that is interesting to you.

Never underestimate the relationships that you form within the world of academia as a springboard for exciting collaborative projects.

Learn to be able to communicate your skills convincingly to companies, in a language that is understandable to them.

"It is not a university's job to teach every student how to found a company, but it would be desirable if students from SSH would learn more about other career paths than the academic route. Therefore, students also need to learn about how they can apply the skills they acquire in SSH studies outside of academia (e.g., to research a topic, to use data banks, to summarize texts, to write texts, etc.) and how to convince companies of their skills."