

Nick Mäuser

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Mediation Consultant with a background that bridges academia, civic participation, and group facilitation,
I specialize in designing & guiding participatory processes that unlock collective intelligence

EXPERIENCE

Cooperative Consultant

Aug 2024 – present | Germany

Self-Employed

- Advise cooperatives and organizations on integrating meaningful member participation as a tool for strategic development, moderate spaces for honest dialogue and courageous decisions using methods like dynamic facilitation and design thinking, and apply academic insight to develop innovative participation formats such as workshops, councils, assemblies, and trainings
- Developed and facilitated **7+** innovative “Geld Feuer” bonfire events with a team of young organizers for a *German credit union*, engaging **150+** participants over **1.5** years in value-based, embodied learning experiences around money, while managing logistics, budget, team coordination, and reflection processes to foster personal growth, strengthen trust in the cooperative, and advance youth participation
- Supported a **200** member *Swiss regenerative agriculture platform cooperative* in activating member participation by coaching organizers, moderating a multi-format process, including a panel, mediation, creative workshop, and results presentation, to help active members reflect on structures and values and address low engagement
- Speaker for topics like “Youth Participation in Cooperatives” at Geno Maker Camp in Wiesbaden and #genodigital Barcamp in Berlin

Moderator & Mediator

Apr 2021 – Dec 2023 | Düsseldorf, Germany

ISR Innovative Stadt-und Raumplanung GmbH

- Managed the lifecycle of public participation processes in urban planning, from concept creation to workshop moderation through methods like design thinking, dynamic facilitation, mediation of conflicts between stakeholders such as citizens, city officials, and investors
- Organized and documented the citizens’ assembly in Düsseldorf on the “Opera of the Future,” coordinating groups, managing logistics and speakers, and summarizing public input from online participation tools into clear, actionable insights for decision-makers
- Organized the citizens’ council for Munich’s “2040 Urban Development Plan,” coordinating **26** moderators for **120+** participants, providing briefing and supervision, and summarizing **10+** hours of discussions into actionable outcomes
- Designed and facilitated a broad multi-level participation process for Düsseldorf’s new “U80 Rail Line,” including event conception, legislative workshops to shape questions, inclusive invitation management, and group moderation of 36 participants and 6 moderators
- Moderated **25+** participation processes ranging from single-evening dialogues to six-month engagements, facilitating discussions on lakes, fields, and former industrial sites across Westphalia, Franconia, and the Rhineland

Intern, Student Cooperatives

Apr 2019 – Jul 2019 | Düsseldorf, Germany

Cooperative Association, Association of Regions

- Provided consulting support by maintaining a database of 200 student cooperatives, attended the annual networking event, and shadowed team members to gain a deeper understanding of the legal framework and organizational context of cooperatives in Germany

Research Associate, Strategy Chair

Jan 2018 – Jul 2024 | Cologne, Germany

University of Cologne

- Conducted **600+** qualitative interviews across **3** seasonal research rounds, each lasting between 6-12 months, exploring professional development, life stages, and household dynamics to investigate gender inequalities in career progression and pay

EDUCATION

PhD Candidate, Social Politics

University of Cologne

2023 – present | Germany

Research area: Youth Participation in Cooperatives

Master’s in Conflict Mediation

Universitat de Barcelona

2019 – 2020 | Spain

Concentration: Organizations & Community | Certified as Mediator

Bachelor’s in Business Administration

University of Cologne

2014 – 2018 | Germany

Concentration: Human Resources & Organization | Elected as 1 of 40 Representatives of the Student Parliament | Studies abroad (Mexico)

SKILLS

Facilitation: Mediation | Design Thinking | Dynamic Facilitation | Participatory Methods | Large Group Facilitation | Stage Moderation

Project Management: Process Architecture | Strategy Design | Membership Activation | Democratic Decision-Making | Conflict Resolution

Communication: Public Speaking | Online & Hybrid Facilitation | Intercultural Competence | Workshops | Bridging Expert-Public Dialogue

Languages: German (*Native*) | English (*Fluent*) | Spanish (*Fluent*)

PROJECTS

Youth Leadership

- Managed project operations at *Flow Forest*, a **1,000** sqm self-led youth culture center, by overseeing timelines, tasks, finances, and external communications with cultural organizations, and a rotating community of **40** monthly visitors
- Served as Hockey Umpire, facilitating **400+** hockey matches over 20 seasons (youth, first division, national teams), as well as Hockey Coach and Chairman
- Facilitated workshops to **120+** children ages 6-10 in Germany and Sri Lanka about varied topics (yoga, english, and math)