



I was born and bred in Munich, but have lived in many places: in Oxford and Paris (as a student), in London (as Nico Colchester Fellow at the *Economist*) and in La Paz (as stranded hitch-hiker and banker at a micro-finance bank).

To settle down I returned to Munich, to work for the newspaper *Süddeutsche Zeitung*. It was a great place to learn the journalistic trade – and a good base for further exploration: I travelled to Iraq with the German foreign minister, interviewed former Taliban fighters in Pakistan's Swat Valley and arranged clandestine meetings with members of Wikileaks in Berlin.

To gain even more freedom to pursue such stories I eventually decided to go freelance. Now I scour the world for exciting people and places to visit and write about.

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# Janek Schmidt

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## Journalistic Experience

<b>Freelance Journalist</b> <i>Süddeutsche Zeitung, Economist, Zeit, NEON, BR, Deutschlandfunk, Bergsteiger Magazin</i> und weitere	2012 – today
<b>Süddeutsche Zeitung</b> Staff member on the foreign desk: Middle East, Afghanistan and Pakistan (previous post: Volontär)	Apr 2006 – 2012
<b>The Economist</b> Nico Colchester Fellow, International News, London	Aug – Oct 2006
<b>Associated Press</b> Intern at German Headquarters, Frankfurt	Jan – Febr 2006
<b>The Independent</b> Internship at Department for Home News, London	Sept – Oct 2004

## Education

<b>Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris (Sciences Po)</b> Master in International Relations	Oct 2003 – June 2005
<b>Oxford University, St. Peter's College</b> Bachelor in <i>Philosophy, Politics and Economics</i>	Oct 1999 – June 2002
<b>Willi-Graf Gymnasium, Munich</b> Abitur	Sept 1996 – Mai 1998
<b>Fridley High School, Minnesota</b> <i>US High School Diploma</i>	Sept 1995 – June 1996

## Other Professional Experience

<b>German Foreign Office</b> • Internship at Department for UN-Affairs, Berlin	Oct – Nov 2004
<b>Fondo Financiero Privado – FIE</b> • Internship in Bolivian microfinance bank, La Paz	Dec 2002 – Jan 2003
<b>United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)</b> • Internship at Regional Office for Europe, Geneva	July – Sept 2001

## Awards

**Winner Nico Colchester Award**, *Economist* Essay competition for young journalists  
**Shortlist, Nico Colchester Award**  
**DAAD-Scholarship** European Excellence Initiative, exceptional extension  
**DAAD-Scholarship**, European Excellence Initiative for one year at Sciences Po Paris  
**St. Peter's Domus-Scholarship** at Oxford University