



## About Gesine Schwan

Gesine Schwan, born in Berlin in 1943, comes from a socially active parent's house belonging to protestant and socialistic opposition groups during the Nazism and standing up for the friendship with France and Poland after the war. After her A-Levels in 1962, she studies Roman Languages, History, Philosophy and Political Science in Berlin and Freiburg/Breisgau. She gets to know there her future first husband, the political scientist Alexander Schwan. Research stays in Warsaw and Krakow for preparing the dissertation about the Polish philosopher Leszek Kolakowski follow. In 1971, Gesine Schwan becomes Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science at the Free University Berlin and habilitates on the philosophical and economical bases of the social critique of Karl Marx in 1975. In 1977, Gesine Schwan becomes professor of Political Science, in particular of Political Theory and Philosophy, at the Free University Berlin. Research stays in Washington D.C., Cambridge and New York follow. Her main fields of research are Political Philosophy and Theories of Democracy, recently also problems of Political Psychology and Political Culture.

Since October 1999 is Gesine Schwan president of the Europe University Viadrina in Frankfurt (Oder). At request of Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer she assumes the office of Coordinator of the Federal Government for civil social cooperation near to the Republic of Poland in January 2005. Moreover, she is president of the German-Polish Forum, together with Janusz Reiter.

Gesine Schwan who joined the Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD) in 1972, has collaborated in numerous political committees besides her scientific career. From 1977 to 1984 and again since 1996, she is member of the "Commission for Fundamental Values" of the board of governors of SPD, from 1985 to 1987 president of the German Association of Political Science, between 1993 and 1995 dean of the Department of Political Science at the Free University Berlin and between 1994 and 2000 member of the board of governors of the German Association of Political Science (DVPW). In March 2004, she is nominated by SPD and Bündnis 90/Die Grünen as candidate for the office of the Federal President. At the election on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2004 she is defeated by Horst Köhler, the candidate of CDU/CSU and FDP with 589 to 604 votes.

In 1989, her husband Alexander Schwan dies after long illness and leaves her with two children. Gesine Schwan remarries Peter Eigen in 2004.