



JOHAN VAN DER MERWE

Applied researcher with a proven understanding of business strategy and leadership development.

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ABOUT ME

I am passionate about innovative strategy and leadership in business. Whether in strategy workshops, research reports or executive coaching, I customize my approach to fit individual customers' needs and provide tools for immediate action and sustainable results. I believe companies could be good global corporate citizens. Business enterprises should do well, while doing good.



EDUCATION

2013

MBA (Masters in Business Management and Administration) at the University of Stellenbosch Business School
Graduated Cum Laude in the Top 10 of the class of 2012. Recipient of the Old Mutual Gold Medal for Exceptional Academic Performance.
Specialisation: Sustainable Value Frameworks, Executive Coaching, Emotional Intelligence, Global Leadership

1994

Ph. D. in the Humanities

University of Stellenbosch

Specialised in ethical frameworks and moral formation.

1987 - 1993

University of Stellenbosch

SRC vice-chairperson (public relations and international liaison)



EXPERIENCE

2017-present

Director / Founding Member:

The Ascent Group of companies

(Ascent Advisory, People, Enterprise and Capital) provides business leaders with the strategic means to see their innovations create real value to real people. The combination of vested capital, people development and advisory support ensures an integrated approach to create business value.

2012-2016

Director / Founding Member:

Concilio Consult

I work with companies in different industries and of different sizes and complexities on their identity, market positioning and internationalization strategy execution. My exposure to industries include the wine, engineering, packaging, cargo securing, higher education, financial trading, retail, hospitality and data science industries. International experience include research in Germany and feasibility studies in Mexico, Thailand and Singapore.

2011-2013

Economic Ethics Lecturer:

University of Stellenbosch

I teach a variety of economic-related topics, including economic systems and indicators, economic policy, globalisation, business ethics, corporate governance and corporate social responsibility.

Aug 1995-2017

Executive Director:

Responsible for coordinating all operations and setting vision & strategy for a multi-generational public benefit organisation of 7,000 members. Involving volunteers in community projects and forging collaborative relationships. Managing 45 staff.



AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

2010-2012

Old Mutual Gold Medal: University Of Stellenbosch Business School

1995-Present

Published 11 academic research essays in international peer-reviewed publications

1995, 2002, 2007, 2013, 2017

DAAD research grants for research projects in Germany



SKILLS

YEARS EXPERIENCE:	1-4	5-10	11-20	21+
Research				
Business Strategy				
Executive Coaching				
Management Consulting				
Lecturing				
Community Development				



INTERESTS



Family



Fly Fishing



Research



Art Films



Consulting



QUICK FACTS

23 Years work experience

21 Years management experience

48 Years old



THINGS YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT ME...

In a recent research project I studied "happiness". I wrote a primer for happiness studies and investigated the determinants of happiness

I am an avid catch-and-release flyfisher because wild trout always swim in places of exquisite natural beauty

I play classical and acoustic guitar

I love a good Cuban cigar and Havana tops my list of travel destinations (I visited Cuba in 2015)