

Bonner Querschnitte

Bonn Profiles – Press Reports

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Schirmmacher publishes his speech upon the granting of the Vordenker Award to Professor Bassam Tibi

(Bonn, 27.03.2020) Thomas Schirmmacher has now published in English his speech “Integration is Possible,” delivered at the award ceremony for famous Muslim Professor Bassam Tibi at the University of Frankfurt on November 21, 2019. The speech ends with the words, “Just a German Vordenker (thought leader)! In all his research and struggling, in all his conflicts, indeed in all his professorships on all continents, Tibi has never stood up more for any country, served any country more, or suffered for any country more than for the country of his choice, the Federal Republic of Germany.”

The Vordenker Forum [thought leader forum] of the financial advisory company “Plansecur. For New Perspectives,” together with the University of Frankfurt and the Frank-

furter Allgemeine Zeitung—one of the leading German newspapers—organized this award ceremony in the festival hall of the Goethe University Frankfurt am Main with 400 invited personalities, at which Professor Bassam Tibi was honored as “Thought leader 2019.” Professor Tibi donated the prize money of 10,000 euros to the International Justice Mission, an NGO that fights human trafficking.

The event, was entitled “Migration and Integration.” The celebration started with Schirmmacher’s keynote speech, who, according to the major German newspaper FAZ in its report of November 22, 2019 (“Tibi will be thought leader 2019”), stated that Tibi has been widely ostracized in Germany; but he is highly regarded abroad.



Bassam Tibi thanks Thomas Schirmmacher for his speech at the University of Frankfurt © BQ/Martin Warnecke

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Professor Michael Wolffsohn argued similarly in his laudation, accessible on the Internet, in which he acknowledged that Tibi was a victim of the envy of his German colleagues. The chairman of the jury of the German Pioneer Forum, Professor Jürgen Stark, commented that this eighth Vordenker Forum award ceremony was the best ever.

The Vordenker Forum has been granting the Vordenker Award to outstanding minds who have made a significant contribution to the future of our society for over ten years. The aim of the award ceremony is to give attention and weight to the socially important topic of “courageous forward thinking,” said Stark, the jury chairman.

Professor Dr. Bassam Tibi is the eighth Vordenker Award winner. Prior to him, the Council of Economic Experts (2018), Dr. rer. pol. h.c. Frank-Jürgen Weise (2016), Dr. Nicola Leibinger-Kammüller (2015), Jean-Claude Juncker (2014), Professor Dr. Dres. h.c. Paul Kirchhof (2011), the former bishop Professor Dr. Dr. h.c. Wolfgang Huber (2009), and Professor Dr. Nobert Walter (2008) were honored as thought leaders.

The jury includes economist Professor Dr. Jürgen Stark as chairman; Professor Michael Binder, Professor of International Macroeconomics and Empirical Economic Research at the Goethe University; Federal Minister Julia Klöckner; Frank Lehmann, freelance journalist; Wolfgang Baake, former commissioner for the German Evangelical Alliance at the seat of the Federal Government; Thorsten Alsleben, General Manager of the CDU/CSU Association of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises; Professor Dr. Renate Köcher, Managing Director of the Institute for Public Opinion Research in A-lensbach; Dr. Nicola Leibinger-Kammüller, Chairwoman of the Management Board of the machine and plant manufacturer Trumpf; journalist Dr. Hugo Müller-Vogg; Plansecur financial advisors Gunther Otto and Hermann Schwietering; and Johannes Sczegan, managing director of Plansecur.



Thomas Schirmacher during his lecture in honor of Bassam Tibi at Frankfurt University © BQ/Martin Warnecke

Downloads and Links:

- Download of the speech by Thomas Schirmacher:
<https://www.thomasschirmacher.net/articles/immigration-how-can-integration-succeed/>

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- **Photo 1:** Bassam Tibi thanks Thomas Schirmmacher for his speech at the University of Frankfurt © BQ/Martin Warnecke
- **Photo 2:** Thomas Schirmmacher during his lecture in honor of Bassam Tibi at Frankfurt University © BQ/Martin Warnecke
- **Photo 3:** Bassam Tibi during his acceptance speech © BQ/Martin Warnecke
- **Photo 4:** Thomas Schirmmacher during his lecture in honor of Bassam Tibi at Frankfurt University (with audience) © BQ/Martin Warnecke
- **Photo 5:** Bassam Tibi during the panel discussion © BQ/Martin Warnecke
- **Photo 6:** Bassam Tibi accepts the 2019 Vordenker Award © BQ/Martin Warnecke
- **Photo 7:** Thomas Schirmmacher answers media questions about Bassam Tibi © BQ/Martin Warnecke
- Reports in German:
 - FAZ: <https://edition.faz.net/faz-edition/unternehmen/2019-11-22/bassam-tibi-ist-vordenker/389935.html>
 - Wall Street Journal: <https://www.wallstreet-online.de/nachricht/11928062-prof-dr-bassam-tibi-vordenker-2019-auszeichnung-vordenker-forum-finanzberatungsgruppe-plansecur>
 - Blickpunkt (Interview): https://vordenkerforum.de/files/user_upload/vordenker-forum/presse/2019/2019_04_10_bassam_tibi/HNA_10.12.2019_Bassam%20Tibi.pdf
 - PRO: <https://www.pro-medienmagazin.de/gesellschaft/menschen/2019/11/22/vordenker-oder-gar-prophet-bassam-tibi/>
 - Vordenker Forum: <https://vordenkerforum.de/presse/vordenker-forum-in-den-medien.html>
 - Radio: <https://www.erf.de/erf-plus/audiothek/aktuelles-vom-tag/islam-kritiker-wird-vordenker-2019/6719-5778>
 - <https://www.bassamtibi.de/?p=3298>
 - Laudatio by Michael Wolffsohn: <https://www.wolffsohn.de/cms/711-laudatio-vordenker-bassam-tibi.html>
- Wikipedia entry on Bassam Tibi: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bassam_Tibi
- Website of the Vordenker Forums: <https://vordenkerforum.de/startseite.html>

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