Dr. Claudia Acklin
Independent author, essayist and podcaster

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https://claudia-acklin.ch and https://natureandthecity.ch
Languages: German (native), Italian (fluent) English (fluent), French (proficient)

Current work

Independent author, essayist and podcaster. Host of the podcast *Die Natur und die Stadt – Nature and the City (NTC)*, with more than hundred episodes since 2020. Owner of Lotos Produktionen, Claudia Acklin, an independent production company for cultural, editorial, and non-profit projects, founded in 1996.

Current publication (besides earlier journalistic, essayistic and academic work)

Grüne Städte – Wo die Transformation bereits gelingt (*Green Cities – Where Transformation Is Already Succeeding*). oekom verlag, Munich, January 2026. 390 pages. ISBN 978-3-98726-510-5. Currently in its second printing. Selected for the Goethe-Institut China Translation Funding Programme 2026.

Selected professional positions

2016 — 2022	Managing Director, Secretariat of the Swiss Science Council (*Schweizerischer Wissenschaftsrat*), an advisory body to the Swiss Federal Council, administratively located at the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SBFI)
2006 — 2016	Head, Competence Center Design and Management, Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts (HSLU Design & Kunst). Design research at HSLU in the fields of design innovation and design management. Director of the BA Design Management International (2004–2011) and the MAS Digital Media (2001–2004).
2013 — 2016	Founding Director, Creative Hub — non-profit start-up platform for the Swiss design sector
2009 — 2011	Founding Director, Swiss Design Transfer — knowledge-transfer organization for design in Swiss SMEs
1984 — 1994	Journalist for Swiss public radio (Radio SRF), *Basler Zeitung*, and *Tages-Anzeiger Zurich* (including New York correspondent for arts, 1991–1993), co-founder of *Programmzeitung (PROZ)*, a cultural magazine for Basel

Selected documentary films

1994	*Hunger nach Leben*. Solothurn Film Festival, theatrical release, Swiss public television
1991	*Ich lebe gern, ich sterbe gern*. Solothurn Film Festival, theatrical release, Swiss public television

Education

2013	PhD in Design Sciences (specialization Design Management and Innovation), Lancaster Institute for Contemporary Arts / Imagination, Lancaster University, United Kingdom
1986	Diploma in Journalism, MAZ – Swiss Institute for Journalism and Communication
1983	Diploma in Social Pedagogy, School for Social Work, today Zurich University of Applied Sciences ZHAW
1978 — 1979	Studies in German Literature, History, and Philosophy, University of Basel

Selected speaking engagements and media coverage, 2026

Deutschlandfunk Kultur (Studio 9, Andruck, Lesart), *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, *Spektrum der Wissenschaft*, and Swiss public broadcasting SRF (Kultur Kompakt, Regionaljournal, Kulturplatz Talk). Speaking engagements at the 18th Dresden Land Use Symposium (Leibniz Institute), the German Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning, the Lüneburg Future Council, and Sustainability Weeks at FHNW and congress *Greening the city*, HAFL.