



VADUZ

In Memoriam Professor Wolfgang F. Danspeckgruber

It is with heartfelt sorrow that we announce the passing of Professor Wolfgang F. Danspeckgruber, a distinguished scholar, devoted diplomat, and tireless builder of bridges between nations, cultures, and faiths. He passed away peacefully on 17 February, aged 70, surrounded by his loved ones.

Professor Danspeckgruber's impact on generations of students and colleagues was profound. As co-founder and long-standing Executive Director of the Liechtenstein Institute on Self-Determination at Princeton University, he nurtured an institution that became a globally respected hub for research, teaching, and dialogue on the complexities of self-determination in a rapidly changing world. Since its founding in 2001, the Institute has flourished under his vision, hosting international conferences, fostering scholarly publications, and creating invaluable networks between academia, diplomacy, and policy-making.

His scholarship bridged theory and practice of international, private, and crisis diplomacy with questions on self-determination, borders, security, and the pursuit of stability. A prolific author and editor, he also pioneered innovative platforms for students to engage directly with decision-makers from around the world. Central to his work was the belief that personal encounters, deep expertise, and even a love for cartography are essential foundations for responsible and ethical policymaking.

Professor Danspeckgruber's commitment to peace, security, and mutual understanding took him from the Middle East and the Caucasus to Afghanistan, Central Asia, and Southeast Europe. At the heart of his efforts was respect for human dignity, dialogue, and reconciliation. His devotion to interfaith dialogue reflected not only a profound personal faith but an unwavering belief in the possibility of understanding across divides.

Beyond academia, he engaged internationally in numerous roles: as founder and chair of the Liechtenstein Colloquium on European and International Affairs, as adviser to the Permanent Mission of the Principality of Liechtenstein to the United Nations, and in collaboration with the UN Security Council Secretariat.

Professor Danspeckgruber combined intellectual brilliance with warmth, generosity, and an infectious sense of humour. His legacy endures far beyond his lifetime—through the institutions he built, the scholarship he produced, and, most importantly, in the countless lives he touched, inspired, and guided.

Vaduz Castle, February 2026