

Does Vocational Education and Training exist in Research Laboratories and if yes, why?

Status modification, permanent education, and tertiarization: My research project investigates the mutual exchanges between technological progress and the system of qualification in the long term. Even though the project could also be seen from the perspective of the history of science and technology, the focus of my study is not on researchers but rather on the education and training of engineers, mechanics, or laboratory assistants in research laboratories.

The EMPA (Material Science and Technology) and EAWAG (Aquatic Science and Technology), two institutes that are part of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich (ETHZ), have a long tradition in vocational education and training. The joint venture laboratory CERN in Geneva (the European Organization for Nuclear Research's "home base") established VET ten years after the center's foundation. Since the evaluation of the data is still in its initial stages, the presentation will focus on four questions: How can the distribution of manpower in research laboratories be described between 1945 and 1985, when and why did VET emerge in research laboratories, how did the number of apprentices vary, and how relevant was VET for these laboratories?