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Born in 1948. Martin Riesebrodt studied anthropology, sociology, and education at the Universities of Tübingen, Berlin and Heidelberg. In 1973, he graduated from the University of Heidelberg with a Doctorate in anthropology.

From 1974 until 1976, Martin Riesebrodt was a lecturer in anthropology at the University of Heidelberg. As of 1976, he served as Associate Director of the Max-Weber-Archives, Bayerische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Munich. In 1983, he became Associate Director of the Ernst-Troeltsch-Archives, Augsburg University, and in 1985 Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Munich where he was named Professor in 1990. From 1990 until 1993, Martin Riesebrodt was Associate Editor of "Sociological Analysis" and from 1991 until 1993 Advisor to "The Fundamentalism-Project" in Chicago. In 1992, he was appointed Advisor to "Being Right", Lilly Foundation, a position he held for two years. The same year, he became Associate Editor of the "American Journal of Sociology" and worked as Book Review Editor between 1995 and 1997. From 1996 until 2000, he was Member of the Committee on the History of Culture. Martin Riesebrodt has been Associate Professor of Sociology and Sociology of Religion at the University of Chicago since 1990 and is currently also a Visiting Professor at the University of St. Gallen.

He obtained several fellowships, among them the John F. Kennedy Memorial Fellowship from the Center for European Studies at Harvard University, a two-year fellowship for writing the post-doctoral dissertation from the German Research Association, and a three-months fellowship from Dartmouth College, Research Institute for the Humanities on Comparative Religious Fundamentalism. Furthermore, Martin Riesebrodt received fellowships from the Institute for Human Sciences, Vienna, as well as from the Franke Institute for the Humanities in Chicago.

Martin Riesebrodt has published a wide variety of books, articles and book reviews and is a member of the American Academy of Religion, the American Sociological Association, the Association for the Sociology of Religion, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Soziologie, and the Society for the Social Scientific Study of Religion.

