

# Venture Capital Academy Switzerland – 2019

## Speaker Profiles

### **Gina Domanig, Managing Partner, Emerald Technology Ventures**

Gina Domanig is the Managing Partner of Emerald Technology Ventures. In 2000 she founded the business as the first independent cleantech venture capital fund in Europe. Gina currently serves on the boards of GeoDigital International Inc, MetGen Oy, Ushr Inc and TaKaDu Inc. In addition to Emerald activities, Gina serves on the board of Die Mobiliar, SolarPack and u-blox AG. Gina has over 25 years of international business experience including banking, M&A, strategic development, and venture capital. Prior to starting Emerald, she was senior vice president at Sulzer, a Swiss multinational, responsible for strategic planning and M&A. Gina holds a Bachelor Degree in Finance from Arizona State University as well as MBA degrees from Thunderbird in Arizona and ESADE in Barcelona. She is fluent in English, German and Spanish.



### **Adam Sterling, Executive Director, Berkeley Center for Law and Business**

Adam Sterling is the Executive Director of the Berkeley Center for Law and Business at Berkeley Law and co-founder of Startup@BerkeleyLaw. Previously he was a startup and venture capital attorney at Gunderson Dettmer and the co-founder and director of the Conflict Risk Network. Adam currently co-teaches Blockchain, Cryptoeconomics, and the Future of Technology, Business and Law at the University of California, Berkeley. His writings and work have appeared extensively in the press; including contributions to the Wall Street Journal, Financial Times, New York Times, Los Angeles Times, San Francisco Chronicle, and National Public Radio. He has appeared on a number of broadcast news programs, including CNN's Situation Room and CNBC's Street Signs.



### **Neil Dugal, Partner, Omidyar**

Neil Dugal is senior corporate counsel at Omidyar Network, where he supports U.S. and international venture investments. Prior to Omidyar, Neil was an executive at 500 Startups and an attorney at Fenwick & West, where he represented clients such as Andreessen Horowitz, Accel Partners, Index Ventures, King.com and Jet.com, in venture capital financings and general corporate matters. Neil began his career at Kirkland & Ellis, where he represented private equity funds and hedge funds including Pershing Square Capital Management, 3G Capital and Bain Capital, and public companies such as Bristol-Myers Squibb and Burger King in complex corporate transactions ranging from mergers and acquisitions to shareholder activism.



### **Nicolas Brand, Partner, Lakestar**

Nicolas invests in and builds businesses at the intersection of finance, blockchain and technology. His sector expertise comprises the digitisation of finance and banking, insurtech, digital currency infrastructures and blockchain technology. As a fundraising and M&A specialist, he is a frequent adviser to our portfolio companies on all financial and fundraising matters. Before joining Lakestar, Nicolas was an investment banker, working as Vice President for JPMorgan in London. He led mergers and acquisitions for technology and industrial companies and was responsible for debt and equity capital raisings. Over the years, Nicolas has raised over \$25 billion on behalf of clients. Nicolas holds a Master of Science in Finance and Business Administration from WHU – Otto Beisheim School of Management – and studied in Germany, the US and France. Nicolas is an active member of the European FinTech community and speaker at key industry events including Money2020, Techcrunch Blockchain, Crypto Valley Conference, LendIt, the World Blockchain Forum, Moneyconf, Paris FinTech Forum and Exec I / O Fintech and Insurtech.



### **Karen Wendt, Co-founder and President, SwissFinTechLadies**

Karen Wendt is Co-founder and President of the SwissFinTechLadies (<http://swissfintechladies.ch>). She is also the editor of the Sustainable Finance Series with Springer Science Publishing (<https://www.springer.com/series/15807>), and Palgrave Mac-Millan (<https://www.palgrave.com/br/series/15807>). She publishes on Positive Impact Investing, ecosystems and Sustainable Innovation (Routledge). Innovations and, consequently, future-fitness must form new models and address existing hurdles and new forms of collaborations. They must enable faster innovation cycles and “intelligence mining” by combining open and closed source systems, organic communities, open space techniques and cross-fertilization. SwissFinTechLadies explores new concepts for future-fitness with five capitals: financial, ecological, social/cultural, human/personal, and manufactured/technological.



### **Eugenia Balysheva, CEO, Dotphoton**

Eugenia is CEO of Swiss startup Dotphoton specialised in image optimisation for AI. After many years in communications and professional photography, she decided to join Dotphoton's team to address the main challenges of professional imagery. Since then Dotphoton released its first products, established collaborations with key opinion leaders in imagery and has become an active member of the Swiss startup ecosystem.



### **Luc Defferrard, Partner, Walder Wyss**

Luc Defferrard, partner with Walder Wyss since 2001, has been active in the finance and legal industry for many years. He mainly advises clients in domestic and cross-border mergers & acquisitions and financing, as well as in real estate and capital market. Luc Defferrard particularly focuses on private equity and venture capital transactions. He was educated at the Geneva University (lic. iur. 1987) and registered as attorney-at-law with the Geneva Bar Registry in 1990.



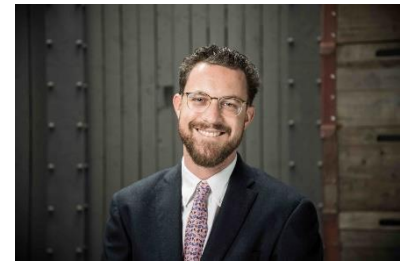
### **Romeo Bütler, Investment Manager, Investiere.ch**

Romeo is an investment manager at [investiere.ch](https://www.investiere.ch). He started to work at investiere in 2016 and has a bachelor in Biotechnology and Bioengineering and a master in Management, Technology, and Economics from ETH Zurich. Read a detailed interview with him here: <https://www.investiere.ch/blog/romeobuetler/>.



### **Roman Gaus, Head Zukunftsfonds, Bank Reichmuth & Co.**

Roman is the Head of the Future Fund (Zukunftsfonds Schweiz), a Venture Fund initiative at Bank Reichmuth & Co. The goal of the Zukunftsfonds is to launch a multi-manager venture capital fund for Swiss institutional investors such as insurances and pension funds and provide capital for high-growth Swiss technology companies. Roman gained hands-on “machine room” operational experience at large corporates such as P&G, Novartis and Franke Group, where Roman was last appointed General Manager & President for Franke Coffee Systems North America. Since 2011, Roman was a technology entrepreneur and the founder & CEO of UrbanFarmers AG, a pioneering Swiss start-up champion in the area of agri-tech and urban food production systems with operations in Switzerland, Netherlands, USA, Brazil and China.



### **Alexander Stoeckel, Partner, b-to-v Partners AG**

Alexander Stoeckel is a Partner and Member of the Board of Directors of btov. He has an academic background in international business administration and has studied at the European Business School (ebs) in Oestrich-Winkel and Paris as well as at the International School of Management (ISM) in Dortmund and San Diego. He holds an MBA from the University of Oxford. Prior to joining btov in 2007, Stoeckel has worked for Hauck & Aufhaeser Private Bankers as fund-of-funds manager, and as Executive Management Assistant (Vorstandsassistent) to KPMG’s Global Managing Partner for Tax. Alexander is a member of the Swiss Private Equity & Corporate Finance Association (SECA), where he was a member of the Executive Board from 2015 to 2017. He is also a guest lecturer on venture capital topics at the University of St. Gallen. Stoeckel was born in Berlin and lives with his family in St. Gallen.

