

Don't look for your passion - let it develop.

Many people look for a job that they feel passionate about. But can I search for and find a passion without having already explored the subject in depth? The beer lover who brews top-fermented and bottom-fermented beer in his garage probably wrinkled his nose in disgust at the first sip of beer in his life. And as an opera fan, I couldn't explain to myself at the first performance what it had to do with love when a couple shout at each other at the top of their voices on stage.

Peter Näf

The beer lover's passion probably developed over time when he acquired a refined taste through "practice". For me, too, my love of opera only grew through intensive study, through the development of my sense of hearing and through the guidance of a competent friend. So, I didn't look for this passion, it developed.

What does this mean for your career? Here is one of my own career stories.

Passion is often where I don't expect it

After eleven years as a personnel consultant and headhunter, I set up my own coaching business many years ago. My business plan was not very sophisticated. Like many of my acquaintances in the same situation, I entered the market with the idea of taking on any coaching problem.

But I knew one thing for sure: I wanted nothing more to do with job searches, applications, CVs, or job interviews.

My start as a self-employed coach was quite disillusioning. I had built up a good reputation as a personnel consultant, but I couldn't transfer this trust from my clients to my new field of activity. Out of necessity, I decided to offer job application

coaching and job interview training, among other things. I had credibility in the market in these areas.

What I had planned as a temporary venture eventually developed into a passion. What had happened?

Firstly, things turned out differently...

I discovered that there is more to the application documents than the question of whether and where the date of birth belongs on the CV and whether to mention marital status or hobbies. And the job interview is also more than just practising supposedly perfect answers. Instead, it is about how people tell themselves and others their own stories, how they perceive themselves. The underlying themes are self-confidence and self-marketing beyond the job application. And ultimately, this is where I have found my passion: Counseling my clients on self-perception, positioning and ultimately communication and language.

I think many people understand passion to be the bushfire of falling in love and initial enthusiasm. However, true passion for a topic grows over time, just like love for anything. It is associated with joy, but also with setbacks and disappointments, and often it is simply a matter of staying with it.

So, always commit yourself fully to what you are currently doing professionally, even if it is not yet what you want to do in the long term. You may discover a passion exactly where you least expect it. After all, your appetite comes with eating.

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