

# Computing Educators Oral History Project

## *Michael Kölling* video snippet transcript

Recorded March 2013

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*Michael Kölling, "One can do computer science anywhere in the world" a video interview from 2013, Computing Educators Oral History Project. Online: ceohp.org.*

One of the nice things about computer science has served me very well — is that computer science actually travels very well, in that, you know, you can work with computer science quite easily in different countries and that it is pretty much the same overall. I first moved from Germany to Australia and I continued computer science there. And I had a friend there who was also German, who was a lawyer. And he had an incredible problem because, with his education from Germany, you can't work in Australia, with a German law education, because it's entirely different. And then I realized how lucky I am.

My traveling around and of moving to different countries was mostly coincidental. It was very little planned where I moved to Australia and it was planned just for a short time, for 10 months, and I got stuck then and stayed for a longer time. And I could work there. And later I moved to Denmark. And then I moved to England, where I am now as well. So I have lived in four different countries.

And it is nice that everywhere you go you can just continue doing what you're doing and you can see different influences. For example, in Scandinavia, for my work, they have a very distinct view of object orientation, which is much more philosophical ... founded than the American school of object orientation, which is much more pragmatic and software engineering influenced. And so you get these different influences, but you can work as a computer scientist in any country and it just works.

So it was also, like many things in my life, I think, were coincidences. They weren't planned. But I was lucky to actually end up with a profession with which you can live in different countries and work in different places and really still do what you enjoy without problem. It's a very international field. And this being such an ... such an international field has made it really easy for me to do this work with people in other countries and live in other countries and that is, in retrospect, one thing that I really, really like. I like the fact that I've lived in different countries. I think that it has enriched my life immensely and has given me perspectives that would be very hard to get if you stay in one place.

And so ending up in a career as a computer scientist, I realize, has made that possible, without prior planning. I was just lucky to get into a job that allowed me to do that. And I thought ... it actually was a lucky strike.