

# Nicola Rohrseitz

Technology Expert at Vissee ? We are, We see

Zürich Area, Switzerland, ZH, CH

Founder, CEO at ViSSee

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## Biography

I founded the Swiss start-up ViSSee, a spin-off company of the ETH Zurich that won many awards and is recognized as on the way to success. Before building companies and bringing products to the market I specialized in Robotics and Systems at the Swiss Institute of Technology EPFL, did my MSc thesis in Underwater Robotics at the University of Tokyo, and completed a PhD in Physics and Neuroscience at the ETH Zurich. From my PhD research in applying engineering techniques to discover how the insect brain controls flight came the IP for founding ViSSee. I serve as technology expert for the European Union, and I am often asked to speak about entrepreneurship and technology at public and professional events. My work has been the subject of many publications, interviews, and a documentary.

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## Availability

Keynote, Moderator, Panelist, Workshop, Host/MC, Author Appearance, Corporate Training

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## Industry Expertise

Computer Software, Research, Consumer Electronics

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## Areas of Expertise

Robotics, Start-Ups, Biomimicry, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, Innovation & Design Thinking, Computer Vision

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## Affiliations

ETH Alumni, University of Tokyo Alumni, EPFL A3

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## Sample Talks

### Computation from Nature

Biomimicry is mostly associated with new materials and physical products like Velcro. In this talk, I speak about what we can learn from nature from a computing standpoint, and how to transform these insights into successful products. I will use several examples, such as fruit flies. How is it possible that an insect with such a tiny "onboard computer" can fly around our hand? It uses some remarkable albeit straightforward tricks, and I lead you through methods to discover them in your context.

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## **Event Appearances**

**Computation from Nature**  
TTI/Vanguard NextGens

**Cyborg Contribution**  
The Robot Revolution

**Una start-up svizzera può farcela a livello mondiale?**  
Venture Apéro

**An electronic fly eye**  
De Vigier Prize Ceremony

**Speed sensors in your pocket**  
McKinsey Venture

**Visual Groundspeed Control in Free-Flying Fruit Flies**  
Engineering Principles in Biological Systems

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## **Education**

**ETH Zurich, Switzerland**  
PhD Physics, Neuroscience

**Lugano 1 High School (Ticino, Switzerland)**  
HS diploma literature (latin & modern languages)

**???? ? University of Tokyo**  
MSc Underwater Robotics

**Mascoutah High School (Illinois, USA)**

**Swiss Institute of Technology EPFL, Switzerland**  
MSc Microengineering, specialised in Robotics and Systems

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## **Accomplishments**

**De Vigier Entrepreneurship Prize**  
The annual prize of the W.A. De Vigier Foundation recognises the top 5 entrepreneurs of Switzerland, the world's most innovative country (\*WEF).

### **Robotics in Weightlessness**

I led a team to test the robot we designed onboard a parabolic flight, the same astronauts use for training.

### **National Basketball Champion**

In 1998 I won the 1st league national basketball championship with Viganello.

### **Solo Transiberian Railroad**

I shaved my head and went to Moscow to board a train to Beijing. A slow, life-changing experience

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### **Testimonials**

#### **Jean-Pierre Vuilleumier**

"This is what disruptive technology looks like"

#### **Peter Cochrane**

"Nicola = Thanks for coming along and doing such a great job."

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