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His chief interest has been in the social history and the history of sports in classical antiquity.

After taking part several research projects on sports in antiquity, he is now university lecturer of ancient history at the universities of Innsbruck and Graz. Since 2000 Werner Petermandl is managing-editor of the international journal on sports in antiquity „Nikephoros. Zeitschrift für Sport und Kultur im Altertum“. He is co-author of the volumes Laufen and Ringen in the series Quellendokumentation zur Gymnastik und Agonistik im Altertum (I. Weiler, ed.) and of the internet archive “spectatores”.

Sources of spectators in antiquity. He has written several articles especially on ancient sport.