

# Profile

## 2016–2017









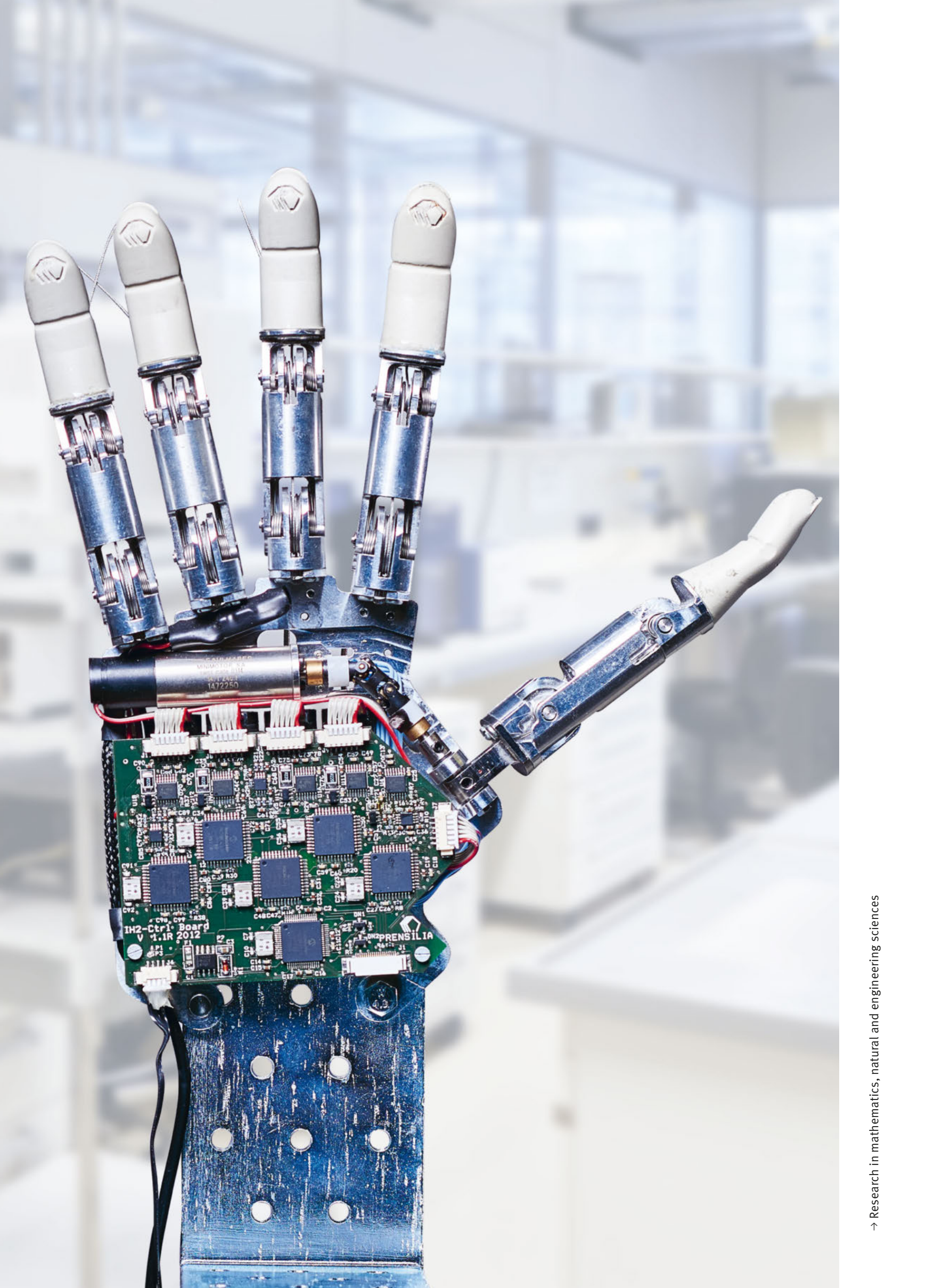
→ Understanding the immune system of plants

Plants produce their own natural insecticides. Matthias Erb analysed their development, behaviour and effect on pests. In collaboration with researchers at the universities of Bern and Neuchâtel as well as partners in Germany, the US and the UK, he discovered that certain substances in corn act both as poisons and signals/regulators of the plant's defences. The work of Matthias Erb contributes to a better understanding of the immune system of plants.

→ [p3.snf.ch/project-15781](https://p3.snf.ch/project-15781)









→ Prosthetic limbs make the right gestures

People who have lost a limb can have trouble coming to terms with their prosthetic hand and often prefer to wear only the “aesthetic” variety. Silvestro Micera and his group at EPFL want to help these people regain their sense of touch. Their prosthesis transforms sensory information into electrical stimuli that are transmitted to the nerve cells via implanted electrodes. This natural sensitivity, Silvestro Micera hopes, will make it easier for such people to accept their artificial hand.

→ [p3.snf.ch/project-470032](http://p3.snf.ch/project-470032)







→ A woman researcher in a male prison

How do people who are indefinitely incarcerated cope? How do they come to terms with their often life-long detention? Ethnologist Irene Marti, a doctoral student at the University of Neuchâtel, put this question to 28 long-term prison inmates. Her research approach involved taking part in their daily life. This enabled her to see them primarily as people, not criminals, a precondition for gaining profound insights into their lives. She hopes that her work will contribute to debates surrounding the procedures of indefinite incarceration in the future.

Research in the humanities and social sciences

→ [p3.snf.ch/project-159182](https://p3.snf.ch/project-159182)