Hirschhausen studied economics in Boulder (Colorado) and industrial engineering in Berlin and earned his doctorate in business administration with a focus on the privatization of Eastern European conglomerates from École nationale supérieure des mines de Paris in 1995. From 1997 to 2004, he worked as a research associate in the World Economy Department of DIW Berlin, habilitating in 2002 at the Technical University of Berlin, where he led the Economics and Infrastructure Policy (WIP) department from 2002 to 2004. In the winter semester of 2004/2005, Christian von Hirschhausen accepted a position at the Technical University of Dresden as the holder of the DREWAG Chair in Energy Economics. He soon accepted an offer to return to TU Berlin and has been leading the Economics and Infrastructure Policy department again since April 2009. Additionally, he has been the chairman of the Joint Commission for Industrial Engineering at TU Berlin since June 2009.