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Most recent professional activity

2016-now Associate Professor at the University of Southern Denmark,
Department of Biology, Nordic Center for Earth Evolution (Odense, Denmark)

University education

May 2000 PhD in Biology, Grade: 'magna cum laude'
1996-1999 PhD Student at the University of Köln, Zoological Institute, Dept. Ecophysiology (Köln, Germany); Supervisor:
Prof. Dr. D. Neumann
Dissertation: 'Nitrite gradients in nitrate-polluted, bioturbated sediments'
June 1995 Diploma in Biology, Grade: 'summa cum laude'
1994-1995 Diploma Student at the University of Köln, Zoological Institute, Dept. Ecophysiology (Köln, Germany);
Supervisor: Prof. Dr. D. Neumann
1988-1993 Biology Student at the University of Köln (Germany)
October 1990 Pre-diploma in Biology, Grade: 'very good'

Professional career

2016-now Associate Professor at the University of Southern Denmark (= SDU), Department of Biology, Nordic Center for
Earth Evolution (Odense, Denmark)
2013-2016 Scientist at SDU, Institute of Biology, Nordic Center for Earth Evolution (Odense, Denmark)
2007-2012 Scientist at the Max-Planck-Institute for Marine Microbiology (= MPI-MM),
Microsensor Group (Bremen, Germany)
2005-2006 Post-Doctoral Marie-Curie Fellow at Aarhus University (= AU), Dept. Microbiology (Aarhus, Denmark)
2004 Post-Doctoral Researcher at MPI-MM, Dept. Biogeochemistry (Bremen, Germany)
2003 Post-Doctoral Researcher at MPI-MM, Microsensor Group, (Bremen, Germany)
2000-2003 Post-Doctoral Max-Planck Fellow at MPI-MM, Microsensor Group (Bremen, Germany)
1997-1999 Guest Researcher at MPI-MM, Microsensor Group (Bremen, Germany)
1996-1999 PhD Student at the University of Köln (Köln, Germany)

Research areas

1. Aquatic microbial ecology
2. Microbial nitrogen cycling
3. Animal-microbe interactions
4. Eukaryotic microbiology
5. Deep-sea ecology

Selected publications

1. Stief P, Poulsen M, Nielsen LP, Brix H, Schramm A (2009): Nitrous oxide emission by aquatic macrofauna. PNAS 106:4296-4300
2. Kamp A, de Beer D, Nitsch JL, Lavik G, Stief P (2011): Diatoms respire nitrate to survive dark and anoxic conditions. PNAS 108:5649-5654
3. Stief P (2013): Stimulation of microbial nitrogen cycling in aquatic ecosystems by benthic macrofauna: Mechanisms and environmental implications. Biogeosciences 10:7829-7846
4. Deutzmann JS, Stief P, Brandes J, Schink B (2014): Anaerobic methane oxidation coupled to denitrification is the dominant methane sink in a deep lake. PNAS 111:18273-18278
5. Stief P, Kamp A, Thamdrup B, Glud RN (2016): Anaerobic nitrogen turnover by sinking diatom aggregates at varying ambient oxygen levels. Frontiers in Microbiology 7:98