

CV

Personal information

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Education

My educational competencies are central to my research work and projects. In addition to my research education, I have a background in retail, economics, and management. I am clinically trained as a psychologist with a focus on therapy, relational competence, and the development of children and youth.

2019 Lecturer Training Program (Universitetspædagogikum), University of Southern Denmark

2015 PhD degree, Department of Public Health, University of Southern Denmark.

2015 License (autorisation), Board of Psychologists, Ministry of Children, Equality, Integration, and Social Affairs (Psykolognævnet, Ministeriet for børn, ligestilling, integration og sociale forhold).

2015 Certified in the International Child Development Program (ICDP), Levels 1, 2, 3, Institut for Relationspsykologi, Roskilde/Skive.

2009 Harvard Summer School: Cross-Cultural Expository Writing. Harvard University, Boston, MA.

2008 Academic Visit to the Department of Psychology at Bowling Green State University, OH.

2005 MSc. Psych., Institute of Psychology, University of Copenhagen.

2005 BSc. Psych., Institute of Psychology, University of Copenhagen.

2004 Certified in Barnabas Counselling Training, Level 3 Diploma, Chichester, UK.

2001 Higher Preparatory Examination (HF), VUC Amager.

1997 Management Trainee at Brugskæderne: Financial Management 1, Retail Level C, and Retail Management (Merkonom), Djurslands Business Schools.

1996 Internship as a sales assistant, Skive Business School.

1994 Business School Basic Education, Aalborg Business School.

Employment

In my different work in research, teaching, leadership/management, and with children, young people, and families, I have always been driven by a concern and interest for human well-being and development; that individuals may find their place in life, community, and as an engaged part of society.

2021-pres. Associate Professor, Department of Public Health, University of Southern Denmark.

2019-2020 Senior Researcher, CKO Hematological Clinic, Section 5052, Rigshospitalet.

2017-2021 Senior Researcher, Post-doc, Research Unit for General Practice, University of Southern Denmark.

2015-2017 Clinical Psychologist, Institut for Relationspsykologi, Roskilde.

2014-2015 External Lecturer, Mærsk McKinney Møller Institute, University of Southern Denmark.

2014-pres. Appointed Censor at the Censor Corps for Psychology at the Universities of Denmark.

2013-2016 External Lecturer, Study Board for Audiology and Speech Therapy, University of Southern Denmark.

2008-2015 PhD Fellow, Department of Public Health, University of Southern Denmark.

2008-2015 Industrial PhD Fellow at Kolding Internationale Højskole.

2007-2008 Psychologist at the Association: Ungdomsproblemer.dk, Ballerup, Hvidovre – part-time.

2007-2008 Psychologist and teacher at Kolding Internationale Højskole – part-time.

2007 External Lecturer at Suhr's Seminary, Copenhagen.

2006-2007 Youth Counselor at the Child/Family section at Nørrebro Social Center. Student job.

2005-2007 Teacher in "Psychology and Communication" at Greve Youth School. Student job.

2004-2007 Handicap helper for a 29-year-old girl with Kearns-Sayre syndrome – chronically progressive ophthalmoplegia. Student job.

2001-2004 Youth counselor and project coordinator of the girls' project, Social Center, Sundby S. Student job.

1999-2001 Youth counselor and project assistant, Social Center Sundby S.

1998-1999 Volunteer among street children in Bogota, Colombia. Foundation Amparo.

1996-1998 Department Manager, SuperBrugsen, Kjellerup.

1994-1996 Sales assistant trainee, Super Brugsen Egeris, Skive.

Research Focus and Approaches

I focus on practice-oriented research projects on the existential needs, well-being, and development of children, young people, and families. I applied various research methods, often in close collaboration with practice, where issues arise from practice, and knowledge needs to return to practice. I have the most experience with health-related intervention research, action research, existential phenomenology, philosophical hermeneutics, and interpretative phenomenological analysis (IPA). Still, I also collaborate with researchers using other methods and approaches, such as quantitative methods.

The purpose of my research is, through a relational and existential research and - practice perspective, to explore and generate knowledge of how children and young people act meaningfully, relationally, and with agency in relation to their development, well-being, and concrete life circumstances. This perspective promotes a psychological understanding of development that sees children's development not with an isolated individualistic nor societal focus but primarily as the relational and meaningful interaction between the child and its surroundings and life conditions.

Research Grants

2022DKK 8,961,700 from Samfonden for the existential needs and development of children and young people.

2021DKK 2,500,000 from the KIRK Foundation for the spiritual-existential needs of children with relatives.

2021DKK 390,000 from the Borg Foundation for the spiritual-existential needs and formation of children and young people.

2020DKK 225,000 from the Health Foundation for Spiritual-Existential Care and Conversation at Hospice.

2020:DKK 150,000 from Arresødal Hospice for Spiritual-Existential Care and Conversation at Hospice.

2020DKK 700,000 from M.L. Jørgensen's Foundation for Spiritual-Existential Care and Conversation at Hospice.

2019DKK 299,000 from AgeCare for Spiritual-Existential Care and Conversation at Hospice.

2019DKK 100,000 from the Support Association for Hospice Sydlyn for Spiritual-Existential Care and Conversation at Hospice.

2018DKK 50,000 from Hospice Sydlyn for Spiritual-Existential Care and Conversation at Hospice.

2018DKK 836,700 from M.L. Jørgensen's Foundation for Spiritual-Existential Care and Conversation at Hospice.

2017DKK 299,000 from AgeCare for Spiritual-Existential Care and Conversation at Hospice.

Research Works and Relationships

2023-pres.Danish Center for Learning Environment (Dansk Center for Undervisningsmiljø) and Center for Digital Pedagogy(Center for Digital Pædagogik, with Merete Dalsgaard. Project: Development of Existential Resilience in Children and Youth in a Digitized Family Life.

2023-pres.Center for Character Formation (Center for Karakterdannelse), Aalborg University, with Jonas Norgaard Mortensen, Lene Tanggaard, Svend Brinkmann, and others. <https://www.karakterdannelse.dk/om>

2023-pres.Project: Existential Communication, with Associate Professor Aida H. Andersen, Department of Psychology, University of Southern Denmark.

2023-pres.Project: Study Dropout, with Associate Professor Eva Lykkegaard and Professor Ane Qvortrup, Department of Media, Design, Learning, and Cognition, Faculty of Humanities, University of Southern Denmark.

2023-pres.Professor of Care and Meaning, Aliza Damsma-Bakker, Zorg en Zingeving, Hogeschool Viaa, Holland.

2023-pres. Project: Åndtologi - mapping of the concept of 'åndelighed' currently and historically, with the Teachers Association, John Rydahl.

2022-pres.Steering group member at FaCe, Family-focused Healthcare Research Center, Odense.

2022-pres.Co-founder and board member of the Society for the Psychology of Religion and Existence, Danish Psychological Association.

2022-pres.'Girl Talk', Director, psychologist, and chairman of the volunteer council Anna Bjerre.

2022Committee member for appointment as Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Southern Denmark.

2021-pres.Project: Existential perspective and conversation, Children's Helpline (Børnetelefonen - Børns Vilkår), Ida Hilario Jønsson.

2021-pres.The People's Church School Services (De Folkekirkelige Skoletjenester) – national collaboration on various projects, John Rydahl.

2019-2021Liaisons person for Denmark, European Association for Palliative Care. Task force: Spiritual Care.

2019-pres.Professor of Developmental Psychology, Chris Boyatzis, Bucknell University, Pennsylvania.

2019-pres.Editorial work for book projects, National guideline, and journal theme issues.

2017-pres.Denmark's Hospices, the Hospice Manager Association, Denmark's two children's and youth hospices, and several children's and youth palliative departments – collaboration on various projects.

2017-pres.Research Group for Humanistic and Existential Psychology (formerly INCORE), Institute of Psychology, University of Southern Denmark.

2017-2023Research Group: "Existential and Spiritual Care" at the Research Unit for General Practice, University of Southern Denmark. Primary responsibility for the children-youth field.

2015-pres. International Association for the Psychology of Religion.

2015-pres.Reviewer for scientific journals and book chapters.

2013-2015Editorial member at the journal "Psykologisk Set," Frydenlund Publishers.

2011-pres.Nordic Research Network for Faith and Health, Research Center for Existential Health, Sykehuset Innlandet, Norway.

2008-pres.Professor of Psychology, Kenneth I. Pargament, Bowling Green State University, Ohio (now Emeritus).

What else about me?

I am a team player with the ability to both take individual responsibility as well as bringing out the best in others. I am involved in Danish association and volunteer culture (dansk forenings - og frivillighedskultur) and civil society, and I am interested in their significance for the development and formation of children and young people and for the cohesion of society. I am originally from Vendsyssel, currently residing in Copenhagen, married for 17 years, and a mother of two children aged 12 and 14. We have recently bought a small sailboat and begun sailing together as a family.

2021-pres.Chairman of the Board, Kildevæld Efterskole, Kolding.

2014-2021Board member and representative member for Kolding International Højskole.

2007-2008Volunteer psychologist at SIND, Copenhagen.

2005-2017Member of the parish council over several periods: Valby, Amagerbro, and Vejle.

2005-2011Volunteer at the Psychiatric Information Center, Vejle.

2005-2008Journalist at "DOMINO," the monthly magazine of the Danish Free Churches.

2002-2005Journalist at "INDPUT," the students' magazine at Institute of Psychology, University of Copenhagen.

1996-2003Co-organizer and leader of summer teen camps, Kongelejren, Ellinge Lyng.

1984-pres.Handball player as child, youth, senior, and old girls in Brønderslev Idrætsforening, Viborg HK, FIF, and Christianshavns Idrætsklub.

Language Skills

In addition to Danish:

English: Grade 10 at B-level (1999). Harvard Summer School: Cross-Cultural Expository Writing. Harvard University (2009). Fluent in speaking and writing on an academic level.

Spanish: Grade 9 at C-level (1999). Speak and write at a tourist level.

German: Grade 10 at C-level (2001). Speak and write at a tourist level.