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Born

1964

Education

1989	M.Sc. in biology and chemistry, Aarhus University
1998	Ph.D. in microbial ecology/biogeochemistry, Aarhus University

Employment

1989-93	Research assistant, Depertment of Ecology and Genetics, Aarhus University
1993-98	Researcher, Max Planck Institute for Marine Microbiology
1998-2003	Research associate professor, Danish Centre for Earth System Science, University of Southern Denmark (SDU)
2003-2008	Associate professor, Department of Biology, SDU
2008-13	Professor with special assignment, Department of Biology, SDU
2013-	Professor in geomicrobiology, Department of Biology, SDU

Research interests

Microorganisms play pivotal roles in the biogeochemistry of the Earth, carrying out both photosynthesis and degradation and performing a range of processes that are unique to prokaryotes yet essential for the maintenance of a habitable planet. Prokaryotes have been the dominating life form through most of Earth's history and have contributed decisively to the chemical evolution of the biosphere. Their functional diversity also represents an important resource for biotechnological applications in the widest sense. These are the basic premises behind my interest in microbial ecology and biogeochemistry. Thus, it has been and remains my interest to explore the diversity and ecological and biogeochemical role of microbial processes on levels of organization ranging from the pure bacterial cultures over microbial communities to global elemental cycles, on modern Earth as well as in the geologic past.

My research focuses on aspects of microbial ecology and biogeochemistry in aquatic environments, mainly marine sediments, anoxic basins, and oxygen minimum zones. Main specific themes include
• the rates and oxidative pathways of carbon mineralization,
• the redox cycling of manganese and iron,
• the oxidative sulfur cycle and sulfur cycling on early Earth,
• the effect of temperature on microbial processes,
• anaerobic ammonium oxidation and the marine nitrogen cycle, and
• geomicrobiology of oxygen minimum zones.

Appointments and memberships

– Fellow of the Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and Letters
– Fellow of the Geochemical Society
- Associate editor, Limnology and Oceanography
– Appointed member of the Board of the Danish Center for Marine Research
– Member of the American Society for Microbiology
– Member of the American Society for Limnology and Oceanography

Awards

– Fyens Stiftidene's Research Award, 2006
– EliteForsk-award of the Danish Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, 2008
– EGU Science Innovation Award and the Heinz Lowenstam medal, 2017