

## CV: Merethe Skårås

Date of Birth: **12.01.1981**

Webpage: [Education in the crossfire](#)

Nationality: Norwegian

## Academic qualifications

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- 2013 - 2019**      **PhD, Educational science for teacher education, OsloMet**  
Courses: Theory of Knowledge in Teacher Education Research, (10 ECTS), International education (10 ECTS), Philosophy of science (7 ECTS, UiO), Ethics (1 ECTS, UiO), Qualitative methods and the study of civil war, (10 ECTS, PRIO/UiO), Academic writing (6 ECTS), Qualitative analysis of documents and texts, (1 ECTS UiO/UiB).
- 2013 - 2016**      **National Graduate school in Education Research, NATED, University of Oslo.** Track 2: Focus on questions and concerns related to teaching and learning within specific subject domains and learning across sites.
- 2007-2009**      **Master in Multicultural and International Education, Oslo and Akershus University College.** Master thesis: The Lost Boys of Sudan: The reintegration process of school children associated with armed forces and group, ethnographic fieldwork in Malakal, South Sudan July- September 2008
- 2006-2007**      **Courses:** Globaliseringens idehistorie, (10 ECTS), Problemer i Afrikas historie, (10 ECTS), University of Oslo
- 2005**              **Course:** Africa: music, culture and history, (15 ECTS), NTNU
- 2003-2004**      **Teacher ed. exchange program, Music performance, Concordia College, MN, USA**
- 2000-2004**      **General teacher training, 4-year teacher training college, Bachelor in Education. Hedmark University College.**

## Professional experience

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- 2019 -**              **Associate Professor in pedagogy, MF Norwegian School of Theology, Religion and Society**
- 2018 - 2019**      **Teacher (lector), Svendstuen barneskole**  
**Main responsibilities:** Subject teacher in Music (grade 6) and Arts and Crafts (grade 4).
- 2018 - 2019**      **Lecturer in MA Programme, International Education and development, OsloMet.** Supervising master students, manage course: The role of education in

Social Development in the Global South (15 ect), communicating and managing CANVAS for students in the Master program, lecturing in multiple courses on MA level.

**2013 – 2018**

**PhD candidate (01/2013 – 10/2018), OsloMet- Storbyuniversitetet**

PhD topic: Teaching history in newly independent South Sudan, including focused ethnographic fieldwork in South Sudan 2014 and 2015.

**Main work related and teaching responsibilities:** Lecture MA courses: Introduction to Multicultural and International education (10 ECTS), Education and Development in the global south (20 ECT), Philosophy of Science and Research methods (20 ECTS). MA supervision, assessing oral and written exams, writing research grant proposals, participating in International projects.

**2018**

**OpenGATE fellowship, visiting scholar at Georg Mason University (GMU), Virginia, USA (4 weeks).**

**2017**

**Visiting scholar, Center for International Teacher education (CITE), Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT), Cape Town, South Africa (6 weeks).**

Collaborating with international researchers in a context similar to the South Sudan research context. Discussing research methods, theoretical frameworks and developing written texts.

**2016 - 2017**

**Maternity leave (second born 01.09.2016)**

**2013 - 2014**

**Maternity leave (first born 28.06.2013)**

**2009 – 2013**

**Teacher (lector), Huseby primary school**

**Main responsibilities:** Kontaktlærer (head teacher) grade 5-6 teaching most subjects. Subject teacher, team leader (team of 6-8 teachers), responsible for basic ICT support for teachers, curriculum development including local curriculum plans for various subjects, participating in professional development programmes, developing the strategic plan of the school in line with national guidelines and local needs, head teacher of music in the school.

**2007 – 2009**

**Teacher (adjunct), Huseby primary school**

**Main responsibilities:** Subject teacher: Arts and crafts, Cooking, Music and other subjects. Team leader (team of 6-8 teachers), responsible for basic ICT support for teachers in the school, curriculum development including local curriculum plans for various subjects, participating in professional development programmes, developing the strategic plan of the school in line with national guidelines and local needs.

**2004 – 2007**

**Teacher (adjunct), Huseby primary school**

**Main responsibilities:** Team leader (team of 6-8 teachers), kontaktlærer (head teacher) grade 1 -3, curriculum development including local curriculum plans for various subjects, lead parent and teacher meetings on regular basis, teaching basic literacy and numeracy skills to the lower classes, participating in professional development programmes, developing the strategic plan of the school in line with national guidelines and local needs.

- 2008**                      **Head teacher/director at Lilleborg, Oslo summer school**  
**Main responsibilities:** managing about 400 children and 30 employees, set up of the school, follow up on the teaching and check in on lesson plans, assist the central leadership team at the head office to quality ensure the course plans, hire employees and distribute equipment for the setup of the schools.
- 2007**                      **Teacher, Linderud, Oslo summer school**  
Responsible for a mathematics course including 30 children primary grade 1-4. Plan the course in line with the syllabus and design the course including theoretical and practical approaches to mathematics teaching and learning.
- 2005 – 2008**            **Part time music teacher and clarinet instructor**  
2007-2008, Clarinet teacher, Rælingen kulturskole,  
2005, Instructor, Voksen school marching band
- 2001 – 2005**            **Pedagogical worker, Mokollen bofellesskap**, housing complex for mentally ill people. Main responsibilities: Supervise three mentally handicapped people with daily routines during nights, weekends and holidays and provide pedagogical guidance in daily cores.
- 2000 - 2002**            **Part time clarinet instructor**  
2001 - 2002, Stange videregående skole, (Upper secondary school)  
2000 – 2001, Hamar janitsjarskole (music school)

## Courses

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- 2014**                      **Travel Security and hostage awareness training, Aeger group**  
An introduction to hostage situations and an introduction to personal conduct as a hostage in a variety of hostage situations. Principles and techniques designed to increase the probability of survival and ease the situation as captive hostage.
- 2012**                      **NORCAP Basic Training**, Norwegian Refugee Council's expert deployment capacity. One week course for NORCAP standby rooster members  
The course focuses on basic knowledge of UN and mission mandates, ensuring understanding UN's humanitarian operations, their working environment and the security requirements, introduction to illustrating case exercises.
- 2011**                      **Education in Emergencies, UNICEF**  
One week course aimed at education specialist. The course focuses on the core elements of EiE including EiE preparedness, EiE response, education recovery and reconstruction. The course focuses on UNICEF's EIE programmes, planning, supply and logistics in education and to get familiar with UNICEF programmatic framework and related process. It also provide materials and experience necessary to roll out EiE capacity building activities for eventual deployment as UNICEF standby partners.

**2011-2012**                    **Recruitment course in school management, Utdanningsetaten, Oslo**  
Main themes of the course: strategic management in the Oslo school, assessment and quality assurance, budget and economy, management and change, school law, human resource management, HMS, communication and conflict management.

**2004 – 2008**                    **Courses**  
2008, Pestalozzi Programme, Council of Europe. Interculturalism, democracy and human rights in education  
2005-2006, Folkeuniversitetet, Spanish, C language 2, evening course  
2005, University of Havana, Cuba, Spanish Intensive course  
2004 – 2005, ICT for teachers, Intensive course, Oslo university College

## **Professional activities**

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**2019-2021**                    **Member (1 og 3) of the DIKU project: Forskningskompetanse for framtiden.**  
Aktiv læring, samarbeid og digital produksjon.

**2019 -**                            **Co-editor, Nordic Journal of Comparative and International Education**

**2016-2018**                    **Web coordinator, CANDE, CIES**  
Citizenship and Democratic Education Special Interest Group (CANDE) of Comparative and International Education Society (CIES) - <http://www.cies-cande.org>  
**Main responsibilities:** engage with members on social media (twitter and facebook), attend meetings, participate and contribute to discussions with the other SIG leadership team members, contribute to the publication of the CANDE quarterly newsletter, update the webpage.

**2016-2018**                    **Reviewer, CANDE, CIES**  
Reviewing abstract for the Citizenship and Democratic Education Special Interest Group (CANDE) of Comparative and International Education Society (CIES)

**2014 – 2015**                    **PhD-coordinator, Oslo and Akershus University College**  
**Main responsibilities:** Coordinator activities at the Faculty of Education and International studies for the PhD students in the PhD program. Arrange seminars, collaborate with the leadership team.

**2015 - 2016**                    **Representative from LUI in the PhD-forum, HiOA**  
Student representative for LUI PhD students in the central PhD forum. Collaborate with other PhD programs and the HiOA rectorate.

## **Publications**

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**Bruer Larsen and Skårås (under review).** In Search of Education: Toward a Future of Transnationalism Among Young Refugee Women in Uganda

**Skårås, Merethe (forthcoming).** No textbooks no Peace? In Edited volume of Textbooks for Peace: The intersecting roles of Education in Conflict. Routledge.

**Skårås, Merethe (2019).** Constructing a national narrative in civil war: history teaching and

national unity in South Sudan. *Comparative Education*.  
DOI:10.1080/03050068.2019.1634873

**Skårås, Merethe; Tami Carsillo; Breidlid, Anders (2019).** The ethnic, the national and the global. Citizenship education in South Sudan. *British Journal of Educational Science*.

**Skårås, Merethe (2017).** Why it's hard to get South Sudan's former child soldiers back to school. *The Conversation*. April 29<sup>th</sup> 2018.

**Skårås, Merethe (2017).** Educational and Social Challenges in the Reintegration Process of Former Child Soldiers. In Camp-Yeakey, Carol Marcucci, Olivia M. Elmesky, Rowhea (Red.), *The Power of Resistance: Culture, Ideology and Social Reproduction in Global Contexts*. Section 2. (pp. 243-263). Emerald Group Publishing Limited.  
<https://www.emeraldinsight.com/doi/full/10.1108/S1479-358X20140000012012>

**Skårås, Merethe; Breidlid, Anders (2016).** Teaching the violent past in secondary schools in new independent South Sudan. *Education as Change*. Vol. 20. (3) pp. 98-118. doi: 10.17159/1947-9417/2016/1312  
[https://upjournals.co.za/index.php/EAC/article/view/1312/pdf\\_45](https://upjournals.co.za/index.php/EAC/article/view/1312/pdf_45)

**Skårås, Merethe (2016).** Focused ethnographic research on teaching and learning in conflict zones: History education in South Sudan. *Forum for Development studies*, (pp.1-22). doi: 10.1080/08039410.2016.1202316

**Røed, Merethe (2009).** *The Lost boys of Sudan: The reintegration process of school children associated with armed forces and groups*. VDM Verlag Dr. Müller

## **Dissemination of research**

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**Skårås, Merethe; Vanner Catherine; Akseer, Spogmai (2020).** Bridging research and practice in South Sudan. **Presentation and Q and A** at Global Affairs Canada, Ottawa.

**Skårås, Merethe (2018).** Commenting on the recent release of child soldiers in South Sudan and the challenges of reintegration. **Radio interview**, BBC World Service UK.

**Skårås, Merethe (2018).** South Sudan in Focus. Voice of America, **radio interview**.  
<https://www.voanews.com/a/4378087.html>

**Skårås, Merethe; Breidlid Anders (2018).** History teaching and nation building in South Sudan. **Presentation** at INEE seminar on Education in Emergencies, Oslo May 14<sup>th</sup> 2018

**Skårås, Merethe; Carsillo, Tami (2018).** Bridging research and practice in South Sudan. **Presentation and dialogue** at USAID, Washington, USA.

**Skårås, Merethe; Carsillo, Tami (2018).** The local, the national and the global: citizenship education in South Sudan. **Presentation** at Comparative and International Education Society. CIES.

**Skårås, Merethe (2017).** Teaching history in secondary schools in post independent South Sudan. **Presentation** at Cape Peninsula University of Technology, Center for International Teacher Education (CITE). South Africa.

**Skårås, Merethe (2017).** Choosing a theoretical framework in a study of history teaching and learning in schools in South Sudan. **Dialogic presentation** at Cape Peninsula University of Technology, CITE. South Africa.

**Skårås, Merethe (2016).** Teaching history in secondary schools in post independent South Sudan. Comparative and International Education Society (CIES) Conference **presentation**.

**Kooij, Kristin Skinstad van der; Skårås, Merethe (2016).** Challenges and opportunities of teaching about democracy through the contrasting case of Nazi occupied Norway 1940-1945. Matching the objectives of historical and civil society education through history teaching. **Workshop and presentation** at Centre for Research and Analysis Sofia, Bulgaria. International project through EEA Grant.

**Skårås, Merethe (2015).** Teaching history in (post)-conflict South Sudan. **Presentation** at Comparative and International Education Society (CIES) Conference presentation.

**Skårås, Merethe (2014).** Teaching History in South Sudan. **Presentation and dialogue** at The Norwegian Embassy in Juba, South Sudan.

### **Master supervision (selected candidates representing a diversity of topics)**

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**Master thesis at MF Norwegian School of Theology, Religion and Society. Lektorprogram i KRLE/Religion og etikk og samfunnsfag**

Ole Thomas Augestad (2020). Tilpasset undervisning for faglig sterke elever.

**Master thesis in multicultural and International Education, OsloMet/Oslo and Akershus University College, Faculty of Education:**

Towongo Peter Martin Gogo (2020). The effects of armed conflicts and continuous violence on secondary education and academic progress in the Republic South Sudan. A Case Study of two Secondary Schools in Juba County of Jubek State.

Hamzeh Naderi (2019). The Role of Applied Theatre in Education Empowering Ethnic Minorities Through Theatre in Multicultural Society Iran's context.

Joseph Powers (2019). Perceptions and Attitudes Toward Music Education Among Latin American Immigrants in Secondary Public Education in Texas.

Camilla Bruer Larsen (2018). Education and its impact on refugee girls well-being. A study of youth girls in Rhino settlement, Uganda.

Jilda Eliseo Idiongo (2018). The impact of the current conflict on the quality of education in secondary schools in Juba county, South Sudan. A case study of three schools.

Jennifer Bakibinga (2016). The trinal bond: the missing link to quality education in public primary schools in Uganda. A comparative study.

Mehdi Abdo Mohammed (2016). Patterns of children's work during schooling and its association with school attendance in coffee and non-coffee picking seasons in intense coffee growing regions in Sidama Zone, Southern Ethiopia: A mixed method study.

Robert Abu John Yuma (2015). Understanding Quality Education in Basic schools in Eentral Equatoria state, South Sudan.

Musakula Franklins (2015). African music in music education: an exploration into the teaching of African music in two primary colleges of Education in Zambia.