

## Curriculum Vitae

### Hugo Fjelsted Alrøe, PhD

Born 22. February 1964 in Denmark.  
Married, two children born in 1989 and 1999.

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Hugo F. Alrøe currently works as Scientific Consultant focusing on the challenges of inter- and transdisciplinary research and the role of different scientific and stakeholder perspectives in relation to sustainable food and agriculture. 2015-2020 he worked as Scientific Officer and Scientific Consultant at Tufts University, University of Otago and Aarhus University on topics such as multi-criteria assessment in the development of a sustainable diets framework, performance versus values in sustainability transformation of food systems, and development of research programs and open archives for organic agriculture research. 2011-2014 he held a position as Associate Professor in philosophy of science and ethics at Department of Agroecology, Aarhus University, where he worked mainly in interdisciplinary and participatory research projects in relation to sustainable food systems. Hugo holds a MSc in horticultural science and a PhD in systemic research methodology and ethics from Copenhagen University, and has expertise in philosophy, cross-disciplinary research and sustainable agriculture and food systems. He has a large national and international network from different scientific disciplines and stakeholder groups.

His research interests span areas of theoretical and applied philosophy within philosophy of science and ethics, leading to well cited early papers such as “Science as systems learning” (2000), “Does organic farming face distinctive livestock welfare issues?” (2001), “Towards a systemic research methodology in agriculture” (2002) and “Toward a systemic ethic” (2003). Two important aspects of this early work are the necessary connection of scientific knowledge with the observational apparatus and the role of values as essential and built-in elements in science. Since, he has developed this into a perspectivist framework for research on ‘wicked’ problems, mostly in relation to the challenges of sustainable food production, in cooperation with Associate Professor Egon Noe, AU. Parts of this work have been published in articles such as “The paradox of scientific expertise” (2011), “Observing environments” (2012), “Second order science of interdisciplinary research” (2014), “Sustainability assessment and complementarity” (2016), “Three levels of semiosis: Three kinds of kinds” (2016), and “Performance versus values in sustainability transformation of food systems” (2017) .

## Employments

- 2018-2019: Scientific Consultant, Friedman School of Nutrition Science & Policy, Tufts University.
- 2017- : Scientific Consultant, International Centre for Research in Organic Food Systems (ICROFS).
- 2017- : Lead Researcher, Sciper research, consulting and writing (<http://sciper.dk>).
- 2016: Scientific Consultant for the New Zealand Sustainability Dashboard project and Visiting Academic at the Centre for Sustainability (CSAFE), University of Otago, New Zealand.
- 2015-2016: Scientific Officer, International Centre for Research in Organic Food Systems ([ICROFS](#)).
- 2011-2014: Associate Professor, Department of Agroecology, Faculty of Science and Technology, Aarhus University.
- 2010-2011: Senior Scientist, Department of Agroecology and Environment, Faculty of Agricultural Science, Aarhus University.
- 2005–2010: Senior Scientist, International Centre for Research in Organic Food Systems.
- 2001–2005: Postdoctoral Scientist, Danish Research Centre for Organic Farming (DARCOF).
- 1998–2001: Research assistant and Scholarship, Danish Research Centre for Organic Farming.
- 1993: Visiting Scholar, Department of Statistics, University of Washington, Seattle.
- 1992–1995: Postgraduate Scholarship, Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University, Denmark.
- 1991: Research assistant, Research Centre Foulum, Denmark

## Education

- 2017-2021: Bachelor in Comparative Literature and Japanese Studies, Aarhus University.
- 2001: PhD, KVL (now University of Copenhagen). PhD Thesis: Wholeness-oriented research in agriculture – contributions to systemic methodology and ethics: An inquiry into the relation between science and values.
- 1989: M.Sc. (cand hort), Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University (KVL). Thesis: Conceptualising emergence. Subjects: philosophy of science, theories of knowledge, theories of evolution.

## Major responsibilities

- 2012-2016: Initiator and Guest Editor of a [Special Feature in Ecology and Society](#) on “Multicriteria assessment of food system sustainability” (finalized with publication of the editorial in 2016).
- 2013-2014: Leader of Work Package 5 “Comparative multi-perspective analysis of case studies” in the cross-disciplinary EU FP7 research project *Healthy growth: From niche to volume with integrity and trust* ([www.healthygrowth.eu](http://www.healthygrowth.eu)) with partners from 10 countries and scholars from many different disciplines. Total budget 1.670.500 Euro, Danish budget 375.000 Euro.
- 2011-2014: Project leader of the transdisciplinary research project “Multicriteria assessment and communication of effects of organic food systems” with 5 university partners, 4 business partners, and 13 affiliated public and international partners. Total budget 11.168.000 DKK, Department of Agroecology budget 3.807.200 DKK, funded by the Green Growth program under the Danish Ministry of Food.
- 2007-2014: Responsible for developing, running and teaching the required bachelor course “[Jordbrugets videnskabsteori](#)” [[Philosophy of agricultural science](#)] at Aarhus University

- ([Kommenteret evaluering 2010](#), [Evaluering 2011](#), [Evaluering 2012](#)); as well as teaching session on the master course “Communication, decision making and extension” and other courses.
- 2012: Co-organizer of the international IFSA conference “Producing and reproducing farming systems: New modes of organisation for sustainable food systems of tomorrow”, Aarhus, Denmark, 1-4 July 2012 (<http://ifsa2012.dk>).
- 2006-2008: Co-organizer and editor of the large knowledge synthesis on “[Udvikling, vækst og integritet i den danske økologisektor](#)” [[Development, growth and integrity in the Danish organic sector](#)], which paved the way for a new research effort in organic agriculture.
- 2004-2007: Leader of Work Package 2, “Identifying and integrating basic ethical values of organic agriculture in the EU Regulation”, in the EU strategic research project [Organic Revision](#). Total budget 1.493.972 Euro, Danish budget 571.207 Euro.
- 2003–2008: Expert member of two global IFOAM Task Forces on “Rewriting the Principles of Organic Agriculture” and “Articulating the Definition of Organic Agriculture” (<http://orgprints.org/7115>).
- 2003-2005: Organizer of the international knowledge synthesis "Organic agriculture in a global perspective", and co-editor of the resulting book "[Global development of organic agriculture](#)".
- 2002–2010: Initiator, main developer and administrator of [Organic Eprints](#), the international open access archive for papers related to research in organic agriculture (now having +14000 papers).
- 2000–2005: Responsible for WP 3 “Systems research methodology and value inquiry” in [SYNERGY](#), project V in the DARCOF II research program. Total budget 12 million DKK, WP 3: 3 million DKK.
- 1999–2003: Member of the Board of Editors for Studies in Pragmatism and Values, VIBS, Rodopi.

## Specific research interests

1. Philosophy of science and cognition
  - science as a cognitive and communicative learning process, open access in science
  - systemic research methodology, reflexive objectivity, cognitive context, values in science
  - the phenomenology of observation, requirements for observation, complementarity
  - pragmatist philosophy, Peircean semiotics, metaphysical levels
  - theories of autopoietic systems, social systems and actor networks
  - cross-disciplinary research, the role of scientific perspectives, second-order science
  - participatory methods, the role of scientific expertise in democratic processes
2. Ethics and value inquiry
  - multiperspectival analyses of value-laden concepts such as animal welfare, health, nature quality, soil quality, food quality and sustainable production
  - quality and value as relational and metaphysically fundamental concepts
  - normative sciences, ethics as responsibility, ethics and cognition, systemic ethics
  - sustainability, commons, ecological justice and precaution as relatively new ethical concepts
  - the role of meaning, trust and ethical principles in social organizations and networks
3. The interplay between the above areas in the applied philosophy and interdisciplinary science of complex problems across the human, social and natural sciences.

**Selected publications** (Full list of publications and presentations on <http://hugo.alroe.dk>, with downloads)

- Alrøe, H.F., M. Sautier, K. Legun, J. Whitehead, E. Noe, H. Moller, and J. Manhire (2017) Performance versus values in sustainability transformation of food systems. *Sustainability* 9(3), 332.
- Alrøe, H.F., H. Moller, J. Læssøe and E. Noe (2016) Opportunities and challenges for multicriteria assessment of food system sustainability. *Ecology and Society* 21(1):38.
- Alrøe, H.F. and E. Noe (2016) Sustainability assessment and complementarity. *Ecology and Society* 21(1):30.
- Alrøe, H.F. (2016) Three levels of semiosis: Three kinds of kinds. *Cybernetics and Human Knowing* 23(2): 23–38.
- Noe, E. and H.F. Alrøe (2015) Sustainable agriculture issues explained by differentiation and structural coupling using social systems analysis. *Agronomy for Sustainable Development* 35 (1): 133–144.
- Noe, E., H. F. Alrøe, M. H. Thorsøe, J. E. Olesen, P. Sørensen, B. Melander and E. Fog (2015), Knowledge Asymmetries Between Research and Practice: A Social Systems Approach to Implementation Barriers in Organic Arable Farming. *Sociologia Ruralis*.
- Alrøe, H.F. and E. Noe (2014) Second-order science of interdisciplinary research: A polyocular framework for wicked problems. *Constructivist Foundations* 10(1): 65–95.
- Alrøe, H.F. and E. Noe (2012) Observing environments. *Constructivist Foundations* 8(1): 39–62.
- Noe, E. and H.F. Alrøe (2012) Observing farming systems: Insights from social systems theory. In: *Farming systems research into the 21st century: The new dynamic*. Springer, pp. 387–403.
- Alrøe, H.F. and E. Noe (2011) The paradox of scientific expertise: A perspectivist approach to knowledge asymmetries. *Fachsprache – Int. J. of Special. Comm.* Vol. XXXIV, 3–4/2011: 152–167.
- Alrøe, H.F. and E. Noe (2008) What makes organic agriculture move - protest, meaning or market? A polyocular approach to the dynamics and governance of organic agriculture. *Int. J. Agricultural Resources, Governance and Ecology* 7(1/2):5–22.
- Noe, E., H.F. Alrøe and A.M.S. Langvad (2008) A polyocular framework for research on multifunctional farming and rural development. *Sociologia Ruralis* 48(1): 1–15.
- Alrøe, H.F., J. Byrne and L. Glover (2006) Ecological justice and organic agriculture: ethics and practice. In N. Halberg, H.F. Alrøe, M.T. Knudsen and E.S. Kristensen (eds.), *Global Development of Organic Agriculture: Challenges and Prospects*. Wallingford, UK: CABI Publishing, pp. 75–112.
- Noe, E. and H.F. Alrøe (2006) Combining Luhmann and Actor-Network Theory to see farm enterprises as self-organizing systems. *Cybernetics and Human Knowing* 13(1): 34–48.
- Alrøe, H.F. and E.S. Kristensen (2003) Toward a systemic ethic: In search of an ethical basis for sustainability and precaution. *Environmental Ethics* 25(1): 59–78.
- Alrøe, H.F. and E.S. Kristensen (2002) Towards a systemic research methodology in agriculture: Rethinking the role of values in science. *Agriculture and Human Values* 19(1): 3–23.
- Alrøe, H.F., M. Vaarst and Kristensen, E.S. (2001) Does organic farming face distinctive livestock welfare issues? A conceptual analysis. *J. Agricultural and Environmental Ethics* 14(3): 275–99.
- Alrøe, H.F. (2000) Science as systems learning: Some reflections on the cognitive and communicational aspects of science. *Cybernetics and Human Knowing* 7(4): 57–78.

Google Scholar Citations: 2035, h-index: 23  
(<http://scholar.google.com/citations?user=XGIP-8AAAAJ>)