

## Curriculum Vitae

### Hugo Fjelsted Alrøe

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

#### Associate Professor [Lektor]

Research unit for Integrated Geographical and Social Studies

[Department of Agroecology](#)

Faculty of Science and Technology

[Aarhus University](#)

Forskningscenter Foulum, Blichers Allé 20

Postbox 50, 8830 Tjele, Denmark

*Phone direct:* +45 8999 1679

*Fax:* +45 8999 1673

*Email:* [hugo.alroe@djf.au.dk](mailto:hugo.alroe@djf.au.dk)

*Web:* <http://hugo.alroe.dk>



### Current research interests

1. Philosophy of science and cognition
  - science as a cognitive and communicative learning process, open access in science
  - systemic research, reflexive objectivity, cognitive context and values in science
  - the phenomenology of observation and complementary perspectives
  - the role of perspectives in crossdisciplinary research, expertise and public participation in science
  - pragmatist philosophy, peircean semiotics and metaphysical levels
  - theories of autopoietic and social systems, networks and second order cybernetics
2. Ethics and value inquiry
  - normative sciences, ethics as responsibility, ethics and cognition, systemic ethics
  - sustainability, commons, ecological justice and precaution as new ethical concepts
  - multiperspectival analyses of value-laden concepts in science such as animal welfare, nature quality, soil quality, food quality and sustainability
  - quality and value as relational and metaphysically fundamental concepts
  - the role of meaning, trust and ethical principles in organizations and networks
3. The interplay between these two areas in relation to agriculture, food and environment and, in particular, sustainable food systems and organic agriculture.

## Employments

- 2011-now: 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 ([ICROFS](#)).
- 2001–2005: Postdoctoral Scientist, Danish Research Centre for Organic Farming (DARCOF).
- 1998–2001: Research assistant and Scholarship, Danish Research Centre for Organic Farming.
- 1992–1995: Postgraduate Scholarship, Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University, Denmark.
- 1993: Visiting Scholar, Department of Statistics, University of Washington, Seattle.
- 1991: Research assistant, Research Centre Foulum, Denmark

## Education

- 2001: Ph.D., Department of Agricultural Science, The Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University.  
Thesis: *Helhedsorienteret forskning i jordbrug - bidrag til systemisk metodik og etik: En undersøgelse af forholdet mellem videnskab og værdier med særlig reference til økologisk jordbrug* [Wholeness-oriented research in agriculture – contributions to systemic methodology and ethics: An inquiry into the relation between science and values with particular regard to organic agriculture]
- 1989: M.Sc. (cand. hort.), The Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University.  
Thesis: *At tænke sig en tilblivelse. Overvejelser om forklaring og forståelse af natur og evolution.* [Subjects: philosophy of science, theories of knowledge, theories of evolution.]

## Major responsibilities

- 2011-now: Project leader of the interdisciplinary project Multicriteria assessment and communication of effects of organic food systems (MULTI-TRUST) in the [Organic Research, Development and Demonstration programme](#).
- 2007-now: Responsible for developing, running and teaching the required bachelor course "[Jordbrugets videnskabsteori](#)" [Philosophy of agricultural science] at Aarhus University.
- 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](#).
- 2003–2008: Expert member of two global IFOAM Task Forces on "[Rewriting the Principles of Organic Agriculture](#)" and "Articulating the Definition 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, and of [EcoWiki](#), a site for "cooperative web work on organic agriculture and food systems and related issues".

2000–2005: Responsible for WP 3 “Systems research methodology and value inquiry” in [SYNERGY](#), project V in the DARCOF II research programme.  
1999–2003: Member of the Board of Editors for Studies in Pragmatism and Values, VIBS, Rodopi.  
1998–now: Organizer and co-organizer of six national and international workshops and knowledge syntheses. Peer reviewer on a range of scientific conferences, books and journals.

## Selected publications

- Vaarst, M. and H.F. Alrøe (2011) Concepts of Animal Health and Welfare in Organic Livestock Systems. *Journal of Agricultural and Environmental Ethics*, Online First 2. May 2011.
- Alrøe, H.F. and E. Noe (2011) The paradox of scientific expertise: A perspectivist approach to knowledge asymmetries. Paper forthcoming in a Thematic section on Knowledge Asymmetries in *Fachsprache - International Journal of Specialized Communication*.
- Noe, E. and H.F. Alrøe (2011) Observing agricultural systems - sustainability and structural couplings. Conference paper for “Luhmann in Action: Empirical studies of structural couplings,” IUC, Dubrovnik, Croatia, 11–15th April 2011. Expected to be published in “Luhmann in Action” (eds. Gorm Harste et al.).
- Noe, E. and H.F. Alrøe (2011) Quality, Coherence and Cooperation: A Framework for Studying the Mediation of Qualities in Food Networks and Collective Marketing Strategies. *International Journal of the Sociology of Agriculture and Food* 18(1): 12–27
- Alrøe, H.F. and E. Noe (2010) Et perspektivisk blik på videnskabelig uenighed og ekspertise [A perspectivist view of scientific disagreement and expertise]. In C. Emmeche and J. Faye (eds.), *Hvad er forskning? Normer, videnskab og samfund [What is research? Norms, science and society]*. Frederiksberg: Nyt fra samfundsvidenskaberne, p. 66–89.
- 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.
- Halberg, N., H.F. Alrøe and E.S. Kristensen (2006) Synthesis: prospects for organic agriculture in a global context. 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. 343–367.
- 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.
- Watson, C., H.F. Alrøe and E.S. Kristensen (2006) Research to support the development of organic food and farming. In P. Kristiansen, A. Taji and J. Reganold (eds.) *Organic agriculture: a global perspective*, Collingwood, Australia: CSIRO, pp. 361–383.

- Rasmussen, J., V. Langer and H.F. Alrøe (2006) Bias in peer review of organic farming grant applications. *Agriculture and Human Values* 23(2): 181–188.
- Verhoog, H., V. Lund and H.F. Alrøe (2004) Animal welfare, ethics and organic farming. In Vaarst, M., Roderick, S., Lund, V. and Lockerets, W. (eds.) *Animal health and welfare in organic agriculture*. Wallingford, UK: CABI Publishing, pp. 73–94.
- Noe, E. and Alrøe, H.F. (2003) Farm enterprises as self-organizing systems: A new transdisciplinary framework for studying farm enterprises? *Int. J. Sociology of Agriculture and Food* 11(1): 3–14.
- 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. and E.S. Kristensen (2001) Researching alternative, sustainable agricultural systems: A modelling approach by examples from Denmark. In Matthies, M., Malchow, H., and Kriz, J. (eds.) *Integrative systems approaches to natural and social dynamics*, Berlin: Springer, pp. 437–467.
- Hansen, B., H. F. Alrøe and E. S. Kristensen (2001) Approaches to assess the environmental impact of organic farming with particular regard to Denmark. *Agriculture, Ecosystems and Environment* 83(1–2): 11–26.
- 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.

A full list of publications is available on <http://hugo.alroe.dk>, with papers for download.