

## Brigitte Alfter, CV

[www.alfter.dk](http://www.alfter.dk)

Born 1966



**BRIGITTE ALFTER** is a senior German-Danish journalist and director for Arena for Journalism in Europe. Having practiced journalism on local, national and European level, she realised the need for cross-border collaborative journalism structures. Since 2008, she develops European support- and infrastructures for cross-border journalism.

She combines journalism practice, entrepreneurial activities, teaching/training and academic research.

### POSITIONS

- 2019 - Founding director of *Arena for Journalism in Europe*, a networking infrastructure for journalism in Europe.
- 2008- 2018 Co-founder and managing editor at *Journalismfund.eu*, a support structure for in-depth, independent and innovative journalism in Europe, focus on cross-border collaborative journalism.
- 2012-2016 Lecturer *Roskilde University*, Journalism department (2014-15 part time)
- 2008-2012 Freelance journalist based in Copenhagen practicing cross-border collaborative journalism with the *International Consortium of Investigative Journalists ICIJ* and in ad-hoc teams; covering European affairs
- 2004-2008 Bruxelles-correspondent *Danish daily Information*
- 2003-2004 Freelance journalist based in Copenhagen
- 2001-2003 Editor *Det Ny Notat*, Danish weekly on European affairs
- 1997-2001 Staff at *Flensborg Avis*, initially as local reporter, followed by assignment as background and frontpage reporter, then leader of South Schleswig desk with 10-12 staff writers.

## EDUCATION

- 2014 Master in European journalism (MA) / Cand. public. University of Southern Denmark
- 1997 Journalist (BA) from Danish School of Journalism in Århus / internship at local newspaper Horsens Folkeblad, Denmark
- 1991 Car mechanic from Århus Technical School / Piero's Garage in Åbyhøj, Denmark
- 1985 Abitur, gymnasium exam from Rudolf-Steiner-Schule Wuppertal, Germany

## AWARDS

- 2019 Carsten Nielsen Prize by the Danish Journalism Association "for heightening the journalism profession and for strengthening journalistic collaboration".
- 2013 Leipzig Prize for the Freedom and the Future of the Media for establishing Journalismfund.eu - with Ides Debruyne
- 2011 Overseas Press Club of America Award for *Looting the Seas I*, cross border journalism on the black market in blue fin tuna – with ICIJ team, International Consortium of Investigative Journalists
- 2011 Tom Renner Award for *Looting the Seas I* – with ICIJ team
- 2010 Among the finalists for the US IRE-award for *Climate Change Lobby*, cross border journalism – with ICIJ team
- 2008 Among the nominees for the Henri-Nannen-Preis, Germany, for FOI-breakthrough and article about farm subsidies in Germany in Stern magazine – with Hans-Martin Tillack.
- 2007 Winner of the IRE-Freedom of Information Award for building the Farmsubsidy.org network – with Nils Mulvad and Jack Thurston.
- 2006 Shortlisted for the Cavling Award, Denmark, for series of articles about farm subsidies in Danish daily Information – with Nils Mulvad.

## BOARD POSITIONS & MEMBERSHIPS & NETWORKS

- **Investigate Europe**, cross-border journalism team, chairperson of the [advisory board](#) from 2020
- **Gothenburg University**, Master course investigative journalism, [programme board](#) member since 2016
- **SciCAR**, the German annual [conference for collaboration between journalists and scientists](#), programme committee member since 2017
- **Journalismfund / Fonds Pascal Decroos**, chairwoman 2013 – 2016 [www.journalismfund.eu](http://www.journalismfund.eu)
- **Foreningen for Undersøgende Journalistik**, the Danish association for investigative journalism, board member 2002-2012, chairwoman for international committee 2008-2012, [www.fuj.dk](http://www.fuj.dk)

- **Netzwerk Recherche**, the German association for investigative journalism, board member 2007-11, responsible for international contacts, [www.netzwerkrecherche.de](http://www.netzwerkrecherche.de)
- **Volunteer committee (acting as board) Global Investigative Journalism Network**, 2010-2014, [www.gijn.org](http://www.gijn.org), member of the program group of the Global Investigative Journalism Conference in Kiev, 2011
- **International Consortium of Investigative Journalists** in Washington, member since 2009 <http://www.icij.org/journalists>
- **Investigative Reporters Network Europe, IRENE**, experimenting with cross border reporting in Europe, 2006-2008
- **Investigative Reporting Denmark**, member of the editorial board, 2013-2014, [kortlink.dk/ir-d/24r8w](http://kortlink.dk/ir-d/24r8w)
- **Åbenhedstinget**, informal working group on access to information in Denmark, particular focus on access to data, hosted by the Danish School of Journalism, [www.aabenhedstinget.dk](http://www.aabenhedstinget.dk)
- **Dansk Journalistforbund**, Danish association of journalists, member since 1993
- **Investigative Reporters and Editors, USA**, member, [www.ire.org](http://www.ire.org)

## FOUNDED OR CO-FOUNDED

**Arena for Journalism in Europe**. Founding director, Amsterdam 2019. Cross-border, collaborative, investigative journalism in Europe <https://journalismarena.eu/>.

**Investigate Europe**, Europe 2015, co-founder (via Journalismfund.eu as incubator), chair of the advisory board as of 2020, [www.investigate-europe.eu](http://www.investigate-europe.eu)

**Dataharvest – the European Investigative Journalism Conference**, Brussels 2009, co-founder as part of the Farmsubsidy.org network, programme responsible 2011-2018 in the framework of Journalismfund.eu, as of 2019 end-responsible at Arena for Journalism in Europe, [www.dataharvest.eu](http://www.dataharvest.eu)

**IRD**, Investigative Reporting Denmark, Århus 2013, co-founder, <http://www.ir-d.dk/>

**Journalismfund.eu**, Brussels 2008, co-founder, support structure for cross border journalism in Europe, main focus on journalism work grants. Merged with Belgian Fonds Pascal Decroos in 2013, [www.journalismfund.eu](http://www.journalismfund.eu)

**Wobbing.eu**, Brussels 2007, co-founder (via Fonds Pascal Decroos), network of journalists/practitioners using freedom of information legislation for journalistic research, closed/integrated into the EIJC & Dataharvest in 2017

**Farmsubsidy.org**, Brussels/London 2005, co-founder, network to disclose beneficiaries of EU agricultural subsidies, handed over to Open Knowledge Foundation Germany in 2018, [www.farmsubsidy.org](http://www.farmsubsidy.org)

**Scoop**, Copenhagen 2003, co-founder, support structure for investigative journalism in South Eastern and Eastern Europe, Western Africa, Central Asia, [www.i-scoop.org](http://www.i-scoop.org)

**MIDAS**, Bozen-Bolzano 2001, co-founder (on behalf of Flensburg Avis), association for minority newspapers in Europe, <http://www.midas-press.org/>

**Eurolang**, Brussels 1999, co-founder (on behalf of Flensburg Avis), news agency for autochthonous minorities in Europe (closed in the late 2000es)

## **TEACHING AND TRAINING**

Teaching and training about journalism conducted at all levels such as gymnasium-projects, journalism schools, universities (tutoring up to and including MA-level), mid-career training, conference presentations and so forth.

## **LANGUAGES**

- Mother tongue level: German, Danish
- Working level: English
- Good: French
- Basic: Dutch

## **ACADEMIC RESEARCH, BOOKS, ARTICLES (SELECTION)**

### **2019**

Chapter: Can a collaborative mindset help improve journalism? In [Unbias the News](#), Hostwriter & Correctiv, launched during the GIJC 2019 in Hamburg/Germany.

Journal: Co-editor Journal for Applied Journalism and Media Studies, [Special Issue Cross-border collaborative journalism 2019, vol. 8.2](#)

Book: Cross-Border Collaborative Journalism: A Step-By-Step Guide. [Routledge](#)

### **2018**

Chapter: Reuters' Institute for the Study of Journalism, Oxford, contribution to anthology on collaborative journalism. [Pdf version here](#).

### **2017**

Book: [Grenzüberschreitender Journalismus - Handbuch zum Cross-Border-Journalismus](#), December 2017 via Herbert-von-Halem-Verlag, Cologne.

Article: [Transnational Journalism Networks as Drivers of Europeanization](#), co-authored by Annett Heft, Brigitte Alfter, Barbara Pfetsch, peer-reviewed and published in Journalism, Sage journals, May 2017.

### **2016**

Article: Alfter, B. (2016), '[Cross-border collaborative journalism: Why journalists and scholars should talk about an emerging method](#)', Journal of Applied Journalism & Media Studies 5: 2, pp. 297–311, Journal of Applied Journalism and Media Studies

### **2015**

Book: Journalistik over grænser, 2015 at Forlaget Ajour (in Danish).

### **2014**

Research contribution: Offentlighed i Norden / Access to Information in the Nordic Countries by Oluf Jørgensen published at Nordicom,

**2012**

Research contribution: "Deterrence of fraud with EU funds through investigative journalism", co-author of study commissioned by the European Parliament Budgetary Control Committee, published October 2012, ISBN 978-92-823-3834-6, main author and editor Margo Smit.

Chapter: Wobbling Works. Use it! Chapter with three case studies using European freedom of information legislation as journalistic tool / In Data Journalism Handbook, numerous contributors, compilation of articles by the Open Knowledge Foundation, the European Journalism Centre and O'Reilly Media. Print ISBN:978-1-4493-3006-4

**2011**

Article: The Challenge of Cross-Border Reporting in Europe: Through networking, journalists contribute their part in shaping this European public sphere by investigating and illuminating its common issues, Nieman Reports at Harvard University.

**2010**

Chapter: Cash cow – digging the dirt on farm subsidies / With Nils Mulvad, Jack Thurston, chapter in Bursting the Brussels Bubble, Alter EU. ISBN/EAN: 978-90-9025327-5, page 169-176

**2009**

Report: Slipping through the net / How EU countries evade new budget transparency rules, report on behalf of Fishsubsidy.org

**2005**

Chapter: Das Beispiel Orkla Medien, Norwegen und Osteuropa / Chapter in Leitbild Unabhängigkeit – Zur Sicherung publizistischer Verantwortung, ed. Michael Haller, Freimut Duve, ISBN 978-3-89669-460-7, UVK/OSCE Wien 2005