

Brigitte Alfter, CV

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 2003, she thus 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.
- 2020- Lecturer at *Gothenburg University*, Master Investigative Journalism, responsible for the cross-border journalism course.
- 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 (2015-16 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 Brussels-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, SDU
1997	Journalist (BA) from Danish School of Journalism in Århus / internship at local newspaper Horsens Folkeblad, Denmark
1991	Car mechanic, Århus Technical School / Piero's Garage in Åbyhøj, Denmark
1985	Abitur, gymnasium exam from Rudolf-Steiner-Schule Wuppertal, Germany

AWARDS

2022	Nominated for the Sigma data journalism awards and the IJ4EU Impact award for the Cities For Rent investigation that I co-initiated, run by Jose Calatayud, Adriana Homolova, Hendrik Lehmann & team for Arena.
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 <i>Looting the Seas I</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 <i>Looting the Seas I</i> – with ICIJ team
2010	Among the finalists for the US IRE-award for <i>Climate Change Lobby</i> , 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 EU farm subsidies in Danish daily Information – with Nils Mulvad.

BOARD POSITIONS & MEMBERSHIPS & NETWORKS

- **Acces-Info Europe**, European advocacy group for more transparent public administrations, member of the advisory board from 2022. <https://www.access-info.org/>
- **Re-Check**, Swiss-international organisation focusing on health reporting, member of the [ethics board](#) from 2021.
- **Investigate Europe**, cross-border journalism team, chairperson of the [advisory board](#) from 2020 (after having assisted their incubation phase since 2015)
- **Reporters United**, Greece, network of journalists supporting and doing investigative and cross-border journalism, [member of the advisory board](#) from 2020

- **SciCAR**, the German annual [conference for collaboration between journalists and scientists](#), offered by the Technische Universität Dortmund, programme committee member since 2017
- **Göteborg University**, Master course investigative journalism, [programme board](#) member since 2016-2020
- **Journalismfund / Fonds Pascal Decroos**, chairwoman 2013 – 2016 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
- **Netzwerk Recherche**, the German association for investigative journalism, board member 2007-11, responsible for international contacts, www.netzwerkrecherche.de
- **Volunteer committee (acting as board) Global Investigative Journalism Network**, 2010-2014, 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
- **Åbenhedstinget**, informal [working group on access to information in Denmark](#), particular focus on access to data, hosted by the Danish School of Journalism,
- **Dansk Journalistforbund**, Danish association of journalists, member since 1993

FOUNDED OR CO-FOUNDED

Reference, the European Independent Media Circle. Co-initiator, founded in Sigen/Germany 2021, hosted by Arena until spin-off. <https://referencecircle.eu/>

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

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

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, focus on journalism work grants. Merged with Belgian Fonds Pascal Decroos in 2013, 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

Scoop, Copenhagen 2003, co-founder, support structure for investigative journalism in South Eastern and Eastern Europe, Western Africa, Central Asia, 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, mid-career training, conference presentations and so forth. Work at Roskilde University and Gothenburg University's journalism institutes includes teaching until and including MA level, including the role of course coordinator.

Co-initiator of the [Crossborder Journalism Campus](#) Erasmus+ project, networking journalism educations to allow students to practice cross-border collaboration.

LANGUAGES

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

ACADEMIC RESEARCH, BOOKS, ARTICLES

Forthcoming

Chapter on "Transnational networks and cross-border investigative reporting teams" in "Handbook of Cross-Border Journalism Research in the Digital Age". Estimated publication 2022, edited by Liane Rothenberger, Martin Löffelholz and David Weaver.

2021

Chapters on crossborder collaborative journalism and chapter on freedom of information requests for journalism in Danish text book [about investigative journalism methods edited](#) by Lene Rimestad and Jannie Møller Hartley.

Chapter [The European Union and the Rise of Collaboration](#) in textbook [Investigative Journalism 3rd edition](#), edited by Hugo de Burgh and Paul Lashmar.

2019

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

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

Conference paper: [Taking stock of Cross-Border Journalism Education in Times of Cross-Border Collaboration](#), with Jenny Wiik, Mark Deuze, GIJC 2019 in Hamburg/Germany.

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

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: Wobbing 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.

[Full publication list](#).