

## Biographical notes

**Origin:** Denmark, the last 8 years in Cambridge UK.

**Educational background:** Medical, added Master of Health Professions Education and Health Faculty PhD describing the cultural and social meanings of smoking in families with children.

**Current work/associations:**

Denmark: Associate Professor of postgraduate education at University of Copenhagen.

Cambridge: Senior member of St Edmund's College. Convenor of two interdisciplinary researchers' fora: Education across borders, and Arts & Sciences Researchers' Forum.

Kenya: Educational consultant for The East African Health Professions Educators' Association

## Intercultural interests and research

I have always been fascinated by the way people view the world differently. Crossing disciplinary lines from medicine to ethnography, via education to creativity and the arts, I have worked with many aspects of interdisciplinary and intercultural projects of education and research.

With the point of departure in my medical background the patients' view on health promotion challenged my medical understanding of lifestyle choices, and I studied the cultural and social meanings of smoking in families with children through an ethnographic fieldwork, including participant observations in the sub trains of Copenhagen.

Moving into medical education gave me the need for user defined and individually tailored teaching and learning methods and strategies, as well as creative ways to work in participatory processes. Allowing GPs to use drawings and conceptual mapping of their professional everyday life, I facilitated the construction of the national postgraduate curriculum for the education of general practitioners in Denmark. I was responsible for the UK national GP curriculum further development for five years, integrating and working with the very different perspectives of the different users and stakeholders representing many disciplines and cultures.

My approach for developments in research, evaluation or educational projects is mainly inspired by participatory action research, in the area of general practice, faculty development, curriculum development and development of methods using reflexivity, creativity and the arts for data collection, research communication and teaching. This means that my rucksack no matter if the task is teaching or research, is always full of hand puppets, rubber ducks, crayons, paper, scissors, everyday life props for theatre and video and still/disposable cameras.

My current research project is "Being a GP in the Nordic countries", a description of what it means to be a family doctor in the Nordic countries, using as data creative and artistic representations made by the doctors themselves. The first report of this study has just been published in a photo book with the same title (see <http://www.blurb.co.uk/b/4480717-being-a-gp-in-the-nordic-countries>). The aim is to produce more traditional articles describing the processes and methods used, and a feature film illustrating the results of the study.

My next project is currently at the case study level, describing some African cultures use of chanting to improve the health for the individual and for the community.

