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CURRENT EMPLOYMENT: Research Fellow, Institute of Development Studies, UK

DATE OF BIRTH: 20 September 1966

NATIONALITY: Danish

LANGUAGES: English (fluent), French (near fluent), German (basic), Danish (mother tongue)

THEMATIC EXPERTISE: Children and youth; gender relations; mobilities and migration; work; social change

GEOGRAPHICAL EXPERTISE: West, East, and Southern Africa; Southeast and South Asia

GOOGLE SCHOLAR: <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=mofV8KMAAAAJ&hl=en>

OVERVIEW

Dorte's work focuses on rural and urban livelihoods in West Africa within the fields of anthropology, feminist theories of household economy and post-structuralism. Her thematic focus centres on gendered relations of production and reproduction with particular focus on rural households, precarious livelihoods, intra-household behaviour and decision-making processes. Since 2004 she has been researching young people's work, education and migration with the aim of unpacking family relations, gender dynamics and informal labour market interfaces. Substantial experience in mixed methods and multi-sited research with adolescents and youth, with particular focus on their work situations and experience and on rural-urban and international migration. Sustained interest in grasping how policy regimes impact on the poor and in sharing evidence-based insights with a wide range of audiences.

EDUCATION AND QUALIFICATIONS

2000 - 2005 **PhD African Studies**
School of Social Sciences and Cultural Studies, University of Sussex, UK

1992 - 1999 **MSc Human Geography**
Institute of Geography, University of Copenhagen, DK

1996 - 1997 **Diploma Gender Studies in Agriculture**
Department of Gender Studies, Wageningen Agricultural University, NL

RECORD OF EMPLOYMENT

2020 – PRESENT **Research fellow, Institute of Development Studies, UK**
Research focuses on youth and employment and gender studies.

2019 – 2020 **Lecturer in geography, University of Sussex, UK**
Teaching migration, global development and transnationalism at MA and BA level.

2014 – 2019 **Theme lead, Migrating out of Poverty Research Consortium, University of Sussex, UK**
Lead on enhancing qualitative research and gender analysis in consortium research.
Research lead on study examining linkages between migration and transformations in gender and generational dynamics in rural Ethiopia, Ghana, Senegal, Zimbabwe, Bangladesh, and Indonesia.
Co-lead on qualitative research exploring rural youths' imagined future in Africa.

2012 – 2014 **Postdoc researcher, University of Sussex, UK**
Study of migrants from West and Central Africa living in Morocco within the research programme 'New Geographies of Hope and Despair. The social effects of migration management for West African migrants.

AFFILIATIONS

Member of the steering group for the Centre for Innovative Research on Childhood and Youth (CIRCY) at the University of Sussex.

Associate researcher at Laboratoire Population, Environnement, Développement, UMR 151 Aix-Marseille University, France

SELECTED RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2020 - 2021** **Country case studies of COVID-19 measures and impacts, Ghana and Burkina Faso**
Comparative study of how country contexts produce a different set of actors and responses to the Covid-19 pandemic. EUR 39k, INCLUDE Knowledge Platform
- 2017 - present** **'Adolescents' migration for work and education in Casamance', Senegal**
Study examining the applicability of creative, visual methods in research with adolescent migrants. Thematically the study explores interlinkages between mobilities, work and education among adolescent girls and boys in situations of mobility. Mixed funding.
- 2017 – 2020** **Challenges and Opportunities for Rural Youth Employment in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Mixed-Methods Study to Inform Policy and Programs**
Study of how young people engage with the rural economy, contingencies and aspirations for education and non-farm sources of livelihoods. Co-lead on qualitative research design and lead on Côte d'Ivoire study. USD 1.5 million, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).
- 2017 - 2019** **Gender and Generation: Understanding the dynamics of migrant households in Ethiopia, Ghana, Senegal and Zimbabwe**
Comparative research project exploring social, economic and political changes that have reconfigured migration patterns and transformations in gender and generational dynamics. Research coordinator. GBP 2.5 million, Department for International Development (DFID).
- 2005 – 2008** **Young People's Labour Migration in West Africa**
Longitudinal and multi-sited study of young men migrating from rural Burkina Faso to Ouagadougou and Abidjan exploring how they navigate urban contexts and what motivates their mobility choices. SEK 255k, Nordic Africa Institute.
- 2000 – 2004** **Doctoral research, Local discourses and cultural values. Rural women's means of negotiation in agrarian societies in Burkina Faso**
Research examined women's social position in rural households and their ability to make or impact decisions to better understand subtle social change. GBP 69k, Danish Research Agency.
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SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND OUTPUTS

Books

Kleist, N. & Thorsen, D. (eds) 2017. [Hope and uncertainty in contemporary African migration](#). London and New York: Routledge.

Hashim, I. M. & Thorsen, D. 2011. *Child migrants in Africa*, London, Zed Books.

Journal articles and book chapters

Thorsen, D. & Maconachie, R. 2021. [Children's work in West African cocoa production: Drivers, contestations and critical Reflections](#), ACHA Working Paper 10, Brighton: Action on Children's Harmful Work in African Agriculture, IDS, DOI: 10.19088/ACHA.2021.005.

Thorsen, D. & Yeboah, T. 2021. Mobility and the rural landscape of opportunity. In: Sumberg, J. (ed.) [Youth and the rural economy in Africa. Hard work and hazard](#). Boston, MA: CAB International.

Thorsen, D. (2020) 'Intertwining the Politics of Uncertainty, Mobility and Immobility', in I. Scoones & A. Stirling (eds), *The Politics of Uncertainty. Challenges of Transformation*, London: Routledge.

Thorsen, D. (2017) 'Is Europe Really the Dream? Contingent Paths among sub-Saharan Migrants in Morocco', *Africa* 87.2: 343-361, doi:10.1017/S0001972016000991.

Thorsen, D. & Jacquemin, M. (2015) 'Temporalités, Savoir-faire et Modes D'action des Enfants Travailleurs Migrants au sein de la Parenté Elargie en Afrique de l'Ouest', *Canadian Journal of African Studies*, 49.2: 285-299, doi:10.1080/00083968.2015.1020561.

Thorsen, D. (2013) 'Weaving In and Out of Employment and Self-employment: Young Rural Migrants in the Informal Economy of Ouagadougou', *International Development Planning Review* 35.2: 203-218, doi:10.3828/idpr.2013.13.

Publications aimed at policy makers and practitioners

Thorsen, D. & Koffi A.P. 2021. [Imagined futures: Gaps in support for rural youth in Côte d'Ivoire](#), IDS policy briefing No. 180.

Thorsen, D. & Maconachie, R. 2021. [Cocoa ethics: questions about child labour and social sustainability](#), Blog post, Evidensia, 10 Feb 2021.