



Short Profile

As a PhD Fellow at Copenhagen Business School, I specialize in cross-sector social interactions (CSSIs) and partnerships in crisis and humanitarian contexts. My research investigates how spatial and institutional dynamics shape power relations, access, and legitimacy within local cross-sector efforts, particularly in disaster response and resilience. Grounded in critical geography and management studies, I adopt an interdisciplinary, qualitative approach to explore how local actors navigate and contest exclusionary governance structures across local, national, and international levels. My work contributes to broader debates on localization, private sector engagement, and inclusive governance in humanitarian aid and resilience efforts. Prior to my PhD, I worked with the World Food Programme and the UN's Connecting Business Initiative through the Mercator Fellowship on International Affairs, which deepened my interest in the operational and political challenges of cross-sector collaboration in crisis settings.

Education

PhD Fellow in Management Studies, 10/2021 – Present (Thesis submitted 06/2025, awaiting assessment)

Copenhagen Business School, Department for Management, Society, & Communication, Denmark

- Dissertation title: Local Business at the Frontlines. Cross-Sector Dynamics in Disaster Response and Resilience. (Thesis submitted 06/2025, awaiting assessment)
- Supervisors: Associate Professor Verena Girschik and Associate Professor Lotte Thomsen
- Doctoral course work:
 - Research Methods (Semi-Structured Interviews; Empirical Design in Social Science Research; Case Study Methods for Theory Building)
 - Theoretical Frameworks (Spatial Perspectives in Organization and Management Studies; Critical Management Studies)
 - Pedagogy (Learning to Teach in Higher Education)

University of Technology Sydney Business School, Centre for Climate Risk and Resilience, Australia

- Visiting PhD Fellow from 09/2023 – 11/2023, hosted by Professor Martina Linnenluecke
- Focus on single-authored paper on systemic inequalities in organizational resilience research

MSc in Geography of Environmental Risk & Human Security, 09/2016 – 11/2019

United Nations University (UNU) Bonn and University of Bonn, Germany

- Thesis: International Disaster Aid as a Challenge to National Sovereignty: Re-shaping Humanitarian Aid and Exploring Potential Benefits of New Partnerships to Accommodate the Sovereign State
- Supervisor: Professor Detlef Müller-Mahn

BSc in Geography, 09/2012 – 05/2016

University of Bonn, Germany

- Major: Development & Social Geography; Minor: Economics and International Food Markets (Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, Global Food Economy)



Publications

Nussbruch, D., & Thomsen, L. (2025). Struggles over value, access and positionality: Differentiated dis/association agency in humanitarian aid. *Geoforum*, 161, 104258.

Nussbruch, D., & Girschik, V. (2024). No Seat at the Table: How Territoriality Constrains Cross-Sector Collaboration in Disaster Response. *Journal of Business Ethics*, 1-24.

Conferences & Presentations

Rethinking resourcefulness: The role of systemic inequalities in organizational resilience

Paper presented at the **Academy of Management Annual Meeting**, July 2025, Copenhagen, Denmark

Rethinking resourcefulness: The role of inequalities in organizational resilience

Paper presented at the **International Association for Business and Society (IABS) Conference**, April 2025, Maastricht, Netherlands

Bouncing back the same way? The role of CSSIs for equitable business resilience

Paper presented at **Cross-Sector Social Interactions Symposium**, April 2024, Cape Town, South Africa

Disasters, Localisation and Humanitarian spaces: What role for local private sectors?

Paper presented at **Royal Geographical Society (RGS) Conference**, August 2023, London, UK

Exploring new territory: Local SME participation in humanitarian action

Paper presented at the **International Association for Business and Society (IABS) Conference**, June 2023, Bath, UK

Research Experience Beyond Academia

Placements as Mercator Fellow on International Affairs

Stiftung Mercator & German Academic Scholarship Foundation

- **Harvard Kennedy School, Corporate Responsibility Initiative**
Research fellow working on a practitioner's report investigating the role of country-level business- humanitarian partnerships and coalitions.
- **Connecting Business initiative (CBI), UNDP Istanbul**
Working with the impact measurement and gender workstream, co-developing an impact measurement framework and appropriate impact indicators, as well as guidance notes for private sector partners.
- **Logistics Cluster, World Food Programme Rome**
Public Private Partnership officer focusing on the Logistics Emergency Teams (LET) and other private sector partners. Conducted a study on the role of the cluster in private sector engagement and contributed to a strategy to mainstream this engagement.

Teaching Experience

Bachelor Level

- Delivered lectures on basic qualitative methods, sustainability, cross-sector partnerships, and critical CSR (Business, Language & Culture program)



Master Level

- Taught topics including small business responsibility, internationalization strategies, global supply chains, and cross-sector partnerships (Organizations and Society; International Business, Responsibility and Communication)

Supervision & Assessment

- Supervised first-year Bachelor projects and final theses (BLC program)
- Involved in grading and oral examinations for courses including: *Globalisation and Sustainability*, *Cultural Social Theory*, *Globalization and Development*, *International Business: Market and Non-Market Strategies*, and *Organizations and Society*

Grants, Fellowships & Awards

Otto Mønsted Foundation, Travel Grant

- 7,500 DKK for conference participation at CSSI Symposium: Power and Inclusion in Cross-Sector Social Interactions, April 2024, Cape Town, South Africa
- 15,000 DKK for research stay at the University of Technology Sydney, October – November, 2023, Australia

Mercator Fellowship on International Affairs, Fellow on Public-Private Partnerships in Humanitarian Aid, Oct 2020 – Oct 2021

- Competitively awarded fellowship by Stiftung Mercator and the German Academic Scholarship Foundation (with the German Federal Foreign Office). Included full-time placements in international organizations and advanced training in international relations.

DAAD Scholarship for Internships in Non-European Countries, Internship with UNESCAP, Bangkok, Feb – Apr 2018

- Funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) for a UN internship focused on disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation policy in Asia-Pacific.

Social Commitments and Leadership Activities

PhD Representative, Department of Management, Society and Communication, Copenhagen Business School

Jan 2022 – Dec 2022

Board Member, PhD Association of CBS (PAC), Copenhagen Business School

Nov 2021 – Dec 2023

Student Representative, United Nations University & University of Bonn

Sep 2016 – Oct 2018

Educational Support & Job Application Training, Center for Migrants and Refugees Dransdorf, Bonn

May 2015 – May 2016