

Gunnar M. Sørbø – curriculum vitae

Current position: Research Professor Emeritus, Chr. Michelsen Institute (CMI)

Born: 1948

Citizenship: Norwegian

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Key Qualifications and experience

Social anthropologist with extensive experience from research, research management, teaching and consultancy work. Sørbø's professional profile and research interests include development policy and planning; conflict studies, peacebuilding and conflict management; social impact assessment (incl. resettlement); agricultural and pastoral systems; and regional analysis and economic adaptations.

Sørbø is an experienced team leader for policy-oriented reviews and evaluations, often with international participation and for many different clients. Before joining CMI as Director, he was Chair of the Department of Social Anthropology and the first Director of the Centre for Development Studies, University of Bergen. During his time at the University, he taught Social Anthropology at all levels and i.a. chaired the committee recommending the establishment of English language Master courses at the University of Bergen.

As a consultant, Sørbø led the first evaluation of a 'conflict NGO' (International Alert, 1997) as well as the first evaluation of Norwegian peace facilitation (in Sri Lanka), 2011.

He is a regular contributor to Norwegian newspapers on issues related to international development.

Sørbø was CMI's Director for 16 years (1994-2010). In 2006, an evaluation team concluded that CMI had become one of the leading development research centres in Europe.

Education

- Dr.Philos (PhD) – Social Anthropology, University of Bergen, 1994. Dissertation: *Micro-Macro Issues in Rural Development. A Study of Economic Adaptations and Environmental Problems in Eastern Sudan.*
- Magister Artium – Social Anthropology, University of Bergen, 1973. Thesis: *Scheme and Off-Scheme Interests. A Study of Nubian Resettlement in the Sudan.*
- Diploma – Sociolinguistics, University of Khartoum, 1971.

Professional positions

- Senior Researcher, Chr. Michelsen Institute, 2010 – 2017

- Fulbright Visiting Scholar, School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University, Washington, DC., January – May 2017
- Director, Chr. Michelsen Institute, 1994 – 2010
- Director, Center for Development Studies, University of Bergen, 1986 – 1994
- Associate Professor, Department of Social Anthropology, University of Bergen, 1977 – 1985
- Chair, Department of Social Anthropology, University of Bergen. 1978 – 1980
- Visiting Lecturer, Department of Social Anthropology, University of Khartoum, 1976 - 1977
- Lecturer, Department of Social Anthropology, University of Bergen, 1974 -1976

Boards and Commissions

- The Norwegian Agency for International Development (Norad) – Prosjektutvalget (1984 – 1988)
- The International Livestock Centre for Africa, Addis Ababa (1983-89)
- The Norwegian Programme for Development, Research and Education - NUFU (1991-1994)
- The North-South/ Aid Commission - appointed by the Norwegian Government (1993-1995)
- The International Food Policy Research Institute, Washington D.C. (2005-11)
- The Research Council of Norway (Division of Environment and Development (2001-2005), Division of Society and Health (2011-15)
- Cairns Institute (2010-12), James Cook University, Cairns, Australia (Advisory Board)
- J.W. Eide Foundation, Bergen (1994-2010)
- The Rafto Foundation for Human Rights, Bergen (2001-7; chair 2012 -2016)
- Faculty Board at the Norwegian University for Life Sciences (2013 -2016)
- The Centre for Peace Studies, University of Tromsø, The Arctic University of Norway (chair 2010-2016)
- Norwegian Centre for Humanitarian Studies, PRIO (chair 2015-2016)
- Litfest Bergen, Bergen International Literary Festival (2019-)

Selected publications

2021. "Norwegian Anthropology and Development: New Roles for a Troubled Future?" In Synnøve K.N. Bendixsen and Edvard Hviding (eds.): *Anthropology in Norway – Directions, Locations, Relations*. London: Sean Kingston Publishing, pp. 60-72.

2020. *Sudan's Transition: Living in Bad Surroundings*. Sudan Working Paper, No.4. Bergen: Chr. Michelsen Institute.

2019. Europe's New Border Guards.

<https://www.humanitarianstudies.no/2019/08/14/europes-new-border-guards/>

2018. *Norsk antropologi og utvikling (Norwegian Anthropology and Development)*. Norsk Antropologisk Tidsskrift, nr. 1-2, 10-25.

2018. *Livelihoods, Conflicts and Ethnicity: Reflections on the History and Relevance of Anthropological Research Cooperation*. Forum for Development Studies, 45:1, 25-46, DOI: 10.1080/08039410.2017.1366361.
2017. *Kriser og kriger – er det bruk for oss nå?* Norsk Antropologisk Tidsskrift, 01/2017 (in Norwegian).
2016. “Engaging Anthropology in Sudan”. In Synnøve Bendixsen and Tone Bringa (eds.): *Engaged Anthropology: Views from Scandinavia*. New York: Palgrave.
2016. *Country Evaluation Brief: South Sudan*. Oslo: Norad (with Mareike Schomerus and Lovise Aalen).
2015. “Anthropology and peacebuilding in Sudan – some reflections”. In Munzoul A.M. Assal and Musa Adam Abdul-Jalil (eds.): *Past, Present, and Future: Fifty Years of Anthropology in Sudan*. 95-110. Bergen: Chr. Michelsen Institute.
2014. *Battlefields of method: evaluating Norwegian peace efforts in Sri Lanka*. In Ole Winckler Andersen, Beate Bull and Megan Kennedy-Chouane (eds.): *Evaluation Methodologies for Aid in Conflict*. Oxon and New York: Routledge (with J. Goodhand and B. Klem).
2014. *Food Security and Social Conflict*. Report commissioned by the Norwegian Ministry of Agriculture and Food. Bergen: CMI (with Johan Helland).
2014. *Return to war in South Sudan*. Policy Brief, Norwegian Peacebuilding Resource Centre (NOREF), Oslo, April 2014.
2013. *Sudan Divided: Continuing Conflict in a Contested State*. New York: Palgrave MacMillan (with Abdel Ghaffar M. Ahmed).
2013. “Justice by Default? Dealing with Accountability Issues in Sudan. *Nordic Journal of Human Rights*. 31 (2), 224-247 (with Abdel Ghaffar M. Ahmed).
2012. “More complex conflict drivers than environment and climate”. *New Routes vol. 17, no. 2, pp. 38-41*.
2012. “Research for Development”. CMI Brief vol. 11, no.7. Bergen, Chr. Michelsen Institute.
2011. *Pawns of Peace. Evaluation of Norwegian Peace Efforts in Sri Lanka*. Evaluation Report 5/2011. Oslo: Norad (with Jonathan Goodhand and Bart Klem).
2010. *Local Violence and International Intervention in Sudan*. Review of African Political Economy, Vol. 37, Number 124, June 2010, pp.173-186.
2009. *Pursuing Justice in Darfur*. Nordic Journal for Human Rights, Vol.27, Nr.4: 2009, pp.393-408.
2009. *Land Issues and Poverty Reduction: Requirements for Lasting Peace in Sudan and Afghanistan*. In Joachim von Braun et al (eds.): *The Poorest and The Hungry: Assessments, Analyses, and Actions*. Washington D.C.: IFPRI (with Arne Strand).
2008. *The African Union: Towards a New Architecture for Peace, Democracy and Development?* In C. Andersen and A. Holm eds.: *Africa: Political Partner and Global Actor – Opportunities*

- and Challenges. Oslo: The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, pp.121-131 (with E. Tjønneland).
2005. *Aid for Human Rights and Democracy: Challenges of Design, Management and Evaluation* in Kolstad, I. and Stokke, H. (eds.) *Writing Rights: Human Rights Research at the Chr. Michelsen Institute 1984-2004*. Bergen: Fagbokforlaget, pp.38-58 (with Arne Tostensen).
2005. *Sudan: Prospects for Peace. The Role of the International Community*. *Forced Migration Review*, no.24 November. pp.13-14.
2005. *International Development and Development Cooperation: Challenges Ahead*. *Forum for Development Studies*, vol.32 no. 1, pp. 285-289.
2004. *Prospects for Peace, Security and Human Rights in Africa's Horn*. Bergen: Fagbokforlaget (co-edited with Siegfried Pausewang).
2004. "Peacebuilding in Post-War Situations: Lessons for Sudan". Bergen: CMI Report R 2004:13.
2003. *Pastoral Ecosystems and the Issue of Scale*. *Ambio*, vol. 32, no. 2, pp. 113-117.
2003. *MS at the Crossroads: an evaluation of the Danish Association for international Cooperation*. Copenhagen: Danida/Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (with Johan Helland).
2002. *A Review of Ireland Aid's Human Rights and Democratisation Scheme* (with E. Skaar and H. Stokke) – CMI Report R 2002: 20.
2001. *Aid and Academia: An Uneasy Relationship*. *Forum for Development Studies*, vol.28, no. 2, pp.309-327.
2001. *Aid for Human Rights and Democracy: Challenges of design, management and evaluation*. In Stokke, Hugo and Arne Tostensen (eds.): *Human rights in development. Yearbook 1999/2000. The Millennium Edition*, Kluwer, The Hague.
2001. "Danida and Danish Development Research: Towards a New Partnership". Danida, Copenhagen (with J. Helland).
1999. *Danish Support to Promotion of Human Rights and Democratisation*. Evaluation Report 11/1999, Danida, Copenhagen (with Hydén, Sissener, Tjønneland and Tostensen).
1998. *Norwegian Assistance to Countries in Conflict – The Lesson of Experience from Guatemala, Mali, Mocambique, Sudan, Rwanda and Burundi* (with W. Hauge, B. Hybertsen and D. Smith). Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Evaluation Report 11.98.
1997. *NGOs in Conflict – an Evaluation of International Alert* (with J. Macrae and L. Wohlgemuth) – CMI Report 1997:6.
1997. "Out of Conflict – From War to Peace in Africa". Uppsala, The Nordic Africa Institute (with Peter Vale).
1995. *Norway's Foreign Policy*. Cappelen, Oslo (with T. Knudsen and S. Gjerdåker) (in Norwegian) – includes article on Norwegian aid policy. (2nd edition in 1997).
1994. "Social Engineering and Political Economy: Problems of Irrigation Management in Sri Lanka", in *Forum for Development Studies*, No. 1-2, 1994, pp. 229-247.

1993. "Environment and Settlement in Eastern Sudan: Some Major Policy Issues", in C. Cook (ed.), *Involuntary Resettlement in Africa*. Washington, D.C.: World Bank.
1991. *The Socio-Cultural Dimension in Norwegian Development Assistance in Africa*. Evaluation Report. Bergen: Centre for Development Studies.
1991. "Systems of Pastoral and Agricultural Production in Eastern Sudan", in G.M. Craig (ed.): *The Agriculture of the Sudan*. Oxford University Press.
1991. *The Role of Social Scientists in 'Changing' Agriculture*, in Proceedings of NFU's Annual Conference, 1991: "Natural Resource Use and Changing Society - Interdisciplinary Approaches to development". Agricultural University of Norway, NORAGRIC, Occ. Papers C. vol 9, pp. 55-76.
1989. *Management of the Crisis in the Sudan - Proceedings of the Bergen Forum 23-24 February 1989*. Bergen/Khartoum, Centre for Development Studies/Khartoum (also available in Arabic). With Abdel Ghaffar M. Ahmed.
1988. "Has the World Bank Abandoned its Focus on Poverty Alleviation?" in *Development Anthropology Network, Bulletin of the Institute of Development Anthropology*, 6:2, 9-12.
1988. *NORAD in Turkana*. Evaluation Report. NORAD, Oslo (with E.Skjønsberg and J. Okumu).
1987. *Sri Lanka - Country and Norwegian Aid Review*. Centre for Development Studies, University of Bergen (with G. Brochmann, R. Dale, M. Moore and E. Whist).
1985. *Tenants and Nomads in Eastern Sudan - A Study of Economic Adaptations in the New Halfa Scheme*. Uppsala, The Nordic Africa Institute.
1985. "Land-Use Systems and Ecological Deterioration in Semi-Arid Africa". In Christiansen and Poulsen (eds.): *Environmental Aspects of Agricultural Development Assistance*. Trondheim, Nordic Council of Ministers.
1983. Planning, Research and Development. in Klausen & Melhuus (eds.) *The Role of Social Anthropologists in Development Work. Occasional Paper in Social Anthropology No. 7*, University of Oslo (in Norwegian).
1982. "Anthropology at Home and Abroad - Some Epistemological and Ethical Issues", in: H. Fahim ed. *Indigenous Anthropology in Non-Western Countries*, Carolina Academic Press.
1981. *Planning for Change in the Sudan Gezira Scheme - Some Basic Considerations*. Report to the World Bank.
1980. *Production Relations and Economic Performance in the Gezira Scheme*. Report to the Ministry of National Planning, Sudan Government.
1977. *Nomads on the Scheme - a study of irrigation agriculture and pastoralism in eastern Sudan*, in: O'Keefe & Wisner (eds.): *Landuse & Development*. London: International African Institute.
1977. *Lake Nasser Fishermen*. Oslo: NORAD.
1977. *Dinka Tenants on the Aweil Rice Scheme*. Rome: FAO.

1977. *How to Survive Development – The Story of New Halfa*. Monograph Series No.6, Development Centre, University of Khartoum.

1976. Economic Adaptations in Khashm el Girba – a study of settlement problems in the Sudan. In Abdel Ghaffar M. Ahmed (ed.): *Some Aspects of Pastoral Nomadism in the Sudan*. Khartoum: Khartoum University Press (also in Arabic).

1975. When the Water came to Girba, the Butana dried up- on overgrazing, drought and economic policy in eastern Sudan. *Antropologiska Studier*, Vol. 15, pp.3-12 (in Norwegian).

Commissioned work

“Country Evaluation Briefs, South Sudan, Afghanistan and Mozambique” Norad 2016 (team leader)

“Food Security and Social Conflict”, the Norwegian Ministry of Agriculture and Food (2013)

“Evaluation of Norwegian Peace Efforts in Sri Lanka”, Norad 2010-2011 (team leader)

“Evaluation of the Centre of Development and Environment (SUM), University of Oslo”, University of Oslo, 2008 (team member)

“Comparative Review of Peacebuilding Efforts – consequences for Sudan”, The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2004

“Evaluation of Mellempfolkelig Samvirke (MS) – the Danish Association for International Cooperation”, Copenhagen: Danida. 2003 (team leader)

“Review of Ireland Aid’s Human Rights and Democratisation Scheme”, Dublin, Ireland Aid. 2002 (team leader)

“Review of Danish Development Research”, Copenhagen, Danida. 2001 (team leader)

“Review of the Organization for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa (OSSREA)”, Addis Ababa, OSSREA/Sida 2001 (team leader)

“Evaluation of Danish Assistance to the Promotion of Human Rights and Democracy”, Copenhagen, Danida, 2000 (team leader)

“Norwegian Assistance to Countries in Conflict – The Lesson of Experience from Guatemala, Mali, Mozambique, Sudan, Rwanda and Burundi”, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. 1998 (team leader)

“Evaluation of International Alert”, Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. 1997 (team leader)

“Review of the Research Programme Health and Population in Developing Countries”, Oslo, Research Council of Norway. 1996

“Islam and Norwegian foreign policy”, Oslo, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. 1995 (team leader)

“Review of Socio-Cultural Aspects – Moneragala Integrated Rural Development Programme”, Sri Lanka. Oslo Norad. 1995 (team leader)

“Review of Norwegian NGOs in Zimbabwe”, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs/Centre for Development Studies. 1993 (in collaboration with B. Johannessen)

“White Paper on North-South Relations and Norway’s Cooperation with Developing Countries”. Oslo, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. 1992

“Livestock Development in Northern Sudan”, Washington, D.C. World Bank. 1990

“Food Security in the Sudan”. Washington D.C. World Bank. 1988

“Review of the Turkana Research Evaluation and Monitoring Unit (TREMUM), Kenya”. Oslo, Norad, 1988.

“Review of the Turkana Rural Development Programme, Kenya”, Oslo, Norad, 1988 (team leader).

“Country Study and Norwegian Aid Review, Sri Lanka”. Oslo, Royal Norwegian Ministry for Development Cooperation. 1987 (team leader)

“Review of ILCA’s Sub-Humid Zone Programme, Kaduna, Nigeria”. International Livestock Centre for Africa, Addis Ababa (in collaboration with Grof, Meyn & Tyc). 1985

“Review of ILCA’s Kenya Rangelands Program”. International Livestock Centre for Africa, Addis Ababa. (in collaboration with Nestel) 1984

“Review of ILCA’s Ethiopian Rangelands Program”. International Livestock Centre for Africa, Addis Ababa (in collaboration with Nestel) 1984

“Review of the Kirama Oya Irrigation Project, Sri Lanka”, Oslo, Norad 1984.

“The Gezira Scheme, Sudan – Review of Socio-Economic Aspects”. Washington D.C. World Bank. 1981

“Review of the Kirama Oya Irrigation Project, Sri Lanka”. Oslo, Norad 1981 (team leader). NORAD. 1981 (team leader).

“The Gezira Scheme – Planning Issues”. Ministry of National Planning, Sudan Government. 1980

“Irrigated Agriculture in the Sudan” Washington D.C. World Bank. 1980

“Irrigated Agriculture in Turkana, Kenya”. Oslo, Norad 1979

“Rehabilitation of Kirama Oya Irrigation Project, Sri Lanka” Oslo, Norad 1978.

“Review of Aweil Rice Scheme, Bahr el Ghazal, Southern Sudan”. Rome, FAO 1977.

“Lake Nasser Fishermen, Egypt». Oslo, Norad. 1977.