

Curriculum vitae

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Tønnessen, Liv

Date of birth: 01.09.1978

Sex: Female

Nationality: Norwegian

URL for personal web site: <https://www.cmi.no/staff/liv-tonnessen>

EDUCATION

- 2011 PhD: The many faces of political Islam in Sudan: Muslim women's activism for and against the state. **Disputation date:** 01-02.12.2011
Department of Comparative Politics, University of Bergen, Norway
Supervisor: Siri Gloppen, Director of Center on Law and Social Transformation
- 2005 Master: Islamism and Democracy: An Inquiry into the Political Thought of the Sudanese Islamist Hassan al-Turabi
Department of Comparative Politics, University of Bergen, Norway

CURRENT AND PREVIOUS POSITIONS

- 2017-Present: Research Director, Chr. Michelsen Institute (CMI), Norway
- 2012-2016: Senior Researcher, Chr. Michelsen Institute (CMI), Norway
- 2008-2011: PhD candidate, Chr. Michelsen Institute (CMI), Norway
- 2005-2006: Coordinator of Politics of Faith, Chr. Michelsen Institute (CMI), Norway

CAREER BREAKS

- 2016 Maternity Leave (15.02.2016-to 01.12.2016)

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS *(since 2009)*

Royal Norwegian Embassy in Khartoum 2018-2020: *Assisting Regional Universities in Sudan* (ARUS) (Chr. Michelsen Institute, University of Bergen, Ahfad University for Women) **Project manager**

Carnegie and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs 2016-2018: *Women and Peacebuilding in Africa* (University of Madison Wisconsin, Chr. Michelsen Institute, ISIS WICCE in Uganda) **Co-project leader with Aili Marie Tripp**

Norwegian Research Council 2014-2017: *Engineering Gender Equality: The effects of aid to women's political representation* (Chr. Michelsen Institute, University of Bergen, Ahfad University for Women, Makerere University, University of Malawi) **Project manager**

Norwegian Research Council 2016-2020: *Political determinants of sexual and reproductive health: criminalization, health impacts and game changers* (Chr. Michelsen Institute, University of Bergen, Harvard University, North-Eastern University in addition to local partners in 10 African countries)

Rafto foundation 2014-2017: *Women's human rights and law reform in the Muslim world* (Chr. Michelsen Institute) **Project manager**

Norwegian Research Council 2011-2014: *Caught between Rape and Adultery: Women's Fight against Sexual Violence and for Justice in Sudan* (Chr. Michelsen Institute and Ahfad University for Women) **Project manager**

Norwegian Research Council 2012-2016: *Protection of civilians: from principle to practice* (Chr. Michelsen Institute, PRIO, NUPI)

Norwegian Research Council 2009-2011: *Poverty reduction and gender justice in contexts of complex legal pluralism* (Chr. Michelsen Institute, University of Bergen, CIESAS in Mexico)

Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs 2009: *Women and peacebuilding in Sudan* (Chr. Michelsen Institute)
Project manager

MOBILITY

- 2019 University of Texas at Austin, Texas, U.S.
- 2008-2009 Guest researcher at Center for Arab and Middle Eastern Studies, American University of Beirut, Lebanon
- 2014 Guest lecturer at Ahfad University for Women, Sudan
- 2003-2004 Royal Norwegian Embassy in Damascus, Syria (12 months)

Liv Tønnessen has extensive fieldwork experience from Sudan with countless field visits under her belt.

SUPERVISION

- 2011-2014 Co-supervising Lamya Badri for PhD at Ahfad University for Women as part of the RNC project *Caught between Rape and Adultery*
- 2011-2014 Co-supervising four master students at Ahfad University for Women as part of the RNC project *Caught between Rape and Adultery*
- 2014-2017 Supervising Post-doc Vibeke Wang at CMI as part of the RNC project *Engineering Gender Equality*
- 2019-present Co-supervising Mai Azzam, Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies University of Bayreuth

In the ARUS project, Tønnessen mentors a number of Sudanese scholars

TEACHING

- Bergen Summer Research School*
- 2015 Lecture on Gender & Inequality, PhD course
- 2018 Lecture on gender based violence, PhD course
Department of Comparative Politics, University of Bergen, Norway
- 2019 Lecture on counter-mobilization against gender equality, SAMPOL 221
- 2017 Lecture on counter-mobilization against gender equality, SAMPOL 221
- 2018 Lecture on fieldwork in authoritarian regimes, SAMPOL 307
Department of archaeology, history, cultural studies and religion, University of Bergen, Norway
- 2015 Lecture on Sudanese Islamism, HIM103
Center on Law and Social Transformation, Bergen, Norway
- 2015 Lecture on Islamic lawfare, Phd course
Ahfad University for Women, Sudan
- 2014 Main lecturer on a master course on 'Women and Global Governance'
Peace Research Institute Oslo
- 2014 Lecture on gender and protection at the PhD course Humanitarian Action and the Protection of Civilians, Research School on Peace and Conflict

As part of the ARUS project, Tønnessen teaches qualitative methodology and gender theory to project members from regional and national universities in Sudan.

ORGANIZATION OF SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

- 2019 Convenor of American Political Science Association MENA workshop on Gender Politics in Abu Dhabi (June) and Rabat (October). 25 early career scholars from the MENA region.
- 2018 Convenor, international workshop on 'women and peacebuilding in Africa', 5-6 December, at PRIO, Oslo. 20 participants
- 2018 Convenor, international workshop on 'Legal change and women's economic empowerment', 10-11 January, Bergen. 15 participants

- 2018 Panel organizer and chair of ‘Abortion in the Middle East and North Africa’ at the annual Law and Society conference, June 7-10 2018 Toronto, Canada.
- 2018 Panel organizer and chair of ‘Political determinants of sexual and reproductive health in Africa’ at the annual African Studies Association, , November 28-December 1, Atlanta, Georgia
- 2014 Convenor, international workshop on ‘Legislating Marriages: Family Law Reform and Democratization in Africa and Asia’, 13-14 November, Bergen. 16 participants
- 2014 Organizer, international conference on ‘New Horizons: Law reform and gender justice in the greater Middle East, Ahfad university for women’, Sudan, 21-23 October. 50 participants
- 2012 Convenor, international workshop on ‘the relationship between quota policies and democratization in Africa’, 14-15 June, Bergen. 18 participants
- 2010 Organizer, Nordic Conference on Middle Eastern Studies, University of Bergen and Chr.Michelsen Institute, 24-26 September. 150 participants
- 2009 Convenor, international workshop on ‘Sharia and Human Rights’, 27.-28. November, Bergen. 20 participants.

INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

- 2017-present Research Director at Chr. Michelsen Institute
- 2009-2014 Leader, Gender Politics Research Group, Chr. Michelsen Institute
- 2013-2015 Leader, The Norwegian Association of Researcher at Chr. Michelsen Institute

COMMISSIONS OF TRUST

- 2014- present Steering committee member, [Center on Law and Social Transformation](#)
- 2016-2019 Board member of the program for development research, Swedish Research Council
- 2015-2017 Board member of Chr. Michelsen Institute
- 2010-2016 Board Member of the Nordic Middle East Society
- 2013 Guest editor of special issue on “Quotas and Democratization”, *Women’s Studies International Forum*
- 2019 Guest editor of special issue on “Legal Change and Women’s Economic Empowerment”, *Social Politics: International Studies in Gender, State & Society*
- 2019 Guest editor of special issue on “The limits of the law: Abortion in the Middle East and North Africa”, *Health and Human Rights Journal*

MEMBERSHIPS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES

American Political Science Association (APSA), Middle Eastern Studies Association (MESA), African Studies Association (ASA) Law and Society Association (LSA)

For paper presentations at APSA, ASA, ECPG, Law & Society, WOCMES, AAA, BRISMES, see <https://www.cmi.no/staff/liv-tonnessen#publications>

MAJOR COLLABORATIONS

Aili Marie Tripp (Gender and Women’s Studies at University of Madison Wisconsin, U.S). We co-lead the project *Women and Peace building in Africa*. We are also editing a book together as part of the project together with **Ayesha Imam**, a human rights activist and coordinator of the International Solidarity Network of Women Living Under Muslim Laws

Samia al-Nagar (independent researcher, Sudan). We are co-writing: (i) an article for a special issue in *International Feminist Journal of Politics* edited by Aili Marie Tripp and Ayesha Imam (ii) an article for a special issue in *Cahiers d’études africaines* edited by **Nathalie Bernard Mougiron** (Institut de recherche pour le développement, Paris France) and **Marième N’Diaye** (Centre national de la recherche scientifique, Paris, France) (iii) a book chapter for an edited volume edited by **Siri Gloppen** (University of Bergen), **Adrian Msosa** (University of Essex) and **Franz Viljoen** (University of Pretoria) (iii) a book chapter for an edited volume edited by Aili Tripp, Ayesha Imam and Liv Tønnessen.

Irene Maffi (Institute des Sciences Sociales, University of Lausanne, Switzerland). We are co-authoring a book chapter on abortion in the Middle East and Northern Africa for the *Research Handbook on International Abortion Law* edited by **Austin Sarat** (Amherst College) and **Rosemary Hunter** (Queen Mary University of London) (under contract with Edwin Elgar Press).

Abdel Ghaffar Ahmed (University of Khartoum), **Munzoul Assal** (University of Khartoum) and **Leif Manger** (University of Bergen). We are collaborating on the project Assisting Regional Universities in Sudan which is funded by the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Khartoum.

TRACK RECORD

Total number of articles in international peer reviewed journals: 17 (7 in level 2 journals)

Total number of chapters in books: 8

10 selected publications

- Tønnessen, Liv** and Samia al-Nagar. (2019). "The politicization of abortion and hippocratic disobedience in Islamist Sudan" *Health and Human Rights Journal* 21(2): 7-19
- Maffi, Irene and **Liv Tønnessen**. (2019) "The Limits of Law: Abortion in the Middle East and Northern Africa" *Health and Human Rights Journal* 21(2) 1-6
- Liv Tønnessen**. (2019). "Women at work in Sudan: Marital privilege or constitutional right?". *Social Politics: International Studies in Gender, State & Society* 26(2): 223-244
- Htun, Mala, Francesca Jensenius and **Liv Tønnessen**. (2019). "Legal Regimes, Women's Work, and Women's Empowerment" in *Social Politics: International Studies in Gender, State & Society* 26 (2): 189-192
- Muriaas, Ragnhild, **Liv Tønnessen** and Vibeke Wang. (2018). "Counter-mobilization against child marriage reform in Africa", *Political Studies* 66 (4): 851-868
- Tønnessen, Liv** (2017). "Enemies of the State: Curbing Women Activists Advocating Rape Reform in Sudan", *International Journal of Women's Studies* 18(2).
- Tønnessen, Liv** (2016). "The Politics of Salafism in Sudan: Women's Empowerment through Gender Segregation?", *Frontiers: A Journal of Women's Studies* 37 (3): 92-124.
- Tønnessen, Liv** (2014). "When Rape becomes Politics: Negotiating Islamic Law Reform in Sudan", *Women's Studies International Forum* 44:145-153.
- Tønnessen, Liv** and Samia al-Nagar (2013). "The Women's Quota in Conflict Ridden Sudan: Ideological Battles for and against Gender Equality", *Women's Studies International Forum* 41:22-131. (Translated into Arabic)
- Muriaas, Ragnhild, **Liv Tønnessen** and Vibeke Wang. (2013). "Exploring the relationship between democratization and quota policies in Africa" *Women's Studies International Forum* 41: 89-93
- Tønnessen, Liv** (2011). "Beyond Numbers? Women's 25% Parliamentary Quota in Post-Conflict Sudan", *Journal of peace and development* 17:43-62
- Tønnessen, Liv** (2011). "Feminist Interlegalities and Gender Justice in Sudan: The Debate on CEDAW and Islam", *Religion and Human Rights: An International Journal* 6(1): 25-39. (Translated into Spanish)
- Tønnessen, Liv** (2010). "Is Islam a Threshold for Escape or an Insurmountable Barrier? Women Bargaining with Patriarchy in Post-Islamist Sudan", *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East* 30(3):583-594.
- Tønnessen, Liv** (2009), "Democratizing Islam and Islamizing Democracy: An Inquiry into Hasan al-Turabi's Conception of Shura in Light of Western Democratic Theory" *Nordic Journal of Human Rights* 27 (3):313-329.
- Tønnessen, Liv** (2008). "Gendered Citizenship in Sudan: Competing Debates on Family Laws among Northern and Southern Elites in Khartoum", *Journal of North Africa Studies* 13 (4): 455-469.

Articles and books under review

- Tønnessen, Liv** and Samia al-Nagar. "Women's Policy Reform in Sudan's Islamist State: The Case of Criminalizing Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting" Under review for a special issue on "Women and Peacebuilding in Africa" in *International Feminist Journal of Politics*.
- Tønnessen, Liv** and Samia al-Nagar. "Legal Mobilization to Protect Women against Rape in Islamist Sudan". Revise and resubmit for a special issue on "Women and Law in Muslim Africa" *Cahiers d'études africaines*
- Tønnessen, Liv** and Samia al-Nagar. "Activism from the Closet: Fear of Double Backlash towards a Nascent LGBT Movement in Sudan. Under review for an edited volume on *Queer Lawfare in Africa* to be published at PULP.
- Tønnessen, Liv** and Samia al-Nagar. "Women at the forefront of the Sudanese revolution". Under review for an edited volume on *Women and Peacebuilding in Africa* to be published by James Curry.

Manuskripts in progress

Tønnessen, Liv. *Women, Islam and Revolution in Sudan (monograph)*

A selection of popular-scientific writings (in English)

Tønnessen, Liv and Samia al-Nagar (2019). "I'm against all of the laws of this regime": What Sudan's women want, *African Arguments*.

Tønnessen, Liv. (2018). "Counter-Mobilization against Child Marriage Reform in Sudan", *Strategic Initiative in Africa Journal: Women in Islam*.

Ragnhild Muriaas, **Liv Tønnessen** and Vibeke Wang (2017). "Counter-mobilization against child marriage reform in Africa" *Political Insight Blog* by the American Political Studies Association

Tønnessen, Liv, Samia El-Nagar, Sharifa Gafar Bamkar (2017). "Paper Tiger Law forbidding FGM in Sudan" *Open democracy*

Tønnessen, Liv (2015). "Curbing Women Activists in Darfur in the wake of the International Criminal Court". Bergen: Chr. Michelsen Institute (CMI Insight 2015 no.5) 6 p.

Tønnessen, Liv (2015). "What does Islam have to do with it? A close look at the facts: FGM in the horn of Africa". *Strategic Initiative in Africa Journal: Women in Islam*

Tønnessen, Liv (2014). "Women's right to abortion after rape in Sudan", Bergen: Chr. Michelsen Institute (CMI Insight no. 2) 7 p.

Tønnessen, Liv (2014). "Complex realities and astute actors: Sudanese women's activism and UN Security Council Resolution 1325", NOREF (*Expert comments*)

Tønnessen, Liv (2014). "Impunity and the conflation of rape and adultery in Sudan's Criminal Act" *Norwegian Center for Humanitarian Studies*

Tønnessen, Liv (2013). "Law Reform in Post-Conflict Sudan: Are Female Members of the National Assembly Acting in the Interest of Sudanese Women?" *Ahfad Journal: Women and Change*

Tønnessen frequently writes in Norwegian newspapers. She is a columnist in Bistandsaktuelt which is widely read by Norwegian policy makers and civil society. She has published 35 newspaper op-eds in Bistandsaktuelt, Bergens Tidende, Klassekampen, Ny Tid, Morgenbladet, Aftenposten, Dagbladet, and Dagens Næringsliv.