

Curriculum Vitae Birgitte Possing  
(b. 1952, Kolding, Denmark)

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**Qualifications and degrees**

- 2006 Professor, aff. University of Copenhagen, DK
- 2000 Professor, The Danish Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities
- 1999 Professor, University of Southern Denmark, DK
- 1992 *Dr.phil.*, University of Copenhagen, DK
- 1988 Senior lecturer, Faculty of Arts, University of Copenhagen
- 1982 *Lic.phil.*, University of Copenhagen
- 1979 *Cand.mag.*, History & Anthropology, Faculty of Arts, University of Aarhus, DK

**Appointments**

- 2006 Professor, affiliated Cultural Studies, University of Copenhagen, DK &
- 2005 Professor (Senior Research Fellow, pr appointm), Danish National Archives
- 2000-2004 Director: *Danmarks Humanistiske Forskningscenter* (The Danish Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities)
- 1998-2000 Director of Research: *Nationalmuseet* (The National Museum of Denmark)
- 1991-98 Chief Archivist: *Håndskriftafdelingen, Det Kongelige Bibliotek* (Manuscript Department, The Royal Library), DK
- 1991 Historical Advisor: *Ligestillingsrådet* (The State Council of Equality), *Statsministeriet* (The Prime Minister's Office)
- 1989-90 Senior Research Fellow: *Statens Humanistiske Forskningsråd* (Danish Research Council for the Humanities) & *Carlsbergfondet* (The Carlsberg Foundation)
- 1986-89 Senior Research Fellow: *Danmarks Lærerhøjskole* (The Danish University of Education)

- 1983-86 Historical advisor for adult-education 'folk high schools': *Assens Høj- og Efterskole, Foreningen for Danske Folkehøjskoler, Den Nordiske Kvindehøjskole i Visby, Krabbesholm Højskole, Kolding Højskole, Krogerup Højskole, Unge Hjem Højskole, Brandstrup Højskole, Uldum Højskole, Vallekilde Højskole.*  
University teacher: Roskilde University Center, University of Copenhagen
- 1980-82 Research Fellow: Department of History, University of Aarhus
- 1978-80 Lecturer, Department of History, University of Aalborg, DK
- 1977-79 Sub-editor of the journal *Den Jyske Historiker* [The Jutland Historian]:  
University of Aarhus
- 1977 Research scholarship: *Aarhus Universitets Forskningsfond* (The Research Foundation of the University of Aarhus)

### **Honorary Offices and Board Memberships**

- 2012: Member of the Board of the National Research Foundation
- 2011: Member of the Presiding Committee, the Anniversary of the Reformation 2017
- 2010: Member of Advisory Board, digitalizing of *Kraks Blå Bog*, Gads forlag
- 2010 Member of the Advisory Board, *WASMI, Women and Social Movements International*, State University of New York, USA
- 2010 Member of the Scientific Committee of the Project *Hope and Care*,  
*Diakonissestiftelsen*, Copenhagen
- 2009 Member of the Scientific Committee of the project *The Danish Educational and School History*, DPU, The University of Aarhus, DK
- 2008 KRAKA-prize, honoured from The Association of Gender Studies, DK for  
*Uden Omsvøb. Et portræt af Bodil Koch, 2007* [To the Point. An Incisive Portrait Of Bodil Koch]
- 2008 Vicepresident of the board, The University of Aalborg, Denmark
- 2005 Board member, The University of Aalborg, Denmark
- 2004 The Einar Hansen Research Prize
- 2002 Co-initiator of the European Consortium of Humanities Centres and Institutes (ECHCI), University of Utrecht, NL
- 2002- Member of *Det Lærde Selskab* (The Learned Society), University of Aarhus
- 2000 Vice-chair: *Kommissionen for Videnskabelige Undersøgelser i Grønland* (Commission for Scientific Research in Greenland)
- 2000 Vice-chair: *Dansk Polarcenter*, (The Danish Polar Centre), Copenhagen
- 1999-2001 Board member: *N. Zahles Skole* (N. Zahles' Schools), Copenhagen
- 1998- Member of the Council: *Det dansk-jødiske Museum* (The Danish-Jewish Museum)
- 1999- Member of the Council: *Fremtidsrådet* (The Copenhagen Institute for Future Studies)
- 1998 Member of *Kungl. Samfundet för utgivande av Handskrifter röranda Skandinaviens Historia* [The Royal Society for the Publication of Manuscripts Concerning the History of Scandinavia], University of Stockholm, Sweden
- 1996-2001 Board member: *Det danske Institut i Damaskus* (The Danish Institute, Damascus, Syria); appointed by the Minister of Culture
- 1996- Board member: *N. Zahles Skoles legat* (N. Zahles' School Foundation),

- Copenhagen
- 1995-96 Member of the working group: development of strategic perspectives for the humanities in Denmark; appointed by the Minister of Research
- 1995-96 Board member: *KVINFO. Center for Information om Kvinde- og Kønsforskning* (The Danish Centre for Information on Women and Gender); appointed by the Minister of Culture, DK
- 1995- Board member: *Weilbach's Kunstnerleksikon* [Weilbach Art Encyclopaedia]; appointed by the Minister of Culture
- 1994-1998 Chair of *Kulturministeriets Forskningsudvalg* (The Cultural Research Council); appointed by the Minister of Culture
- 1994-95 Member of the Commission studying the recommendations of the OECD concerning research councils in Denmark; appointed by the Minister of Research
- 1994-95 Member of the academic committee advising on cultural policy, Ministry of Culture
- 1994-95 Member of the academic committee advising on the publication: *Roskilde University - a Historical Retrospective: Experiment and Institution*, Else Hansen PhD, University of Roskilde
- 1993-2002 Vice-chair: board of *Dansk Kvindebiografisk Leksikon* [Danish Dictionary of Women]
- 1993-95 Chair: *De nationale forskningscentre og -samlinger ved Det Kongelige Bibliotek* (The Research Centres at the Royal Library)
- 1995- Member: *Statens Privatarxivudvalg* (The State Commission for Private Archives); appointed by the Minister of Culture
- 1992-96 Secretary for *Kommissionen for Registrering af Litterære Kilder* [The Commission for the Registration of Literary Sources in Denmark], The Royal Library
- 1990 - Board member: *Foreningen af San Cataldos Venner* (The Friends of San Cataldo), Italy
- 1990-1993 Member of *Idrættens Forskningsråd* (The Danish Council for Sports Research), representing the Humanities; appointed by the Minister of Culture
- 1993 *Weekendavisens Litteraturpris* (The Weekendavisen Prize for Literature): for the biography *Natalie Zahle - En Biografi om Køn, Dannelse og Magtfuldkommenhed* (Copenhagen, 1992)

### Adjudication Panels

- 2010: External examiner: Ph.d. in theatre history and biography, The University of Oslo, Norway
- 2009: Chair of Nordic, external examination: Professorship in Gender Studies, The University of Copenhagen, DK
- 2008 External examiner: Senior researcher in history at The National Museum at Frederiksborg, DK
- 2008 External examiner: Riksbankens Jubilæumsfond, Sweden
- 2006 Examiner: Senior researcher in history, The Danish National Archives
- 2005 External examiner, ph.d. dissertation, *The female Woman. Femininity, Citizenship And Professionalisation*, Anne Lykke Poulsen, University of Copenhagen, DK

- 2004-05 External examiner: Professorship in the history of education, DPU, DK  
 2003 External examiner: History, The University of Lund, Sweden  
 2002 External examiner: Research Council for the Humanities, Gender Studies, Oslo, Norway  
 2001 External examiner: *dr.philos* dissertation, *Biografiens retorikk* [The Rhetoric of the Biography], Marianne Egeland, The University of Oslo, Norway  
 1999 External examiner: *ph.d.* dissertation *Historiebevidsthedens dannelse og brug i 1990'erne* [The Making of Historical Consciousness in the 1990s], Marianne Poulsen, The Danish University of Education  
 1998 External examiner, *dr.philos* dissertation, *Nina Grieg - Kunstner og Kunstnerhustru* [Nina Grieg - Artist and Artist's Wife], Inger Elisabeth Haavet, The University of Bergen, Norway  
 1994-98 Tutor, PhD students, The University of Aarhus  
 1992-93 Tutor, PhD students, Universities of Copenhagen and Roskilde  
 1993- Examiner, History, Universities of Copenhagen and Roskilde

### **Areas of Research 1980 - 2012**

Methodologies of the historical biography

A series of empirical historical biographies on public figures

Methodology of women's history and gender studies

19th- and 20th-century Scandinavian educational history

### **Actual Area of Research 2012 :**

The Art of Biography/The Methodology of the Historical Biography from the Antique to present times

### **Publications**

9 books, 54 articles in academic, refereed journals, 16 edited books/translations or conference reports and a series of reviews, chronicles, articles and comments in other journals and newspapers

### **Work in Progress**

Portraiture and Re-portraiture of the Political Individual in Europe: Biography as a Genre and as a Deconstructive Technique", p. 21-43 in Anne Christina Lauring-Knudsen & Karen Gram-Skjoldager (red.): *Locating Europe. Living Political Biography*, Aarhus University Press, Aarhus 2011

Biography - an Unloved, But Much-pursued Courtesan? in *Biographies of the Financial World*, (ed.) Pehringer, A. & Sjögreen, H, The Foundation for Economic History Research within Banking and Enterprise, Stockholm 2012

In Search of the Methodological Keys To A Biographical Analysis (30 pp), in Bandak, A & Kuzmanovic, D (eds.): *The Analysis In The Making*, Routledge 2012

Biography as a Political Project, Proceedings of the VIIIth ESSH Conference, Ghent April 2010, Ghent 2012

### Most recent publications

- En bevægelse med en historie kan ikke væltes, i *Den nødvendige historie*, FV, Kbh. 2010
- Om kunsten at skrive biografi om Ibsen, s. 15-38, i: Astrid Sæther, Ståle Dingstad, Atle Kittang & Anne Marie Rekdal (red.): *Den biografiske Ibsen*, Acta Ibseniana VI 2010, Senter for Ibsen-studier, Universitetet i Oslo 2010
- "Clara Zetkin (1857-1933) - et portræt", s. 29-47, i Anne Brædder, Anette Eklund Hansen & Knud Knudsen: *Arbejderkvinder i 100 år*, Arbejderhistorie \* Tidsskrift for historie, kultur og politik, København, august 2010. English Summary
- Om kunsten at skrive biografi, i *Rubicon*, s. 76-93, Syddansk Universitet 2009
- Fremtidens biografier, i *Bokvennen. Norsk litterært tidsskrift*, september 2008.
- At vække sjælen og udvikle Åndens kraft. Om hvorfor kvinder var overflødige, (17 s.) i Joakim Garff (red.): *At Komme Til Sig Selv. Om danske dannelsesstærkere*, Forlaget Gad, 2008
- *Uden omsvøb. Et portræt af Bodil Koch 1903-1972*, Ill., Gyldendal 2007
- Portrættering og ompotrættering. Om biografi som dekonstruerende metode, s. 239-252, i Jette Kofod og Dorthe Staunæs (red.): *Magtballader. 14 fortællinger om magt, modstand og menneskers tilblivelse*. Danmarks Pædagogiske Universitetsforlag, Kbh. 2007
- Et kritisk blik på biografien. Genren med de mange liv, i *Med livet som insats. Biografien som humanistisk genre*, Henrik Rosengren & Johan Östling (red.), Sekel Bokförlag Lund
- Bodil Koch: Manegeklovn eller regeringens eneste mandfolk? i Bøge Pedersen & Larsen (red.): *Det bedste selskab. Festskrift til Jens Engberg*, SFAH, Aarhus 2006
- Genren med de mange liv, i: *Et Kritisk Blik*, Festskrift til Morten Thing, Tiderne Skifter, oktober 2005
- The Historical Biography: Genre, History and Methodology, pp. 17-25 in: *Writing Lives in Sport. Biographies, Life-histories and Methods* (ed. John Bale, Mette K. Christensen, Gertrud Phister, Acta Jutlandica LXXVIII: 3, Humanities Series 77, Aarhus University Press 2004
- Biografen der brød med traditionen? ss. 15-22 i: *Jens Chr. Manniche 1942-2003. Biograf, historiegraf, kolonihistoriker*, Den jyske Historiker, Julenummer 2003, Aarhus, DEN JYSKE HISTORIKER, Historisk Institut, Aarhus Universitet
- Humaniora i Samtale, i: Finn Horn og Henrik Kaare Nielsen (red.): *Universitetet til Tiden? Debatbog*. Forlaget Klim, Aarhus 2003
- *Awakening the Promise of the Soul*, Gyldendal, Copenhagen 2002
- *In Conversation with the Humanities*, Copenhagen 2002,  
[http://www.humanities.dk/english/staff/birgitte\\_possing.html](http://www.humanities.dk/english/staff/birgitte_possing.html)
- Den biografiske udfordring: Mytologisering eller harmonisering [The Biographical Challenge: Mythologisation or Harmonisation] in: K. Hastrup (ed.): *Værdier og Videnskab* [Scholarly Values], Videnskabernes Selskab (The Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and Letters), Copenhagen 2002

- *At Vække Sjælen*, Gyldendal, Copenhagen 2001
- The Historical Biography, in: *The International Encyclopedia of Social and Behavioral Sciences*, Elsevier, Oxford 2001
- Biographies on Hanna Adler, Karen Bagge, Elise Bay, Ritt Bjerregaard, Lily Gad, Hansine Gerdtzen, Bertha Hahn, Anna Hjort, Ingrid Jespersen, Bodil Koch, Lene Koch, Katrine Lønborg, Th. Moltke, Anna Sophie Seidelin, Ingeborg Simesen, Henriette Skram, Martha Steinthal, Natalie Zahle, in: *Dansk Kvindebiografisk Leksikon [The National Danish Biographical Dictionary of Outstanding Women]*, vol. 1-3, Rosinante, Copenhagen 2001
- Den historiske biografi, in: *Alle Tiders Kvinder [The Greatest Women Ever]*, s. 242-247, vol. 4, Dansk Kvindebiografisk Leksikon, Rosinante, Copenhagen 2000