

Asta Breinholt

WORK ADDRESS

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RESEARCH AREAS

Social inequality, sociology of education, family sociology, and sociogenomics.

EDUCATION

2018	Ph.D., Sociology, University of Copenhagen
2014	M.Sc., Sociology, University of Copenhagen
2011	B.Sc., Sociology, University of Copenhagen
2010	Exchange student, Hong Kong University

EMPLOYMENT

2020 – 2025	Assistant Professor in Social Studies, Roskilde University, Department of Social Sciences and Business
2018 – 2020	DFF-International Postdoc funded by the Independent Research Fund Denmark, visiting Survey Research Center, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan
2017 – 2018	Research Associate, The Panel Study of Income Dynamics, Survey Research Center, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan
2014 – 2017	Ph.D. Fellow, Department of Sociology, University of Copenhagen
2013 – 2014	Research Assistant, Department of Sociology, University of Copenhagen
2012 – 2013	Research Assistant, SFI-Campbell, The Danish National Centre for Social Research
2011 – 2012	Internship and Junior Consultant, Epinion
2011 – 2011	Teaching Assistant in Quantitative Methods, Department of Sociology, University of Copenhagen
2010 – 2010	Research Assistant, Centre for Mobility Research, Aalborg University

LEAVE

Aug 2021 – Dec 2021	Full time maternity leave
Jan 2022 – Aug 2022	Part time parental leave

VISITING SCHOLARSHIPS INCL. RESEARCH STAYS ABROAD

2025 – 2028	Visiting Senior Lecture, University of Bristol, School for Policy Studies, invited by Marii Paskov
2022 – 2027	Visiting Scholar, VIVE The Danish Center for Social Science Research, invited by Jens-Peter Thomsen
2018 – 2020	Visiting Scholar, University of Michigan, Institute for Social Research, Survey Research Center, invited by Paula Fomby

2015 – 2016 Visiting Scholar, University of Michigan, Institute for Social Research, Survey Research Center, invited by Fabian T. Pfeffer

RESEARCH GRANTS

- 2025 *Social Mechanisms of Genetic Effects on Education (SOCGEN)*. Grant from the Independent Research Fund Denmark (Inge Lehmann Programme). DKKR 3,167,784 (EUR 424,699). **PI: Asta Breinholt.**
- 2022 *Microbial Childhood Collaboratory (MCC): Enlivening Critical Childhood Studies*. Grant from Academy of Finland / Nordforsk 2022-2023 (345269 NOS-HS Exploratory workshop) DKKR 315,000 (EUR 42.000) PI: Zsuzsa Millei
- 2022 *Social gradients in teacher quality and teacher effects*. Grant from the Rockwool Foundation. DKKR 318,393 (EUR 42,686). PI: Anders Hjorth-Trolle.
- 2021 *Mapping Parents' Educational Values – A New Approach*. Grant from the Independent Research Fund Denmark (FP2). DKK 6,191,012 (EUR 830,017). PI: Jens-Peter Thomsen, **co-PI: Asta Breinholt.**
- 2018 *Genetic Inheritance, Parental Behaviors, and Inequality in Education*. Grant from the Independent Research Fund Denmark (DFF-International Postdoc). DKK 1,556,504 (EUR 208,677). **PI: Asta Breinholt**
- 2014 Ph.D.-project fully funded by research grant from European Research Council within the project *Understanding Intergenerational Transmission (UNITRAN)*, PI: Mads Meier Jæger

TRAVEL AND COURSE GRANTS

- 2018 Research Committee on Social Stratification and Mobility (RC28) of the International Sociological Association Student Travel Award. USD 750 (EUR 687).
- 2017 The Russel Sage Foundation Summer Institute for Social-Science Genomics
- 2017 The European Consortium for Sociological Research's Spring School, Intergenerational Transmission of Socio-Economic Status and Inequality: Patterns and Mechanisms
- 2015 The Augustinus Foundation Travel Scholarship. DKK 25,000 (EUR 3,352)
- 2015 The Oticon Foundation Travel Scholarship. DKK 22,000 (EUR 2,940)

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

Breinholt, Asta, Erin Ware, Paula Fomby, and Colter Mitchell. 2025. "Do Parents' Socioeconomic Resources Moderate the Association between Genotype and Cognitive Skills among Children with Diverse Genetic Ancestries?" (Accepted, *Longitudinal and Life Course Studies*)

Millei, Zsuzsanna, Spyrou Spyrou, Marja Rosslund, **Asta Breinholt**, Tuure Tammi, Beth Conklin, Nick Lee, Sarah Alminde, Hanne Warming, Riikka Hohti. 2025. "Child ecologies in a microbial world: A new imperative for childhood studies" (Accepted, *Journal of Childhood Studies*)

Alminde, Sarah, **Asta Breinholt**, Jens Claßen, Line Jespersgaard Jakobsen, and Siming Hertzog. 2025. "Student Engagement: Potentials of the Flipped Classroom Approach" (Accepted, *Dansk Universitetspædagogisk Tidsskrift*)

Breinholt, Asta. 2024. "Hidden Patterns of Inequality: The Heterogeneity in Parenting within Educational Groups." *Poetics* 107:101941. doi: 10.1016/j.poetic.2024.101941.

Breinholt, Asta, and Dalton Conley. 2023. "Child-Driven Parenting: Differential Early Childhood Investment by Offspring Genotype." *Social Forces* soac155. doi: 10.1093/sf/soac155.

Breinholt, Asta, and Anders Holm. 2020. “Heterogeneous Effects of Less Educated Mothers’ Further Education during Early Childhood on Children’s Educational Performance in Adolescence.” *Research on Social Stratification and Mobility*, 68:100506.

Breinholt, Asta, and Mads Meier Jæger. 2020. “How does cultural capital affect educational performance: Signals or skills?” *British Journal of Sociology*, 71:28–46.

BOOK CHAPTERS

Breinholt, Asta. 2020. “Udsatte familier: Hvad tæller for børns fremtidsudsigter?” [“Disadvantaged Families: What Affects Children’s Future Prospects?”] in Anette Faye Jacobsen & Anne-Dorthe Hestbæk (editors). *Børns rettigheder. Udfordringer og Professionskrav [Children’s Rights. Challenges and Professional Requirements]*. Akademisk Forlag.

Wahler, Susan, Sandra Buchholz, and **Asta Breinholt**. 2017. “Childcare arrangements at preschool age and later child outcomes in Denmark: The role of maternal education and type of care” (2017). In Blossfeld, H.-P., Kulic, N., Skopek, J., and Triventi, M. (Eds.), *Childcare, Early Education and Social Inequality: An international perspective*. Cheltenham, UK and Northampton, MA, USA: Edward Elgar Publishing.

Hjorth-Trolle, Anders, and **Asta Breinholt**. 2017. “Forældreinvesteringer og social ulighed” [“Parental Investments and Social Inequality”] in Ploug, Niels, (ed.) *Social arv og social ulighed [Social Inheritance and Social Inequality]* (2nd edition). ISBN 978-87-412-6539-1. København: Hans Reitzel.

PH.D. DISSERTATION

Breinholt, Asta. 2018. *The Role of Parenting in the Intergenerational Transmission of Education*. Ph.D. Thesis. ISBN 978-87-7209-127-3. Copenhagen: University of Copenhagen.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS

Breinholt, Asta, Anders Hjorth-Trolle, and Mikkel Büchler-Henriksen. “Does Statistical Discrimination Explain Grading Bias? Evidence from a Natural Experiment” (Invited for revised and resubmit, *European Sociological Review* – see preprint here <https://doi.org/10.31235/osf.io/nmpbr>)

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

Breinholt, Asta, and Paula Fomby. “Affording the Luxury of Negotiation: Primary Caregivers’ Rule Setting for Adolescents”

Breinholt, Asta, and Gaia Ghirardi. “Interactions between Childhood Socioeconomic Status and Genotype in Educational Outcomes: A Novel Theoretical Typology and Meta-Analysis of Molecular Genetic Studies” Preregistered here: <https://osf.io/9zse2/>

Thomsen, Jens-Peter, and **Asta Breinholt**. “Mapping Parents’ Educational Values”

Breinholt, Asta, and Anders Hjorth-Trolle. “Grading Bias: Perceived-Behavior Discrimination or Taste-Based Discrimination?”

Millei, Zsuzsanna, Nick Lee, Spyrou Spyrou, Mira Grönroos, Marja Rosslund, **Asta Breinholt**, Tuure Tammi, Sarah Alminde, Hanne Warming, Sami Keto. “More than human? Bronfenbrenner’s bioecological model meets the child-as-ecosystem”

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (^fforthcoming; ^pposter presentation; ^rrefereed roundtable)

2025 European Consortium of Sociological Research, Cologne.^f

- Research Committee on Social Stratification and Mobility (RC28) of the International Sociological Association Spring Conference, Milan.
- 2024 The X Conference on Childhood Studies, Helsinki (online)
American Sociological Association (ASA) Annual Meeting, Montreal
Nordic Sociological Association (NSA) Conference, Linköping
European Consortium for Sociological Research (ECSR) Conference, Barcelona
- 2023 Research Committee on Social Stratification and Mobility (RC28) of the International Sociological Association Summer Conference, Ann Arbor.
Research Committee on Social Stratification and Mobility (RC28) of the International Sociological Association Spring Conference, Paris.
- 2019 Integrating Genetics and the Social Science Conference
European Consortium for Sociological Research (ECSR), Annual Conference, Lausanne.
Research Committee on Social Stratification and Mobility (RC28) of the International Sociological Association Summer Conference, Princeton.
Population Association of America (PAA) Annual Meeting, Austin.
RC28 Spring Conference, Frankfurt.
- 2018 American Sociological Association (ASA) Annual Meeting, Philadelphia.
RC28 Spring Conference, Seoul.
PAA Annual Meeting, Denver.
- 2017 RC28 Summer Conference, Columbia University.
PAA Annual Meeting, Chicago.^p
- 2016 RC28 Conference, University of Bern.
ASA Annual Meeting, Seattle.^r
RC28 Spring Conference 2016, University of Singapore.
PAA Annual Meeting, Washington DC.^p
- 2015 RC28 Summer Conference, University of Pennsylvania.
RC28 Spring Conference, Tilburg University.
- 2014 Conference of Center for Stratification Research, Department of Sociology, University of Copenhagen.
Conference of the Nordic Sociological Association, Lund University.

OTHER PRESENTATIONS

- 2024 Life Course and Social Inequality Seminar Series at the LIVES Centre, the University of Lausanne, Lausanne
UNED Inequality and Social Demography research seminar, Department of Sociology II, Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia (UNED), Madrid
Herning Library Literature Festival (HerLitt), Herning
- 2018 Population, Neurodevelopment, and Genetics Seminar Series, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan
- 2016 Panel Study of Income Dynamics Seminar Series, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan

TEACHING AND SUPERVISION PROFILE

My teaching covers problem-oriented and theoretical classes in social inequality and method classes in quantitative methods.

My current problem-oriented and theoretical teaching include five classes in the Social Studies program (in Danish *Socialvidenskab*) at the bachelor's level (4th and 5th semester) in three different courses and two classes in an elective course at in the Social Studies program at the master's level. While tailored to the specific course, all classes touch on aspects of social inequality. I teach a class on social inequality in society in general ("The Inequality Society") focusing on the increasing economic inequality (Thomas Piketty), its consequences (Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett), and the difference between absolute and relative inequality (Mike Savage *Return of Inequality*). I teach a class on social inequality in education, contrasting the theories by the sociologists Pierre Bourdieu and Raymond Boudon. I teach a course a class on social inequality in parenting practice, contrasting the perspectives of the sociologist Anette Lareau and the economist James Heckman. This class is followed by a class on social inequality and daycare (age 0-5). I teach a class on genetics and social inequality, explaining how social inequality arises in a complex interplay between genotypes and the social environment. Finally, I teach two Master's level classes on justice, one problematizing meritocracy from the perspective of sociology of education, and one discussing the positions of fair equality of opportunities (Rawls) and luck-egalitarian equality of opportunities (Roemer) in the light of research showing that educational outcomes are affected by the interplay between genetics and the social environment.

My current method classes include an advanced quantitative methods class at the master's level, where I am the course responsible. Focusing on how to employ regression analytically, this course teaches students how to use directed acyclic graphs (DAG) and advanced regression techniques such as fixed effects regression and multi-level regression. Occasionally, I am also a teaching assistant at the introductory quantitative method class at the bachelor's level.

During my three years at Roskilde University, I have supervised 26 projects. These projects span from the 4th semester of the bachelor's program in social studies to the master's thesis at social studies. Specifically, 11 projects on 4th or 5th semester, four bachelor theses (6th semester), nine projects on 3rd semester of the master's program in social intervention, and two master's theses. I have graded all projects and in addition acted as internal assessors on several other projects. All examinations were based on student's written reports as well as oral examinations.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND MEMBERSHIPS

Professional Appointments

Committee member, Danish Sociological Association (2014 – 2017)

Member of the Social Media Committee of the ASA section Inequality, Poverty, and Mobility (2019)

Organizing

Co-organizing the Quantitative Methods Club (2023-2024) together with Ea Hoppe Blaabæk, a seminar series for sociological (and likeminded) quantitative research aimed at providing feedback on ongoing research.

Reviewing

Acta Sociologica

American Journal of Sociology

American Sociological Review

British Journal of Sociology

Child Development

European Sociological Review

Nature Communications

Research in Social Stratification and Mobility
Social Forces
Sociology of Education
PNAS Nexus

Memberships

Danish Sociological Association
Research Committee on Social Stratification and Mobility (RC28) of the International Sociological Association

DATA SET EXPERIENCE

The Danish Administrative Data
The National Survey of Youth 1979 – Children and Young Adults
The Panel Study of Income Dynamics – Child Development Supplement 1997, 2002, 2007, & 2014
The Early Childhood Longitudinal Study – Kindergarten Cohort 1998 & 2011
The Danish Longitudinal Survey of Children
The Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children
The Futures of Families and Child-Wellbeing Study