

Distinguished
Research
Fellowships &
Honors

Year 2024: [Carlsberg Internationalisation Fellowship](#)

Awarded the Carlsberg Internationalisation Fellowship for groundbreaking research with high international potential. Recognized for originality, scientific breakthroughs, and leadership in globally competitive research. Distinguished for exceptional qualifications and innovation.

Amount: DKK 1,262,388

Year: 2023 [EliteForsk Travel Scholarship](#)

Recipient of the prestigious EliteForsk Travel Scholarship, awarded by the Ministry of Education and Research for exceptional contributions to Danish research with international acclaim.

Amount: DKK 200,000

Year: 2022 [Fulbright Scholarship](#)

Selected as a Fulbright Scholar for outstanding academic achievements and leadership and cultural exchange.

Amount: DKK 60,000

Ayan Yasin Abdi, Ph.D.

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I specialise in global encounters, with a focus on migration, mobility, and the intersections of citizenship, crime, and coercion. My interdisciplinary expertise spans mobility studies, human geography, and postcolonial migration theory, blending local and global perspectives to foster critical reflexivity. Through international publications, media engagement, and active research dissemination, I contribute to the advancement of migration studies and academic discourse.

Research Experience

2025- Postdoctoral Researcher/Carlsberg International Postdoctoral Fellow

Postdoctoral researcher and PI of *Caught between Citizenship, Crime, and Coercion: Somali Deportees and the Challenge of Reintegration*, investigating forced return and reintegration in Denmark, Sweden, and the Netherlands. The project challenges views of migration as voluntary, analyzing citizenship, crime, and coercion while highlighting barriers for returnees. Through ethnographic research and expert interviews, it reshapes migration scholarship and informs deportation policy.

2024-: External lecturer, [Roskilde University](#)

Teaching courses ranging from cultural analysis and anthropological methods to globalization, migration, gender theory, and memory politics within the humanities and social sciences, while supervising over ten student groups.

2024 (July-August): Research Consultant, [U4](#)

I updated the U4 migration topic page, focusing on the nexus between migration and corruption. These updates integrate political economy perspectives and assess the impact of current policies on corruption trends.

2020-2023: Ph.D.-Fellow Roskilde University

My dissertation, *Weaving the Tapestry: An Autoethnographic Exploration of Hypermobility among Diasporic Somalis in Turkey*, examines why Turkey has become a new resettlement destination for diasporic Somalis. Alongside my research, I engaged in teaching, supervision, and administrative duties. As a board member of the PhD Association of Roskilde University (PARU) and the Research Committee (FoU), I represented PhD students, contributed to research policy, and worked to enhance the university's research environment.

Peer Review Experience

Evaluated submissions for the *Scandinavian Journal of Islamic Studies* within the field of diasporic Somali engagement, migration, and history of the Horn of Africa for quality, relevance, and originality.

Fieldwork Experience

Turkey, Istanbul & Ankara (April-July 2022, February-May 2021)

Denmark, Aarhus & Odense (September-december 2015)

Egypt, Cairo (June-August 2015, July-April 2013-2014)

Languages: Danish: Native Somali: Native English: Fluent Arabic: Elementary

Recent Media & Public Speaking

[DIIS Event](#), October 2024

[BL- Danmark Almene Boliger](#) annual conference, September 2024

[Godaften Danmark](#), TV2 – August 2024

[P1 Orientering](#), DR – August 2024

[Zetland](#), Podcast based on my Ph.D (3 episodes) – August 2024

[Zetland](#): Interview, featured expert - August 2022

[Radio 24syv](#): Interview, Featured Expert - August 2022

[Politiken](#): Interview, featured expert - November 2021

[TV2 Østjylland](#): Interview, featured expert - November 2019

International residencies

April-July 2023:

Visiting Research Fellow, [Migration Institute of Finland](#), [Siirtolaisuusinstituutti](#).

February-March 2023:

[Taught Winter School](#) at the University of Konstanz, Germany, as part of [ERUA](#) – European Reform University Alliance.

August-December 2022:

Visiting Research Fellow, [University of Minnesota, USA](#). Contributed to the intellectual community of the department of sociology.

Educational Record

Ph.D. Stipendiat

Roskilde University, Department of Communication and Humanistic Sciences (DCA)

September 1, 2020 – Degree Awarded January 29, 2024

Master's Degree in Arabic and Psychology

Aarhus University

November 9, 2019

Bachelor's Degree in Arabic and Psychology

Aarhus University

July 15, 2013

Communications Courses

2024 (6 weeks): [Information Media School for Researchers](#)

2017-2018: [Zetland Talent Program](#)

2017 (6 months): [School of Critics, Politiken](#)

2015: Opinion Leader against Discrimination, [Mellemfolkeligt Samvirke](#)

These courses have enhanced my ability to effectively communicate complex ideas, engage audiences, and leverage media channels for research dissemination. For example, [my podcast collaboration with Zetland](#), based on my dissertation, reached over 70,000 listeners.

International Relations

I have cultivated strong research collaborations with institutions and scholars in International Migration Studies, including:

Malmö University, Sweden (Dr. Sayaka Osanami Törnngren)

Migration Institute of Finland (Dr. Saara Pellander, Dr. Marja Tiilikainen)

University of Helsinki (Dr. Suvi Keskinen, Dr. Mulki Al-Sharmani)

University of Minnesota, USA (Dr. Cawo Abdi)

Utrecht University, the Netherlands (Dr. Ilse van Liempt)

Chr. Michelsen Institute, Bergen, Norway (Dr. Sarah A. Tobin, Dr. Kjersti G. Berg)

Queen Mary, University of London (Dr. Nasir Warfa)