

## CONTRIBUTORS

**Johan Barstad** is currently is an assistant professor at The Norwegian University College for Agriculture and Rural Development, Klepp, Norway and holds a co-position as research advisor at Møre and Romsdal Hospital Trust, Volda, Norway. His discipline is Planning and his work for 20 years has mainly focused upon rural development and planning.

**Marianne Hedlund**, a sociologist, is Dean at the Faculty of Health and Social Studies, Telemark University College, Porsgrunn, Norway and Associate Professor on the Faculty of Health Science, Nord-Trøndelag University College, Levanger. Her research focuses upon the exclusion mechanisms of the welfare state regarding persons with disabilities and chronic conditions and experience-based knowledge for users of welfare state services.

**Kjeld Høgsbro**, Professor of Social Work, Aalborg University, Denmark. His 1991 Ph.D. dissertation focused on social problems and self-help organizations in Denmark. He has published books on disabilities, mental illness, social work, and community development in Denmark.

**Bodil J. Landstad**, whose discipline is Health Science, is Research Leader at Levanger Hospital, Nord-Trøndelag Hospital Trust in Norway and Associate Professor in Health Sciences at Mid Sweden University, Östersund, Sweden. Her research interests are mainly in the area of processes behind the inclusion of marginalized and vulnerable groups and persons in relation to employment or leisure activity.

**Carol Munn-Giddings**, Professor of Participative Inquiry and Collaborative Practice in the Faculty of Health, Social Care and Education at Anglia Ruskin University, UK. Carol's discipline is in Social Policy and she has specialised in developing research related to self-help/mutual aid groups and User Led Organisations. Carol, a recipient of a number of regionally and nationally funded projects, currently trains and supports Citizen Research Groups in the fields of mental health and older people's services in addition to her university obligations.

**Linda Öruly**, PhD, is currently involved in the development of a new interdisciplinary Center for Dementia Research (CEDER), Department of Medical and Health Sciences, Division of Health and Society, Linköping University, Sweden. CEDER focuses on agency, personhood, citizenship, and everyday life. Linda, whose discipline is Ethnography of Communication, applies what may be described as an ethnographic, social interactionist perspective in her research.

**Roar Stokken** is a researcher at the Patient Education Resource Centre at Møre and Romsdal Hospital Trust, in Volda, Norway where he is responsible for research. Roar, whose discipline is Pedagogy, is particularly interested in knowledge creation, and has investigated the phenomenon in various contexts and from various perspectives.

**Gudrun Thokle**, whose discipline is Communication, is an educator and deacon. She currently holds a position of researcher at Sunnmøre Hospital Trust and is a deacon at the Norwegian Church in Ørsta. Her work is mainly focused on inclusion and mental health.