

May-Len Skilbrei

Education

Dr. polit. (PhD) in Sociology from the University of Oslo in 2003 with the dissertation “*Dette er jo bare en husmorjobb*”. *Ufaglærte kvinner i arbeidslivet* [“This is only a housewife’s job”. Unskilled women in the labour market]

Cand. polit. in Sociology from the University of Oslo in 1996 with the thesis: “*Det overlever du alltid*”. *En sosiologisk analyse av kvinners vei inn i prostitusjon* [“You’ll always manage”. A sociological analysis of women’s way into prostitution]

Cand. mag. from the University of Oslo in 1993 consisting of the disciplines law (1990-1991), criminology (1991-1992) and sociology (1992-1993)

Projects

Different conditions in prostitution (2010-2012) funded by The Crime Victim Compensation and Support Authority in Sweden

Evaluation of the reflection period for victims of trafficking (2010) funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Justice and the Police. Project manager.

Mapping of Norwegian prostitution markets (2008) funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Justice and the Police. Project manager.

Prostitution in the Nordic countries (2007-2008) funded by the Nordic Council of Ministers and the Nordic Institute for Women’s Studies and Gender Research (NIKK). Project manager.

Emerging Patterns of East-West Migration (2007-2011) funded by the Research Council of Norway: IMER. Participant in management group.

Prostitution, gender and migration (2006-2011) funded by the Research Council of Norway: FRISAM.

Return to Nigeria (2006-2007) funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Justice and the Police. Project manager.

Nigerian women in prostitution in Norway (2006) funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Justice and the Police. Project manager.

Eastern European women in prostitution in Norway (2005) funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Justice and the Police. Project manager.

Men in Prostitution: Perspectives, Identities and Problems (2005) two-day international conference funded by the Research Council of Norway: *Gender research: knowledge, boundaries, change*. Project manager.

De unge uføretrygdede – hvem er de og hvor kommer de fra?(2004), funded by LO and NHO.

Nordisk prostitusjonskontroll – en sammenligning [Nordic prostitution control – a comparison] (2003-2005) funded by the NorFA/NordForsk programme *Gender and Violence*. Project manager.

Network for prostitution research in the Nordic countries (2002-2006) with funding from the NorFA/NordForsk programme *Gender and Violence*, the Research Council of Norway: *Gender research: knowledge, boundaries, change*. Project manager.

Evaluering av et utviklingsprosjekt om samarbeidet mellom hjem og skole (2002) funded by Foreldreutvalget i grunnskolen [The National Parents' Committee for Primary and Lower Secondary Education].

Evaluering av fastlegeordningen. Konsekvenser for pasienter med store legebeghev (2002). Financed by NFR

Unskilled women and work identity (1998-2003) funded by the funded by the Research Council of Norway. Project manager.

Societal conditions for massage parlour prostitution in Norway and Denmark (1997) funded by the Scandinavian Research Council for Criminology. Project manager.

Hiv/aids prevention among groups at risk (1994) funded by the Research Council of Norway.

Positions held

2010--	Managing Director Fafo Institute for Applied International Studies
2010-2012	Member of Pool of Reviewers European Science Foundation
2009-2012	Member of the Mangement comitte of COST Action IS0803: <i>Remaking eastern borders in Europe: a network exploring social, moral and material relocations of Europe's eastern peripheries</i>
2009-2010	Member of the reference group for the research project <i>Mødet mellom sosialt utsatte prostituerte og forskjellige myndighedsindsatser</i> funded by Rådet for Sosialt Udsatte, Danmark
2009-2010	Member of the organizing committee of the conference <i>Exploring And Comparing Prostitution Policy Regimes In Europe</i> , September 2010 at Birkbeck Institute for Social Research, University of London funded by the European Science Foundation (ESF)
2009	Researcher I at Fafo Institute for Applied International Studies
2007--	Regular columnist in <i>Fontene</i> – the magazine of The Norwegian Union of Social Educators and Social Workers
2007	Editor of special double issue on migration of <i>Sociologi i dag</i>
2007-2008	Affiliated project manager NIKK in a 10 % position
2007--	Board member <i>Fett</i> , a feminist journal
2007-2009	Regular columnist in newspaper <i>Klassekampen</i> every fifth Saturday
2007--	Board member <i>Kilden</i> , NFR's Information and Documentation Centre for Women's studies and Gender research
2006-2009	Researcher II at Fafo Institute for Applied International Studies, coordinator for research on migration and trafficking, and Reserch Director International migration
2006--	Leader of the <i>Association for Women's Studies and Gender Research in Norway</i>
2006	Guest editor of feminist journal <i>Fett</i> , special issue on gender and class
2006 --	Editor of journal <i>Sosiologi i dag</i>
2003-2005	Post-doc. fellow Department of Criminology and Sociology of Law, UiO
2003--	Referee for 15 academic journals, a majority of which are international
2000-2001	Visiting Scholar at the Dept. of Sociology at the University of Lancaster, UK
1998-2003	PhD fellow and reseracher at NOVA (Norwegian Social Research)
1994	Research assistant at the Department of Sociology, University of Oslo

1996 -- Lectures, particularly on issues of gender, qualitative methods and marginalisation, and committee work at BA and MA levels in sociology, criminology, sociology of law, journalism, law, educational science and at the Centre for Women's Studies and Gender Research at the University of Oslo, as well as supervising nine MA students and three PhD students working on issues of gender, prostitution, trafficking, ethnicity, migration and sexuality.

Selected publications

Skilbrei, ML. & C. Holmström (2011): "Is there a Nordic Prostitution Regime?", accepted for publication in *Crime & Justice*.

Skilbrei, ML. (2011): "Moving Beyond Assumptions? The Framing of Anti-trafficking Efforts in Norway", in print in R. Sollund & L. Leonard (eds.): *Transnational Migration, Gender and Rights*, Emerald Insight Publishing.

Skilbrei, ML. & M. Tveit (2011): "Mission Impossible? Voluntarily and Dignified Repatriation of Victims of Trafficking to Nigeria", in print in TD. Truong & D. Gasper (eds.): *Transnational Migration and Human Security*, Springer Publications

Brunovskis, A., ML. Skilbrei & M. Tveit (2010): *Pusterom eller ny start? Evaluering av refleksjonsperioden for ofre for menneskehandel*, Fafo-rapport 2010:45, Oslo: Fafo

Jacobsen, C. M. & ML. Skilbrei (2010): "Reproachable victims? Representations and self-representations of Russian women in transnational prostitution", *Ethnos* 75(2): 190-212

Skilbrei, ML. (2010): "Taking Trafficking to Court", *Women & Criminal Justice* 20(1): 40-56, also published in F. Bernat (ed.): *Human Sex Trafficking*, Routledge

Skilbrei, ML. & C. Holmström (2010): "Nordic prostitution control. Do we see an emergence of a Nordic prostitution regime?" *Nordisk tidsskrift for kriminalvidenskap* 97(3): 455-465 (in Norw.)

Skilbrei, ML. (2010): "Taking Trafficking to Court", *Women & Criminal Justice* 20(1): 40-56

Skilbrei, ML. (2010): "Den som står med begge beina planta på jorda står stille: Om kjønn og klassereiser" [The one who stands with both feet firmly on the ground, is standing still] in K. Dahlgren & J. Ljunggren (eds.): *Klassebilder. Ulikhet og sosial mobilitet i Norge*, Oslo: Universitetsforlaget (in Norw.)

Skilbrei, ML. (2009): "Mellom bortskjemte blondiner og White Trash: Hvordan være majoritet i minoritet?" [Between spoiled blondes and White Trash: how to be a majority in minority?], book essay in *Tidsskrift for kjønnsforskning* 33(4): 343-349

Holmström, C. & ML. Skilbrei (2009): *Prostitution in the Nordic Countries, conference report*, TemaNord-report

Nikiforova, E. og ML. Skilbrei (2009): *Norwegian-Russian Borderscape: A First Analytical Take*, COST Action IS0803 Working Paper, Manchester

Kavli, H., L. Eldring, A. Hagelund & ML Skilbrei (2009): "Krise for alle? Finanskrisas konsekvenser for ulike typer innvandrere" [Crisis for everyone? The consequences of the financial crisis for different groups of immigrants], *Integreringskartet 2009: Utfordringer og strategier for integreringsarbeidet i økonomiske nedgangstider*, Integrerings- og mangfoldsdirektoratet

Skilbrei, ML. (2009): "Nigeriansk prostitusjon på norsk: Feil kvinner på feil sted" [Nigerian prostitution in Norwegian: Wrong women in the wrong place], in W. Mühleisen & Å. Røthing (eds.): *Norske seksualiteter*, Oslo: Cappelen Akademisk Forlag

Skilbrei, ML. (2009): "Fra tradisjonelt til moderne renhold: om kompetansekamper i arbeidslivet" [From traditional to modern cleaning: conflicts over competence in the working life] in K. Christensen & L. J. Syltevik (eds.): *Kvinnerns arbeid*, Oslo: Unipub

Holmström, C. & ML. Skilbrei (eds.): *Prostitution i Norden. Forskningsrapport* [Prostitution in the Nordic countries. A research report], TemaNord report 2008

Tveit, M. og ML. Skilbrei (2008): *Mangfoldig marked. Prostitusjonens omfang, innhold og organisering*, Fafo report 2008:43

Skilbrei, ML. & A. Renland (2008): "Å tolerere eller ikke å tolerere, det er spørsmålet: Forholdet mellom lovgivning og sosialt arbeid på prostitusjonsfeltet" [To tolerate or not to tolerate, that is the question: The relationship between legislation and social work in the field of prostitution], *Tidsskrift for velferdsforskning* 11(3): 166-178

Skilbrei, ML. & M. Tveit (2008): "Exploring Trafficking through Empirical Work: Blurred boundaries and their consequences", *Gender, Technology and Development* 12(1): 9-30

Skilbrei, ML. (2007): "'Natachas' to liv: Østeuropeiske kvinner forteller om migrasjon, prostitusjon og skam" ['Natacha's' two lives: Eastern European women speak about migration, prostitution and shame], *Tidsskrift for kjønnsforskning* 31(1): 5-20

Skilbrei, ML. & M. Tveit (2007): *Facing Return: Perceptions of Repatriation among Nigerian Women in Prostitution in Norway*, Fafo report 555

Skilbrei, ML., M. Tveit & A. Brunovskis (2006): *Afrikanske drømmer på europeiske gater. Nigerianske kvinner i prostitusjon i Norge* [African dreams on European streets. Nigerian women in prostitution in Norway], Fafo report 525

Skilbrei, ML. & I. Polyakova (2006): *"My life is too short; I want to live now": Kvinner fra Øst-Europa forteller om veien til og livet i prostitusjon i Norge* [Women from Eastern Europe talk about the way into and life in prostitution in Norway], report Department of Criminology and Sociology of Law, University of Oslo

Skilbrei, ML. (2006): "Prostitusjon i retten: Når 'samfunnet' skal bestemme hvem som er hva" [Prostitution in court: when 'society' decides who is what], *Tidsskrift for kjønnsforskning* 30(1): 86-93

Skilbrei, ML. (2006): "Book Review: What is Making Class?", *European Journal of Women's Studies* 13(3): 291-293

Skilbrei, ML. (2006): "Prostitusjonskontroll mellom det globale og det lokale" [Prostitution policies in-between the global and the local] in L. Finstad (ed.): *Norsk kriminologi 50 år*, Institutt for kriminologi og retts sosiologi, bokserien nr. 1/2006: UiO [Norwegian criminology 50 years: Festschrift in relation to the 50-year jubilee of the Department of Criminology and Sociology of Law at the University of Oslo]

Skilbrei, ML. (2006): "Kuidas massaažisalongide prostituudid suhtuvad oma klientidesse" i M. Jyrkinen, L. Keeler & K. Luht (eds.): *Seksiostjad: Kes nad on?*, Tallinn: EV Sotsiaalministeerium

Skilbrei, ML. (2005): "Anmeldelse av Ragnhild Sollund: Rammer, rom og mobilitet", *Tidsskrift for samfunnsforskning* 46(2): 253-256

Skilbrei, ML. (2005): "Making paid work into housework: conformity and opposition in "traditional" femininity", in G. Hagemann & H. Roll-Hansen (eds.): *Housework: Labour, consumption, agency*, Oslo: Unipub

Skilbrei, ML. (2004): "Mine, dine og våre saker: likestillingspolitikk for viderekomme" [Mine, yours and our causes: advanced gender equality politics], *Kvinneforskning* 28(2): 76-92

Skilbrei, ML. (2004): "Ufaglærte kvinners sykefravær og veien ut av arbeidslivet" [Unskilled women's sick leave and their ways out of working life], *Søkelys på arbeidsmarkedet* 21(2): 217-224

Skilbrei, ML. (2003): "Lilja 4-ever er bare en film! Problematisk sammenblanding av fiksjon og fakta på prostitusjonsfeltet" [Lilja 4-ever is only a movie! Problematic confusion between fiction and facts on the area of prostitution], *Kvinneforskning* 27(4): 69-75

Skilbrei, ML. (2003): "Usynlig arbeid, usynlig slit, usynlig kvinneliv: Arbeiderklassekvinnelivet på utsiden" [Invisible work, invisible hardship, invisible women's lives], in Vibeke Asmussen, Jeanett Bjønness & Nils Bubandt (eds.): *Marginalisering. Udvalgte oplæg fra årsmødet i 2002*, Dansk Etnografisk Forening, Århus

Skilbrei, ML. (2003): "Dette er jo bare en husmorjobb". *Ufaglærte kvinner i arbeidslivet* ["This is only a housewife's job". *Unskilled women in the labour market*], PhD dissertation published as NOVA-report 17/03

Skilbrei, ML. (2002): "Modernisering, makt og mening i renholdsbransjen" [Modernisation, power and meaning in professional cleaning] in Anne Lise Ellingsæter & Jorun Solheim (eds.): *Den usynlige hånd? Kjønnsmakt og moderne arbeidsliv*, Gyldendal, Oslo

Skilbrei, ML. (2001): "Anmeldelse av Paul Lyngbye: Mænd der betaler kvinder – om brug af prostitution", *Sosiologisk tidsskrift* 9(3): 288-294

Skilbrei, ML. (2001): "The Rise and Fall of the Norwegian Massage Parlours: Changes in the Norwegian Prostitution Setting in the 1990s", *Feminist Review* No. 67: 63-77

Skilbrei, ML. (1999): "How Do Massage-Parlor Prostitutes Relate to Their Clients?", in L. Keeler & M. Jyrkinen (eds.): *Who's Buying? The Clients of Prostitution*, Publication on Equality 1999:4, Council for Equality, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Helsinki

Skilbrei, ML. (1999): "Solidarity, Respect and the Feminist Agenda: Do Working Class Women Count?", in Gunn Elisabeth Birkelund (eds.): *Kjønn og arbeid – nye former for arbeidsliv*, Konferanserapport, Research Council of Norway, Oslo

Skilbrei, ML. (1999): "Norsk prostitusjonskontroll på 1990-tallet" [Norwegian prostitution control in the 1990s], *Kritisk Juss* 26(1): 59-74

Skilbrei, ML. (1998): *Når sex er arbeid* [When sex is work], Pax Forlag, Oslo.

Skilbrei, ML. (1997): "Lykkelige horer og andre arbeidere" [Happy hookers and other workers], *Materialisten* 25(2/3): 23-50

Skilbrei, ML. (1. edition 1997, 2. edition 2008): "Prostitusjon", in Olav Korsnes, Heine Andersen & Thomas Brante (eds.): *Sosiologisk leksikon*, Universitetsforlaget, Oslo.

Selected op-eds

Kavli, H. & ML. Skilbrei (2010): "Nye utfordringer – gamle løsninger" [New challenges – old solutions], *Dagbladet* 08.03.10

Skilbrei, ML. (2010): "Menneskehandel: begrep til besvær" [Human trafficking: a problematic concept], *Forskning.no* 01.02.10

Skilbrei, ML. (2009): "Grenser for grenser?" [Are there limits to borders?] in *Klassekampen* 23.05.09

Stefansen, K. & ML. Skilbrei: "Klasseblind familiepolitikk" [class-blind family politics] in *Dagsavisen* 03.09.09

Skilbrei, ML.: "Fra vaskekjerring til renholder - endring til det bedre?" [From char lady to professional cleaner: a change for the better?] in *LO-aktuelt* 5/2009

Skilbrei, ML.: "Tvetydige sympatier" [Ambivalent sympathies] in *Klassekampen* 18.10.08

Lægdene, O., H. Årsvoll, K. Frigstad, T. Misje, A. Renland, ML. Skilbrei, A. Brunovskis, M. Tveit: "Hva med ofrene?" [What about the victims?] in *Dagbladet* 21.06.08

Sollund, R. & ML. Skilbrei: "Ikke bare drittarbeid" [Not only dirty work] in *Dagbladet* 25.06.08

Skilbrei, ML.: "Klisjeer om sexsalg" [Clichés about selling sex] in *Klassekampen* 20.10.07

Skilbrei, ML.: "En mektig diskurs" [A powerful discourse] in *Klassekampen* 07.07.07

Skilbrei, ML. : "Arv som fortjent" [Deserved inheritance] in *Klassekampen* 02.06.08

Skilbrei, ML.: "Politikk og klasse" [Politics and class] in *Klassekampen* 28.04.07

Skilbrei, ML.: "Glemt om en uke?" [Forgotten in a week?] in *Dagbladet* 22.04.07

Skilbrei, ML. & C. Lied: "De elendige" [The miserable] in *Dagbladet* 29.09.06

Selected presentations

- 'The Development of Norwegian Prostitution Policies', paper at the workshop *Exploring And Comparing Prostitution Policy Regimes In Europe*, London 16-17 September 2010
- 'When Lilja Went to Washington: The Use of 'the Victim' for Promoting Political Change', paper at the conference *Representations of Prostitution, Sex Work and Sex trafficking between the 19th and 21st Centuries*, Exeter 9-10 September 2010
- 'Women, Others and Sexualities at the Margins', paper at the seminar *Gender and Sexuality at the Border*, Helsinki 4 May 2009
- 'Border problems – the Norwegian-Russian border', paper at the seminar *Passports and passing: everyday encounters with borders*, Manchester 15-16 May 2009
- 'Lagstiftning i nordiska kontexter – rättsliga förhållningssätt till prostitution i Norden', paper at the conference *Prostitution i Norden*, Stockholm 16-17 October 2008
- 'Becoming Economic Agents and Assets: Interpreting Prostitution-Related Migration', paper at the SKOK/GAD-seminaret *Gendered Economies: Markets, Moralities and Informalities in a Globalized World*, Bergen 4-5 September 2008
- Organized the seminar *Conceptualising trafficking* with guest lectures by Julia O'Connell Davidson and Rutvica Andrijasevic, Oslo 23 May 2008
- 'Eastern European sex workers opposing discourse', paper at *14. Nordiske migrasjonskonferanse*, Bergen 14-16 November 2007
- 'Boss or pimp? Setting the boundary between autonomous workers and exploited prostitutes', paper at *Gender, Work and Organization's 5th International Interdisciplinary Conference*, Keele 28 June 2007

- Guest lectures on prostitution and trafficking at the University of Tallinn, 2-4 May 2007
- 'Eastern European sex workers opposing discourse', guest lecture at *Exploring diversity* seminar at the International Migration and Ethnic Relations at the University of Bergen, 27 April 2007
- Hosted a seminar on female migration and prostitution at Fafo with visiting lecturer Thanh-Dan Thuong, Oslo 19 February 2007
- 'Conflicting perspectives on what the problem with trafficking is', paper at *Fafo's Jubilee conference*, Oslo 16 February 2007
- Presented a paper and chaired a session on female migration at the *Congress of the Norwegian Sociology Association*, Skeikampen 26 January 2007
- 'Globalisering og prostitusjon: Hjemme, borte, uavgjort?', key note at *Centre for Women's Studies and Gender Research's jubilee conference*, Oslo, 5 September 2006
- Paper at seminar *Feminisme og multikulturalisme: Interseksjonalitet – et nyttig og nødvendig begrep?* [*Feminism and multiculturalism: Intersectionality – a fruitful and necessary concept?*], hosted by *Centre for Women's Studies and Gender Research*, Oslo 6 February 2006
- 'Making use of motherhood', lecture at the PhD-course *Intersectional analysis*, Ålborg 19 January 2006
- 'Defining trafficking through empirical work', paper at the conference *New forms of slavery*, Hull 24 November 2006
- Chaired session and presented paper at conference *Gender and Violence: power, resistance and challenges for the future*, Gothenburg, 10-12 June 2005
- Paper presented at conference *Housework: Labour, consumption, agency*, Rosendal 28 May 2004
- Paper presented at seminar *Myter om integrasjon* [*Myths on integration*] hosted by ISF, Oslo 6 May 2004
- 'Nordic prostitution control: past and present, reasons and consequences', paper the Nordic council's theme meeting on the expansion of EU, *The Northern Dimension*, Helsinki 15 April 2004.
- 'Nordic prostitution control – a comparison', presented paper and chaired a session on prostitution at *Crime and Crime Control in an Integrating Europe*, Helsinki 30 August 2003
- 'Nordic Prostitution Control: Far Away, so Close', lecture at the conference *Prostitution Control and Globalization*, Oslo 5 September 2003
- 'Kan svarte menn vaske? [Can black men clean?]' paper at the conference *Kjønnsmakt i Norden* [*Gendered power in the Nordic countries*], Oslo 12-13 June 2003
- Key note on the closing conference for the NFR programme *Kjønn i endring* [*Gender in Transition*], Oslo 21 March 2002
- 'Power and gender in professional cleaning', paper at the *Work, Employment and Society* conference *Winning and Losing in the New Economy*, Nottingham 11-13 September 2001
- 'Massage parlour prostitution', paper *Stakes Research-Meeting on Prostitution*, Helsinki 7-11 April 1997
- Chaired a workshop on hiv/aids prevention in prostitution and presented a paper at *Hiv/aids and Social Work. Living Conditions, Human Rights and Ethics*, Copenhagen 16-18 August 1995
- 'Hiv/aids prevention among women in prostitution', paper at the conference *Women's Worlds*, Tromsø 20-26 June 1999
- 'Hiv/aids-prevention among women working in massage parlour prostitution', paper at the conference *International trade in women*, Gothenburg 10-11 June 1994