

Valdís Björt Guðmundsdóttir

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Profile

I am an anthropologist by education, with a background in both social and biological anthropology. My interests include feminism, inclusion, care, transnationalism, human evolution, multiculturalism and applied anthropology.

Education

2023 – M.Phil in Biological Anthropology, University of Iceland

- Thesis: “Characterizing intra-chromosomal homologous recombination on the human Y chromosome: An examination of amplicon copy number variation and gene conversion activity”

2015–2023 – PhD studies in Biological Anthropology, University of Iceland

2009–2012 – MA in Social Anthropology, University of Iceland

- Thesis: “It´s not just about obedience”: Identity formation amongst Muslim women in Iceland

2003–2007 – BA in Social Anthropology, University of Iceland

Work Experience

2025- **University of Iceland/ Nordforsk**

Researcher in the project, “Who Takes Care of the Elderly When We Leave? Negotiating Care in Transnational Families in the Nordic-Baltic Region and Beyond.

2024– **Drafnarsteinn Kindergarten**

Multicultural Project Manager

Jan–Aug 2024 Drafnarsteinn Kindergarten

Special Education Teacher

2024 School of Business, University of Iceland

Project Manager at Húsnæði.is, a platform providing access to Icelandic and international housing information.

2024–2025 Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Folkloristics, University of Iceland

Professor's Assistant

Spring 2024– Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Folkloristics, University of Iceland

Part-time Lecturer in Anthropology

2023–2024 Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Folkloristics, University of Iceland

Research Assistant for Dr. Kristín Loftsdóttir

2015–2022 Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Folkloristics, University of Iceland

Part-time Lecturer in Biological Anthropology

2013–2023 deCODE Genetics

Doctoral Candidate and Research Assistant

2011–2012 Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Folkloristics, University of Iceland

Research Assistant for Dr. Unnur Dís Skaptadóttir

2001–2011 Klambrar Kindergarten

Educator, Group Leader, and Substitute Classroom Headteacher

Publications (optional)

Guðmundsdóttir, V.B. (2023). Characterizing intra-chromosomal homologous recombination on the human Y chromosome: An examination of amplicon copy number variation and gene conversion activity. (M.Phil). University of Iceland.

Guðmundsdóttir, V.B. et al. The rate and nature of gene conversion in the human Y chromosome palindromic regions. (Unpublished manuscript)

Lucotte, E.A., **Guðmundsdóttir, V.B.**, et al. (2023). Characterizing the evolution and phenotypic impact of ampliconic Y chromosome regions. Nature Communications.

Ebenesersdóttir, S. S., Sandoval-Velasco, M., Gunnarsdóttir, E. D., et al. (2018). Ancient genomes from Iceland reveal the making of a human population. Science, 360(6392), 1028–1032. DOI

Helgason, A., Einarsson, A. W., **Guðmundsdóttir, V. B.**, et al. (2015). The Y-chromosome point mutation rate in humans. Nature Genetics, 47(5), 453–457. DOI

Jagadeesan, A., Ebenesersdóttir, S. S., **Guðmundsdóttir, V. B.**, et al. (2021). HaploGrouper: A generalized approach to haplogroup classification. Bioinformatics, 37(4), 570–572. DOI

Guðmundsdóttir, V.B. (2020). Gæta þarf jafnræðis milli ólíkra fjölskyldugerða. [eng. Ensuring equality among different family structures.] Heimildin. Gæta þarf jafnræðis milli fjölskyldugerða - Heimildin

Jagadeesan, A., Gunnarsdóttir, E. D., Ebenesersdóttir, S. S., **Guðmundsdóttir, V.B.**, et al. (2018). Reconstructing an African haploid genome from the 18th century. Nature Genetics, 50(2), 199–205. DOI

Þórunn Þórhallsdóttir, Nanna Hlín Halldórsdóttir, Guðrún Heiður Ísaksdóttir, **Guðmundsdóttir, V.B.**, et al. (2013). Innvols. Útúr.

Guðmundsdóttir, V.B. (2012). “Þetta er ekki bara hlýðni” : sjálfsímyndarsköpun múslímakvænna. [eng. “This is not just obedience” - Identity formation of Muslim women.] (MA Thesis). University of Iceland. **Guðmundsdóttir, V.B.** (2007).

Fémínismi á að vera hættulegur. [eng. Feminism should be dangerous.] Morgunblaðið.

Skills

- Fluent in English, both written and spoken
- Can read Danish
- Holds a high school diploma in German and French
- Some knowledge of Spanish, though a bit rusty

- Methodology: I have extensive research experience and expertise in applying both qualitative and quantitative methodologies.
- Tools: I have a strong foundation in Microsoft programs such as Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Access, as well as Python, Bash, and RStudio. I have used these programs daily in my research work over the past years.

Additional

Volunteer Work

2017 : Volunteer at "Girls Rock"

2015 : Volunteer at Konukot Women's Shelter

2009 : Archaeological excavation volunteer in Tunisia

2012 : Member of the Executive Board of the Radical Summer School, also gave lectures (2011; 2012).

Numerous articles for newspapers and the magazine Róstur