

My university training is in biology and geology at the State University of Groningen, The Netherlands (1979-1985). After my MSc (marine biology and actuopaleontology) I accepted a position as research assistant at the University of Tübingen (Germany). In 1991 I received my Doctor of Science with a thesis "On the biology of tropical spinose Globigerinidae (Sarcodina, Foraminiferida) and its implications for paleoecology" at the State University of Groningen (The Netherlands). In 1993 I moved to the Alfred-Wegener Institute for polar and marine research (AWI) as a post-doc where I initiated the interdisciplinary Carbon Working Group. After a two-years post-doc at the department of geology at the University of Bremen (1997-1999), I was offered a permanent position at the AWI. The Carbon Working Group became the section Marine Biogeosciences and this is where I still am. In 2004 I became adjunct professor of marine geosciences at the International University Bremen (Jacobs University Bremen as of spring 2007).

My research interests focus on process-oriented studies of the incorporation of isotopes and (trace) elements ("proxies") into biogenic carbonates, biomineralisation, global biogeochemical cycles (specifically the carbon cycle) and processes of modern and past climate change.

I am currently President of the Biogeosciences division at EGU and editor of the EGU open access journal "Biogeosciences". I am coordinator of several EU, EGS, bi-national and national projects and serve on several national and international scientific committees and programmes dealing with biogeology, paleoceanography, modern and past climate and global change in research, training and outreach (member of the Council, the Programme Committee and the Outreach Committee of the EGU and chair of the Scientific Committee of the ESF "Euroclimate" programme)