

Curriculum Vitae

Alexander Zahl-Thanem

Ruralis – Institute for Rural and Regional Research.

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Name: Alexander Zahl-Thanem
Birth: 10.05.1989
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Formal Education

- 2025 PhD in Sociology, Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), Trondheim. PhD thesis topic: '*Place of origin and educational choices: Social and spatial inequalities among Norwegian youth*'.
- 2014 Master of Science in Sociology, Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), Trondheim.
- 2012 Bachelor in Social Science (Sociology), Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), Trondheim.

Employment record

- 2025- Researcher, PhD at Ruralis – Institute for Rural and Regional Research.
- 2020-2025 PhD-student / Researcher III at Ruralis – Institute for Rural and Regional Research.
- 2017-2020 Researcher III at Ruralis – Institute for Rural and Regional Research.
- 2015-2017 Research assistant at Ruralis – Institute for Rural and Regional Research.
- 2015-2015 Consultant at Sosiologisk poliklinikk.

Publications

Peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters

- PREP **Zahl-Thanem, A.** Place and Prestige: Spatial differences in perceived educational status hierarchies in Norway. For submission to Scandinavian Journal of Educational Research, 2026.
- PREP **Zahl-Thanem, A.** Fuglestad, M., Mamonova, N. and Graziano, M. Does rural discontent fuel populism? Evidence from Norway. For submission to Regional Studies, 2026.
- PREP Burton, R.J.F., and **Zahl-Thanem, A.**, Exploring the changing social sustainability of agriculture in Norway through a biennial survey. For submission to Journal of Rural Studies, 2026.

- PREP **Zahl-Thanem, A.** and Farstad, M. Understanding agricultural land abandonment: Farm-level drivers and outcomes. For submission to Journal of Rural Studies.
- 2025 **Zahl-Thanem, A.** Understanding Rural Stayers. The influence of Definitions and Methods. *Sociologia Ruralis*. 65(2). DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1111/soru.12506>.
- 2025 **Zahl-Thanem, A.**, and Blekesaune, A. (2025). Social origin and educational choices: A comparison of rural and urban students' school track choices in Norway. *Acta Sociologica*. DOI: 10.1177/00016993241305615
- 2024 **Zahl-Thanem, A.**, and Rye, J.F. (2024). Spatial inequality in higher education: A growing urban-rural educational gap? *European Sociological Review*. 40(6), 1067-1081. DOI: 10.1093/esr/jcae015
- 2023 **Zahl-Thanem, A.** (2023). Ulikhet i høyere utdanning: Betydningen av klassebakgrunn, kjønn og bosted [Inequality in higher education: The importance of class, gender and place of origin]. In M. Villa, E. T. Valestrand og J. F. Rye (Eds.), *Migrasjon og mobilitet – handlinger, mønstre og forståelser i norsk sammenheng* (Chapter 3, pp. 59–79). Oslo: Cappelen Damm Akademisk.
- 2023 Heggem, R., Gjørund, G., **Zahl-Thanem, A.**, Brigham, M. (2023). Overweight children in rural Norway – Public health nurses' possibilities and limitations within national guidelines. *Rural and Remote Health*. 23: 7783. DOI: 10.22605/RRH7783
- 2022 Heggem, R. and **Zahl-Thanem, A.** (2022). Overweight and obesity among children in rural areas: The importance of culture. *Scandinavian Journal of Public Health*. DOI: 10.1177/14034948211037877.
- 2021 **Zahl-Thanem, A.**, Burton, J.F., and Vik, J. (2021). Should we use email for farm surveys? A comparative study of email and postal survey response rate and non-response bias. *Journal of Rural Studies*, 87: 352-360. DOI: 10.1016/j.jrurstud.2021.09.029.
- 2021 Farstad, M., and **Zahl-Thanem, A.** (2021). Social transparency in rural areas in Norway: Promoting or restraining the desire to stay? *European Countryside*. 59(4). DOI: <https://doi.org/10.2478/euco-2021-0032>
- 2021 Kragt, M.E., Burton, R. **Zahl-Thanem, A.**, and Otte, P. P (2021). Farmers' interest in crowdfunding to finance climate change mitigation practices. *Journal of Cleaner Production*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2021.128967>
- 2020 **Zahl-Thanem, A.**, Burton, J.F., Blekesaune, A., Haugen, M.S., and Rønningen, K. (2020). The impact of wolves on psychological distress among farmers in Norway. *Journal of Rural Studies*, 78: 1-11. DOI: 10.1016/j.jrurstud.2020.05.010
- 2020 Hansen, L., and **Zahl-Thanem, A.** (2020). 'Holdning for endring?' i Burton, R., Forbord, M., Fuglestad, E. M., and M. Ellingsen (ed.) *Etter Oljen – Vår Bioøkonomiske Framtid*. Oslo: Cappelen Damm, pp. 221-240.
- 2019 **Zahl-Thanem, A.**, and Haugen, M.S. (2019): Attitudes toward immigrants in rural Norway. A rural-urban comparison. *Sociologia Ruralis*, 59: 685-700. DOI:.

Doctoral thesis

- 2025 **Zahl-Thanem, A.** *Place of origin and educational choices: Social and spatial inequalities among Norwegian youth* [Doctoral thesis]. Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), Trondheim

Reports and other non-peer-reviewed publications over the last five years

- 2026 Mittenzwei, K., Forbord, M., Færaas, V., **Zahl-Thanem, A.**, Sand, R. & Haugset, A. S. Målrettet, effektiv og fleksibel: Evaluering av tilskudd til investering og bedriftsutvikling i landbruket. [Targeted, Efficient and Flexible: An Evaluation of Investment and Business Development Grants in Agriculture]. Ruralis, R-3/26
- 2026 **Zahl-Thanem, A.**, Akin, D. & Bratrud, T. (2026). Fra byliv til klyngetun? Bybefolkningens bosteds- og boligpreferanser ved flytting til distriktskommuner [From urban life to cluster farmsteads? Urban residents' housing and location preferences when moving to rural municipalities]. Ruralis, R-1/26.
- 2025 **Zahl-Thanem, A.** (2025). Bygdebefolkningens boligpreferanser i tidligere Neset kommune [Housing preferences of the rural population in the former Neset municipality]. N-5/25 – ISSN 2704-0216.
- 2024 **Zahl-Thanem, A.** & Stræte, E.P. (2024). Trender i norsk landbruk 2024 – Innlandet [Trends in Norwegian Agriculture 2024 – Innlandet]. Ruralis, R-5/24.
- 2024 **Zahl-Thanem, A.** & Melås, A. (2024). Trender i norsk landbruk 2024 – Dokumentasjonsrapport med frekvenser [Trends in Norwegian Agriculture 2024 – Documentation Report with Frequencies]. Ruralis, R-6/24.
- 2024 Stræte, E.P., Logstein, B., Melås, A., Mittenzwei, K., Winsvold, A., & **Zahl-Thanem, A.** (2024). Rekruttering av avløserer til jordbruket [Recruitment of Relief Workers in Agriculture]. R-1/24, ISSN 2704-0208.
- 2022 **Zahl-Thanem, A.** & Melås, A. (2022). Trender i norsk landbruk 2022. En nasjonal spørreundersøkelse blant bønder i Norge [Trends in Norwegian Agriculture 2022. A National Survey of Farmers in Norway]. R-10/22.
- 2022 **Zahl-Thanem, A.** & Stræte, E.P. (2022). Trender i norsk landbruk 2022. Regional rapport for Møre og Romsdal [Trends in Norwegian Agriculture 2022. Regional Report for Møre og Romsdal]. R-6/22, ISSN 1503-2035, Ruralis.
- 2022 **Zahl-Thanem, A.**, Ersfjord, E., Gjøsund, G., Heggem, R., Oldervoll, L., Plasil, L., & Brigham, M. (2022). Kommunitilpasset forebygging og behandling – Overvekt og fedme blant bygdebarn. Sluttrapport [Municipality-Adapted Prevention and Treatment – Obesity and Overweight Among Rural Children. Final Report]. R-3/22, ISSN 1503-2035, Ruralis.
- 2021 **Zahl-Thanem, A.**, Farstad, M., & Blekesaune, A. (2021). Lokalsamfunnsundersøkelsen 2021. Dokumentasjonsrapport med frekvenser [The Local Community Survey 2021. Documentation Report with Frequencies]. R-8/21, ISSN 1503-2035, Ruralis.
- 2020 **Zahl-Thanem, A.** & Melås, A. (2020). Trender i norsk landbruk 2020 [Trends in Norwegian Agriculture 2020]. R-2/20, ISSN 1503-2035, Ruralis.

Research projects (project role)

- 2025-2028 Locating and utilizing Norway's lost and underused agricultural land reserves (AGRILAND+) (**Work Package Leader**)
- 2024- The Local Community Survey (**Project Leader**)
- 2020- Trends in Norwegian Agriculture (**Project Leader**)
- 2025-2026 Housing development for vibrant rural communities and recruitment of qualified labour (**Project Leader**)
- 2025-2025 Rural population's housing preferences (**Project Leader**).

2023-2026	Agrisocial: Towards a socially sustainable green transition for agriculture and rural communities (Project Member) .
2023-2023	Rekruttering av avløsere og landbruksvikarar til jordbruket [Recruitment of Relief Workers and Agricultural Substitutes in Farming]. (Project Member) .
2020-d.d.	Geografisk ulikhet og mobilitet i Norge [Spatial Inequalities and Mobilities in Norway]. PhD Project.
2018-2020	Kommunetilpasset forebygging og behandling - overvekt og fedme blant bygdebarn (KOMPASS) [Municipality-Adapted Prevention and Treatment – Overweight and Obesity Among Rural Children] (Project Member) .
2017-2020	Beiteressurs, rovdyr og lokalsamfunn [Grazing Resources, Predators, and Local Communities]. (Project Member) .
2016-2017	Budsjettstøtte og oppnåelse av politiske mål for landbruket [Budget Support and the Achievement of Political Goals for Agriculture]. (Project Member) .
2016-2018	Rurale lokalsamfunn: mellom livskraft og utarming (RURSAM) [Rural Communities: Between Vitality and Depletion]. (Project Member) .
2015-2018	SALSA: Small Farms, Small Food Businesses and Sustainable Food Security. (Project Member) .
2015-2019	Landbruk og bønder i endring - mellom økonomi, politiske skift og grønne trender [Agriculture and Farmers in Transition – Between Economy, Political Shifts, and Green Trends]. (Project Member) .
2015-2017	Endringsstudier i Snøhettaområdet 2014-2017: Villrein, ferdsel og forvaltning [Change Studies in the Snøhetta Area 2014–2017: Wild Reindeer, Traffic, and Management]. (Project Member) .

Other professional experiences

2025-2027	Research Ethics Advisor at Ruralis.
2021-2025	Member of the user group for microdata.no, a platform for statistical analyses of population-wide register data. The role was to provide input and feedback on new features, methods, and variables.
2020-2025	Member of the research group ‘Migration and mobility’, which is a network and discussion arena for researchers at the Department of Sociology and Political Science, Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU).
2019-2024	External sensor, Research Methods in the Social Sciences (SOS1002), Bachelor’s Thesis in Sociology (2900), Justice, Social Inequality and Social Studies Education (MGLU2107). Department of Sociology and Political Science, Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU).
2020-	Reviewer for various national and international journals, including European Sociological Review, Acta Sociologica, and Utmark Journal.
2019	Member of the Local Organising Committee for the European Society for Rural Sociology (ESRS) Conference, Trondheim, June 2019.