Education and academic and other qualifications

M.A. from the University of Edinburgh (Scotland)

Professional activities

Writer and commentator

Work at national/local level

Journalist and radio and television broadcaster

For thirty years: part-time lecturer in Modern History at the University of Iceland

From 1988 until 2009: Chairman of the Federation of State and Municipal Employees in Iceland and member of the Executive Board of Nordic, European and global trade unions (NFS, ETUC, EPSU and PSI).

Member of Parliament in Iceland from 1995 to 2016

Ministerial posts including that of Minister of Interior.

Towards the end of parliamentary career, chaired the Constitutional and Supervisory Committee of the Icelandic Parliament.

Work at international level

Has been involved in various international activities, including for labour movement

Honorary associate of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe