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## **The spiritual Tolkien milieu : a study of fiction-based religion**

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# Curriculum Vitae

Markus Altena Davidsen was born 15 February 1981 in Aarhus, Denmark. He attended primary school at Svindinge Skole (1987-1993) and Mårslet Skole (1993-1997) and high school at Amtsgymnasiet i Odder (1997-2000) where he specialised in music and natural science. At Aarhus University, Davidsen obtained a BA in the Study of Religion and Supplementary Subject in Cognitive Psychology and Neuropsychology (2006) and an MA in the Study of Religion (2008). He spent the summer semester of 2007 at Karl-Ruprechts-Universität zu Heidelberg as an exchange student under the Erasmus programme and was awarded the Arenberg-Coimbra Group Prize for Erasmus Students in 2009 for demonstrating the added value of the exchange for his MA thesis. During his university studies, Davidsen worked as a deputy student counsellor (2005-2007) and as a tutor for the courses History of Religion, Introduction to the Study of Religion, Studium Generale (Philosophy of Science), and Religion and Modern Media (2005-2008). He was awarded a scholarship as an International PhD candidate by the Danish Council for Independent Research (Humanities), and in 2009 he began working on the project (originally entitled "Fictional Religions: The Morphology and Reception of Invented Religions embedded in Works of Fiction"), being an employee of Aarhus University, but situated and supervised at Universiteit Leiden. Since 2011, he has been employed by Universiteit Leiden also as a teaching associate, teaching BA and MA courses on sociology of religion and new religious movements/new age, and supervising BA and MA theses in these fields. He has been a board member of the Dutch Association for the Study of Religion (Nederlands Genootschap voor Godsdienstwetenschap) since 2009 and is currently (since 2012) the secretary of the association.