

Geir Arild Espnes, PhD, Professor of Public Health

Geir Arild Espnes is Professor of Public Health at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU). He founded and served as Director of the NTNU Center for Health Promotion Research and has held several academic leadership positions in public health and community medicine.

His research focuses on health promotion, salutogenesis, health literacy, community and rural health, and the development of health-promoting societies. A central theme throughout his work is how research-based knowledge can be translated into policy and practice – and how knowledge and experience from communities and practice can contribute to research and academic development.

Espnes has extensive international academic experience and has held academic and visiting positions at institutions including the Australian National University (ANU), the National University of Singapore (NUS), and Stanford University. He is actively involved in European and international collaboration in health promotion and public health.

Alongside his academic career, Espnes has extensive experience in politics, public governance and board-level leadership. He has served as Mayor of Oppdal and as a deputy representative to the Norwegian Parliament, and has held board positions in research and private-sector organisations, including NTNU Social Research and KLYV AS.

Bringing together experience from research, academic leadership, politics, local government and organisational governance, his work is particularly concerned with bridging academia, policy and practice to create health-promoting and sustainable communities where people live, work, learn and age.