

Research * Political Decision Making: Exploring how democracies cope with uncertainty (Rebekah Baglini & Michael Bang Petersen)

What is the role of interdisciplinary and social science research in navigating a global pandemic? Computational Linguist [Rebekah Baglini](#) & Political Psychologist [Michael Bang Petersen](#) ([Interacting Minds Centre](#)) have stopped by this week to talk about the HOPE project – the largest Danish social science research project on the COVID epidemic.

We unpack HOPE's interdisciplinary efforts to engage in data-gathering and rapid on-going analyses since the onset of the COVID pandemic in 2020 and explore how HOPE has navigated finding meaningful ways to interact and share their analyses with national authorities, media outlets, and the general public.

Topics and Resources mentioned in this episode:

[00:01:46] **Fieldwork in West Africa on Wolof (a Niger-Congo Language)**

Visit Rebekah Baglini's web page for further information:
<https://rbkh.net/fieldwork/>.

[00:03:20] **Research on “Consequences of being afraid of infections”**

For example: van Leeuwen, F., & Petersen, M. B. (2018). [The behavioral immune system is designed to avoid infected individuals, not outgroups](#). *Evolution and Human Behavior*, 39(2), 226-234.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.evolhumbehav.2017.12.003>

[00:03:35] **Research on the Muhammad Cartoon Crisis in Denmark**

[Overview of the Jyllands-Posten Muhammad crisis](#)
(Wikipedia Article)

Sniderman, P. M., Petersen, M. B., Slothuus, R., & Stubager, R. (2014). *Paradoxes of liberal democracy: Islam, Western Europe, and the Danish cartoon crisis*. Princeton University Press.

Sniderman, P. M., [Petersen, M. B.](#), [Slothuus, R.](#), [Stubager, R.](#), & Petrov, P. (2019). [Reactions to Terror Attacks: A Heuristic Model](#). *Political Psychology*, 40(S1), 245-258. <https://doi.org/10.1111/pops.12575>

[00:03:44] Research on Misinformation and Conspiracy Theories

Mus, M., [Bor, A.](#), & [Petersen, M. B.](#) (2022). [Do conspiracy theories efficiently signal coalition membership? An experimental test using the “Who Said What?” design](#). *PLOS ONE*, 17(3), [e0265211]. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0265211>

[00:05:58] Starting Point of the HOPE project

For a more complete overview of the starting points of the HOPE project, listen to the [COVID episode on “the Map” podcast](#).

[00:06:55] Centre for Humanities Computing (CHCAA)

A computational research laboratory and infrastructure located at the [Faculty of Arts, Aarhus University](#) Denmark. See their [website](#) for further information.

[00:10:00] [Regular HOPE Reports and Online Dashboard](#)

Twitter Interactive apps

For Danish tweets:

<https://webservice2.chcaa.au.dk/hope-twitter-analytics/da/>

For English tweets about Denmark and the pandemic:

<https://webservice2.chcaa.au.dk/hope-twitter-analytics/en/>

[00:23:47] Mette Frederiksen

Mette Frederiksen is the current Prime Minister of Denmark and has been the Leader of the Social Democrats political party since 2015.

[00:23:58] “Minkgate” Scandal

In 2020, Danish authorities mass-slaughtered Denmark’s herd of around 17 million minks in fear that animals infected with corona could transmit the virus to humans. A move that resulted in ca. 5000 jobs losses and turned out to be unlawful, as the government did not have the legal authority to order the culling.

For further details see this and related New York Times articles:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/12/09/world/europe/denmark-mink.html>

[00:24:10] **Misinformation on Face Masks**

[in Danish]

Kjaer, C. V., Johansen, N., Marjanovic, S. V., [Baglini, R. B.](#), & Adler-Nissen, R. (2022). [Misinformation, social status og latterliggørelse: en undersøgelse af danskeres spredning af og reaktioner på Covid-19 misinformation på Twitter](#). *Politica - Tidsskrift for politisk videnskab*, 54(2), 129-147.
<https://doi.org/10.7146/politica.v54i2.132521>

Johansen, N., Marjanovic, V. S., Kjaer, V. C., Baglini, R. B., & Adler-Nissen, R. (2022). Ridiculing the “tin foil hats:” Citizen responses to COVID-19 misinformation in the Danish facemask debate on Twitter. *Harvard Kennedy School (HKS) Misinformation Review*. <https://doi.org/10.37016/mr-2020-93>

[00:46:20] **Article on Peer Review**

Parsons, C. E., & Baglini, R. B. (2021). Peer review: the case for neutral language. *Trends in Cognitive Sciences*, 25(8), 639-641.

[If you can't be kind in peer review, be neutral](#)

[00:46:40] **[ROPH Research Group](#)**

Learn more about the HOPE project, Rebekah Baglini, and Michael Bang Petersen

- Hope [Project Webpage](#)

Rebekah Baglini ([Twitter](#))

- [Personal Webpage](#)
- [University Research Page](#)
- [A Computational Linguist with HOPE](#) [Blog Post]

Michael Bang Petersen ([Twitter](#))

- [University Research Page](#)
- [The Map: A podcast about morality and politics With Michael Bang Petersen and Oliver Scott Curry](#)
- [COVID lesson: trust the public with hard truths](#) [Blog Post]