

Abstracts

War Studies – an introduction

Sten Rynning, professor,
Department of Political Science,
University of Southern Denmark and
head of Center for War Studies,
sry@samf.sdu.dk

War Studies is a sixty-year-old research tradition offering great insights into pressing societal concerns, namely the changing character of war and armed conflicts. It is a puzzle, therefore, that the tradition is so poorly rooted in great parts of Europe, including in Denmark and the Nordic region. This introduction will examine this puzzle and offer an assessment of the advantages and strengths of War Studies. The root of the puzzle is a societal, normative wish to engage peace rather than war and also the academic community's ambition to construct grand theory, which inevitably must build on abstract assumptions. War Studies goes beyond such normative and scientific constraints to understand war. War Studies explores the complexity of human action as well as the weight of history, thus inviting a dialogue between distinct disciplines for the purpose of generating knowledge of relevance to society. With this introduction the scene is thus set for this special issue's War Studies assessment of Danish foreign policy activism.

Law as a part of an activism foreign policy at sea

Birgit Feldtmann, associate professor,
Department of Law, Aalborg University,
bfe@law.aau.dk

Denmark has between 2008 and 2016 been rather active in counter-piracy efforts in the Horn of Africa region. Counter-piracy is conducted by military forces, however, from a legal point of view it has nothing to do with "war" in a legal sense, as it is an issue of law enforcement at sea. The legal framework for counter-piracy is set in the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) which on the one hand defines what piracy is in international law, and on the other hand gives states a variety of counter-piracy tools (such as the right to boarding, search, seizure etc.). Other international regulations and UN Security Council resolutions supplement the counter-piracy legal framework created by UNCLOS and add further to the counter-piracy "toolbox". In its sum, international law provides at solid basis for counter-piracy operations. However, the understanding and interpretation of this legal frame work and its use under specific counter-piracy operations has been one of the hot issues on the international agenda. The article takes its star-

ting point in the legal debate in connection with the counter-piracy efforts in the Horn of Africa region and discusses the role Denmark chose to play in this context. Denmark chose an activism-approach, which in particular became clear by taking the chair of the *Working Group 2 on Legal Issues of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS)*.

After Taksøe – Danish Military Activism as Interest Policy

Jon Rahbek-Clemmensen,
assistant professor, ph.d.,
Center for War Studies,
University of Southern Denmark,
jrc@sam.sdu.dk

One of the many purposes of the War Studies tradition is to study the assumptions and processes behind foreign and security decision-making in order to strengthen the public debate about these issues. The present article illustrates the critical potential inherent in the War Studies tradition by unpacking the assumptions underpinning Denmark's military activist foreign policy, especially how the concept of national interest is used in Peter Taksøe-Jensen's 2016 foreign policy review. The analysis shows that the Danish military activism is not necessarily in Denmark's narrow interest, as many of the advantages and disadvantages of the military activism rest on approximations or unavailable information. Denmark's official foreign policy interests are therefore not just the result of cold *Realpolitik* calculations or a wish to keep Denmark secure – they are shaped by specific values and a vision of world politics that are both contestable and political.

With Foreign Policy Activism follows Legal Activism

Marc Schack, ph.d., principal,
Ministry of Justice,
marc.schack@gmail.com

Throughout the past 25 years, Denmark has pursued a so-called “activist” foreign policy. The narrative surrounding this “activism” has provided a common frame of reference for Danish foreign policy actors and observers, which has shaped the public debate about Danish foreign policy. One element that has not received significant attention, however, but which should form a central part of this narrative, is the parallel policy of legal activism, which has enabled the activist foreign policy to unfold. This legal element is outlined and discussed in this article. By analyzing core legal questions relating to the use of armed force, which Denmark has had to deal with during the relevant period, the article points out the contours of this activist judicial trend. In this way, the article aims to introduce the legal dimension to the broader conversation about Danish foreign policy activism.

In Contact – A War Ballet: Dancing Danish Foreign Political Activism

Kathrin Maurer, associate professor,
Department for the Study of Culture,
Center for War Studies,
University of Southern Denmark,
kamau@sdu.dk

Three Danish veterans who have been deployed to Afghanistan during the last years dance with professional royal ballet dancers in the show “In Contact – A War Ballet” at the Royal Theater in Copenhagen in 2014. The ballet performance shows the soldiers' stories about the war, performs their trau-

matic experiences in dance formations, and visualizes their struggles with their wounded bodies. Focusing on this war ballet this article discusses the cultural and aesthetic aspects of Denmark's new foreign political activism: How do theater institutions, audiences, and critics react to Denmark's war policy? Is the distant war already a part of Denmark's cultural self-understanding? Which gaze can art provide on war? How does the performance echo key issues of the political debates about the new Danish foreign political activism? In finding answers to these questions, this contribution will focus on the representation of emotions, individuality, and the role of art.

Soldiers, Statesmen, and Leadership in an Activist Foreign Policy

Jacob Barfoed, Ph.d., major,
Department of Military Operations,
The Academy of Defence,
jacob.barfoed@gmail.com

The article argues that well-functioning Danish civil-military relations in the context of the activist foreign policy should be measured on: 1) the degree of civilian control; 2) whether the military can accomplish its given mission; and 3) whether the government prepares a proposal for an overall strategy with accompanying military strategy for the given conflict, in order to *contribute* to the coalition/alliance strategy and to *identify* whether that serves the politically defined Danish interests.

This is achieved through the establishment of *the Unequal Dialogue*, which is characterized by active political leadership of the strategy-process and a continuous dialogue with the senior military leadership with a focus on personal relations characterized by mutual trust and respect.

A case-study of the Gulf War 1990-91 concludes that Denmark only achieved well-functioning civil-military relations on the first two parameters. The article argues this can be explained by a significant departure from *the Unequal Dialogue's* prescriptions.

“Let me see your war face”: The Americanization of Denmark's new war in film and literature

Thomas Ærvold Bjerre, associate professor,
American Studies,
Department for the Study of Culture,
Center for War Studies,
University of Southern Denmark,
th.bjerre@sdu.dk

Denmark's new active foreign policy era has been thoroughly depicted in the arts. This article examines some of the first artistic representations of Denmark's active participation in Afghanistan and Iraq. Janus Metz's documentary *Armadillo* (2010) and the novels *Tango 4* (2008) by Niels Ole Qvist and *Jeg er en hær [I am an Army]* (2010) by Lars Husum. I propose that the lack of a Danish war film tradition has Metz draw on recognizable themes and a visual aesthetics from American war films. This tendency is also apparent in the two novels. The authors describe some of the Danish soldiers as saturated by romantic macho traditions from American war films. These early Danish representations of Denmark's role in Afghanistan and Iraq, then, are characterized by a transatlantic discourse, one that tells us as much about director and authors as it does about the reality for deployed Danish soldiers.

**The War Studies Tradition
(at University of Southern Denmark):
What, How and Now What?**

Peter Viggo Jakobsen, associate professor,
Academy of Defence and professor,
Center for War Studies,
University of Southern Denmark,
peja@fak.dk

This article does three things: It defines the War Studies tradition on the basis of the multi-disciplinary understanding outlined in the introduction to this special issue. Then it establishes four conditions that scholars working within the War Studies tradition have to meet in order to make a difference to the study of war. I then apply this measuring rod to the articles in this volume concluding that they do make a scholarly difference, because they all develop and answer multi-disciplinary research questions. This said, the researchers working at the Center for War Studies at the University of Southern Denmark would make an even greater difference, if they took their activities to the next level by developing interdisciplinary integrated teaching modules and research questions. This would enable them to generate research projects that differed much more from the ones generated within the existing disciplines.

**Review Article:
The Sharing Economy in Denmark**

Malthe Mikkel Munkøe, Senior consultant,
Confederation of the Danish Enterprise,
mmm@danskerhverv.dk

The sharing economy has garnered increasing attention in recent years among political and business actors. This article contributes to our understanding of these developments in two ways. First, the article presents the findings of a large-scale quantitative research project that has compiled data on sharing economy users in the Danish populace. One central result is that usage is most prevalent among young urbanites, but conversely, the use of sharing economy services is also by no means solely confined to this sociodemographic group. Taking the conclusion that sharing economy services have become relative common across the population, the article discusses the regulatory and legal challenges and questions that stem from the rise of sharing economy services.