

# Abstracts

## **What lies behind the career politician? From bureaucratic to technocratic professionalization of politics**

Anders Esmark, associate professor,  
Department of Political Science,  
University of Copenhagen, ae@ifs.ku.dk

The article analyzes the professionalization of politics represented by the career politician. This approach initially follows Weber's classical analysis of the rise of the professional politician as an expression of the bureaucratization of the political system. However, the article argues for a pervasive shift in the logic of professionalization from *bureaucratization* to *technocratization*. This transition has crucial implications for the key question behind the educational background and career track of the professional politician: how is it possible to maintain the 'unprofessional' politics of the called politician in response to advancing professionalization? Both bureaucratic and technocratic dominance of the political system represent problems in this respect, but the latter has substantially modified and radicalized this challenge, which is a key reason for the current advance of populism.

## **From "politician" to "policy professional" – An analysis of Danish politicians' career tracks after their tenure in parliament, 1981-2015**

Mark Blach-Ørsten, professor (mso),  
Department of Communication and Art,  
University of Roskilde, oersten@ruc.dk

Ida Willig, professor (mso),  
Department of Communication and Art,  
University of Roskilde, idaw@ruc.dk

Leif Hemming Pedersen, external lecturer,  
Department of Communication and Art,  
University of Roskilde, Roskilde Universitet,  
hemming@ruc.dk

In 1996, Danish politician Erling Olsen pointed out that more politicians were leaving the parliament to work as lobbyists. In the international literature, this traffic is described as a "revolving door" between politics and lobbyism. Swedish studies describe the development as an increasing marketization of political knowledge and emphasizes that the revolving door not only works between politics and the PR industry, but also in relation to positions in think tanks, unions and interest organizations. This article presents the results of a study of Danish politicians' career paths after leaving

the Danish parliament. The study shows that the vast majority of politicians who left politics in the period from 1981 to 2015 found employment outside the fields associated with the revolving door phenomenon. However, the study also identifies a limited market for political knowledge. In this market, knowledge of the political system and access to the political system are sought after qualities.

### **The Career Turned Upside Down? The Impact of Seniority for Achieving Political Leadership Position in the Danish Parliament**

Flemming Juul Christiansen,  
associate professor, Department of  
Social Sciences and Business,  
University of Roskilde, fjc@ruc.dk

This article investigates the impact of seniority in the Danish parliament for achieving leadership positions inside the parliamentary party groups or as government ministers, and whether a change has occurred over time. Theoretically, seniority is expected to be associated with the build-up of relevant resources to achieve leadership but due to broader societal changes, other resources may also have become important, and age a disadvantage. 1575 MPs are studied after nine general elections between 1953 and 2015. Seniority is not only measured in absolute time values but also relatively within each party group. The results show that seniority both previously and today has a great impact on achieving political leadership positions, also with control for other variables. However, the impact of seniority was reduced after 1970. Before the 1970s chance of leadership increased with seniority, also after many years, whereas thereafter the likelihood increases until after 16 to 20 years, and thereafter declines. Throughout the period, the likelihood of achieving leadership positions decreases with age for MPs at same seniority level.

### **Candidate Recruitment in Political Parties**

Karina Kosiara-Pedersen, Ph.d.,  
associate professor, Department of Political  
Science, University of Copenhagen,  
kp@ifs.ku.dk

Asmus Harre, BA scient.pol., student  
assistant, Department of Political Science,  
University of Copenhagen,

Political parties dominates candidate nomination in the Danish representative democracy, and recruitment mainly takes place within party organizations. The first step on the ladder of recruitment, that is, getting a membership card, is to a larger extent taken by men, older, longer educated, higher income. They place themselves more to the extreme on the left-right dimension, and they have a higher degree of political interest and efficacy. A fifth of the party members indicate that they are willing to stand for election if encouraged by their party. Among members, men are more likely to be a potential candidate. However, education and income does not matter, and younger members are more likely. This applies that the representativeness is not skewed to a larger extent on all parameters. Potential candidates disagree more with their party, and have a larger degree of political interest and efficacy.

### **Party Change in the Danish Parliament, 1953-2015**

Marie Kaldahl Nielsen, PhD-student,  
Department of Political Science, University  
of Aarhus, mariekaldahl@ps.au.dk

Helene Helboe Pedersen, associate  
professor, Department of Political Science,  
University of Aarhus, helene@ps.au.dk

Legislative party switching is controversial because it challenges the electoral contract

made between voters and representatives. Party switching also potentially changes the balance of power between legislative parties without involving a democratic election. This article offers the first systematic investigation of legislative party switching in Denmark. It presents new data collected on party switching in the Danish national parliament from 1953 to 2015. The article shows that party switching is rare in Denmark. Only 72 party switches are registered. But the number of party switches is on the rise. The article also shows that party switching tends to be associated with costs for the party switcher in terms of re-election. Finally, the article argues, that a limited number of party switches –as witnessed in Denmark- can be interpreted as a democratic strength rather than a democratic weakness of the system, as it provides a guard against unlimited party leadership control.

### **Mayor for Life?**

Ulrik Kjær, professor,  
Department of Political Science,  
University of South Denmark,  
ulk@sam.sdu.dk

Niels Opstrup, postdoc.,  
Department of Political Science,  
University of South Denmark,  
nop@sam.sdu.dk

The Danish mayors' political careers are described based on a dataset including all mayors who have been in office between 1970 and the most recent election in 2013. It is demonstrated that even though many mayors have a quite long tenure in mayoral office a considerable number of mayoralities are won and lost at each local election. And the trend is that more mayors are facing elec-

toral defeat today compared to a few decades ago. Since the average mayoral career is approximately ten years long, the job as mayor is in most cases not for life. The mayoral careers are not interconnected to the political career at the national level – very few mayors combine their local office with being a MP. However, after the latest local elections of 2013 a small increase in the numbers of MPs pursuing a mayoral career was observed.

### **If the PM neglects his office**

Tim Knudsen, professor emeritus in political science, tk@ifs.ku.dk

Peter Heyn Nielsen, cand.scient.pol.,  
author and assistant professor, pehn@ucc.dk

Poul Smidt, journalist, author,  
PoulSmidt@hotmail.dk

There may be many reasons and possibilities for a Prime Minister to neglect his office. Two former Danish Prime Ministers have been suspected to suffer from mental illness, which may have affected their work during their time in office. This article examines the latest of these two cases, i.e. Viggo Kampmann (PM 1960-62). It is concluded that contrary to rumors there has never been presented medical evidence for mental illness during Kampmann's premiership. Nevertheless, there were certain irregularities in 1961, although he managed to carry out most central duties related to his office. No one seriously intervened to bring the irregularities to end. Not even the permanent secretary in the PMO. It is highly recommended that the modern PMO should improve its capabilities to guide and even intervene if the PM neglects or misconducts his office.