

Abstracts

City Diplomacy

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While international research on city-diplomacy has developed rapidly, Danish research in the area has been almost non-existent for over twenty years. In the meantime, Danish city diplomacy has become professionalized; it is being executed in the form of co-creation projects; it is more often than not considered to be a necessity, particularly on areas where the state has been unable to govern effectively; it is typically directed at the economic benefits that can be derived from international cooperation; and sometimes the local municipality can obtain considerable visibility, recognition and legitimacy by way of effective city diplomacy. It seems as if time has come to reintroduce research in Danish city diplomacy.

No city is an island: understanding ‘city diplomacy’ in context

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Apart from a short historical period of time which we can refer to as the “Westphalian moment”, cities have traditionally played a considerable political role in relation to other governance authorities. Today we live in an urban age in which cities and a whole range of other actors play important roles on the international political arena. However, we should be wary of analyzing cities as self-contained islands. City diplomacy should be studied in its complex political context. This means that cities are sometimes better studied as brokers and catalysts for a varied group of private actors’ interests. In some cases, i.e. when private businesses and civil society groups initiate and implement city diplomacy, it even makes sense to argue that city diplomacy has become privatized. On many occasions, cities take part in complex and opaque transborder governance networks thereby challenging our understanding of cities’ political accountability and democratic

legitimacy. Who is in charge when cities engage in diplomatic practice?

The European Interest Representation of Local Government Denmark

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This article describes why and how Local Government Denmark (KL) seeks to handle the interests of Danish municipalities at the European level. The article shows the impact of the EU on the agendas of the municipal councils, describes KL's political and secretarial setup regarding European issues, and offers an insight to KL's prioritization regarding EU affairs, as well as the European forums used in the safeguarding of interests. Here, the European Committee of the Regions is a focal and starting point. The Committee of the Regions is part of the institutional decision-making process in EU, where KL has six members. Finally, it describes how KL is gaining inspiration through informal networks with the other Nordic municipalities and through the task solution of other countries.

Copenhagen EU Office in Brussels

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What encourages municipalities, universities and a region to establish a joint representation in Brussels? Since 2015, Copenhagen EU Office has been the joint EU representation

of the Capital Region of Denmark, the municipalities in the region, University of Copenhagen, Technical University of Denmark and Copenhagen Business School. Representation offices in Brussels have undergone major developments in recent years as the interest in engaging in EU affairs and activities has developed. The Copenhagen EU Office provides EU intelligence and advice on transnational project development. We help our partners apply for EU funding and benefit from internationalization. Our presence in Brussels and our international engagement in networks and partnerships foster economic growth and improve our partners' profile and competitiveness. The City of Copenhagen is an international city with a global agenda for development. The city uses the membership of the EU to contribute to European policy making and engages in transnational projects to enhance city development and economic growth.

The City Diplomacy of Aarhus Municipality as a Driver of Growth

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Globalization has given rise to the formation of a more web-based society, where global companies, civil society, universities and cities have growing influence on international relations and thus are compelled to play an active part in diplomatic work to secure growth and development. The strategic approach of the City of Aarhus to this new understanding of city diplomacy has after the financial crisis led to a number of new activities.

The article describes, firstly, how the new in-

ternational focus on especially the “second-tier cities” has meant a much more focused effort to create adequate frameworks for a better functioning city region, nationally and internationally. Secondly, this has led to a significant change in the approach to concrete international activities in a more business oriented perspective. Thirdly, the efforts by the city and the region to become more attractive and visible has gained more emphasis. The greatest initiative until now has been the appointment of Aarhus as the European Capital of Culture in 2017. Finally, the development has also seen the formulation of an internal strategy for internationalization for Aarhus through a specifically designed committee work.

Local Growth and Co-creation in International Perspective – Viborg Municipality’s International Activities 1945-2018

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The strong international focus of Viborg Municipality is an expression of political priorities. They include a broad spectrum of activities which expose the commercial, educational, cultural and sports institutions to challenges as well as considerable opportunities. Successful international activities are beneficial for Viborg Municipality but also for Denmark writ large. Today, based on more than 70 years of experience with international activities it is possible to highlight a few essential criteria for success. First, it is necessary to consider international work as a case of trust-based co-creation including all relevant actors in the municipality. Secondly, through a flexible organizational set-up, the local authorities help to coordinate the total sum of activities with a view to maintaining a long-term and stable effort. Finally, succes-

ful international work requires the existence of a deep-rooted pioneering spirit and risk-willingness among public administrators and local politicians alike.

Urban Connections. An Investigation of the Increasing Involvement of Cities in City Networks

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Cities are increasingly engaged in international relations through engagement in so-called Transnational Municipal Networks – network organizations that assemble cities across national and regional borders in order to initiate and support cooperation. In this article, we investigate *why* this kind of urban international engagement has become popular. We do that by mapping and comparing the activities of five different cities in two different networks – Eurocities and 100 Resilient Cities. Our analysis contributes to the existing literature on the field with two central findings: First, cities are able to shape and design their own participation and commitment to the networks we analyze. Secondly, participation is not solely based on a pure strategic and rational logic – cities are also participating in order to adapt to more diffuse international norms stipulating that cities are important political actors in modern international relations.

Borgmestre på den globale scene – en politisk stjerne er født

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Det kan virke kontraintuitivt, at borgmestre fra nogle af verdens største byer bruger tid på at deltage i og bidrage til internationalt samarbejde om blandt andet klimaudfordringen. De skal trods alt først og fremmest holdes ansvarlige over for deres lokale vælgere. Sagen er bare den, at et globalt bynetværk som C40 tilbyder disse borgmestre ressourcer i form af nye idéer, et fasttømret, eksklusivt og fortrøligt sammenhold af ligesindede og nogle konkrete løsninger, der kan anvendes direkte til at håndtere nogle af de akutte klimaudfordringer, som man oplever i de store byer. Dermed bidrager byer og deres bynetværk til at udfylde det styringstomrum som staterne har efterladt på klimaområdet.

Does inequality in Denmark rise according to the pattern unveiled by Piketty in Capital in the Twenty-First Century?

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Thomas Piketty unveils in his book *Capital in the Twenty-First Century* a pattern leading to continuously rising inequality among the early industrialized countries since 1980. Piketty's data did not involve Denmark and accordingly it has been discussed, since the publication of his book, whether his findings has any relevance for Denmark. This article presents the first systematic attempt to test whether Denmark follows the pattern driving up inequality towards the level of the 19th century. It is confirmed that this is indeed the case, although it should be noted that the rise in inequality started later in time, and began from a lower level, but now rises faster, than it is the case for the early industrialized countries in general. It is predicted that inequality in Denmark will continue to rise in the future at unchanged economic policies.