

# Abstracts

Dobbelt temanummer

## **Civic integration at Muslim free schools**

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Danish Muslim independent schools or "free schools" are increasingly the object of critical scrutiny by media, regulators and politicians. The social democratic government intends to withdraw public subsidy to – thereby effectively closing – schools with above 50 pct. "foreign origin" pupils. The assumption is that parents' rights to choose the manner of schooling for their children, in this case, should give way to concerns with civic integration and child autonomy, values, which are seen as jeopardised by the schools' religious ethos and/or de facto separation from children of non-Muslim origin. The article reports a recent comparative survey-study, backed by census data, of Muslim and non-Muslim ninth graders in both state schools and Muslim free schools. They indicate that Muslim children are no less well integrated than comparable children in state schools in terms of e.g., national identity, social and institutional trust, group bias, liberal values, political interest, and political efficacy.

## **When religion and culture interact with Danish tax law**

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This article analyses 37 Danish court cases, which reveal how a group of Muslims risk ending up in problematic tax situations when following certain practices from their religion or culture. These practices make it difficult for the necessary tax documentation to be gathered. Muslim taxpayers have argued that the tax authorities and courts should therefore apply a less strict requirement for tax documentation to Muslims than to other taxpayers. The article discusses and supports how the courts have handled these cases, but criticizes that tax authorities have in some cases used subjective terms that risk giving Muslims the perception that they are not treated neutrally. The article suggests a need for more information to taxpayers, their legal advisors, and tax authorities, so that these Muslims can receive better guidance on how to practice these traditions in ways that allow for the necessary tax documentation to be produced.

## **Muslims behind the screen: Danish Muslims' online communities**

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This article examines Danish Muslims' online communities on Facebook and identify four types: the activist political, the reactive reli-

gious, the pragmatic religious, and the charity-oriented communities. Features of each type is identified based on a content analysis of posts from the communities. An online questionnaire (N=80) and interviews with six of these respondents is used to identify the uses of each type of community. Additionally, the idea of "Muslim" as a primary dimension of identity for Muslim descendants and the priority given to the *ummah* rather than national belonging is examined. Most respondents relegate the religious dimension to the private sphere and the article concludes that the Facebook communities therefore constitute communities of interest rather than identity-bearing communities.

### The New Islam Debate: Generations Identity's Ideas and Methods

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In this article we show how the identitarian movement has renewed the political activism and the debate on Islam in Denmark. Historically, the immigrant critical and nationalist right wing has been critical towards not only immigration but also the European project. Generation Identity is different. For them, it is the common European identity that needs to be protected against Islam. Not because Islamic culture is inferior but because it does not belong in Europe. Additionally, the new debate is supplemented with activism inspired by the movements normally associated with the progressive left wing, i.e. happenings and use of banners. Finally, their goal is not only to encourage right wing political parties, but to change the very way we talk about immigration in society in general.

### The religious roots of the welfare state

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The basis of the analyses of the religious roots of the welfare state is three historic micro studies of cities with monasteries: Aalborg in Denmark and Lübeck and Passau in Germany. The cities all have a monastery of The Holy Ghost, which still is functioning. This enables an investigation of the role of the reformation for the everyday life of poor people. For all three cities I found the notion of the responsible or authoritative citizenship. The citizens in these three cities wanted to take responsibility of poor relief on their own and acted according to their own ideas. This has turned out to be a very important factor alongside with the religious ideas coming from the Christian charity as well as a critique of the consensus regarding the religious roots of the welfare state.

### The Faroe Islands Between Religious Revival and Secularization: The Origins of a Nordic Exception

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Contemporary politics in the Faroe Islands is characterized by cultural conflicts, where old norms are being challenged by new values and demands for recognition. This struggle is frequently triggered by debates on gay rights and sexual minorities that functions as a catalyst for an underlying conflict on the role of Christianity in Faroese politics, culture and society. Applying quantitative and comparative survey data, this article documents the degree to which the Faroe

Islands is an exception among the Nordic countries. Drawing on both the secularization paradigm and its critics, the article examines what socio-demographic factors are correlated with religious vitality and what specific historical processes may have paved the way for the growth of revivalist Protestant movements in the early 20th century. This historical period is crucial for understanding the Faroe Islands as a Nordic exception and contemporary political struggles in Faroese society.

### **From Herod to Pilate: The Interplay between Christianity, Business and Politics in the Faroe Islands' Paradiplomacy**

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Christianity plays a ubiquitous role in Faroese society. It is reflected on the political agenda both nationally and internationally. The current national government is dominated to a large extent by Christian-conservative forces that have led to the establishment of an official Faroese representation in Israel, while their foreign aid contributions indicate that the government wants to help the persecuted Christian minorities, which makes the Faroe Islands an outlier among the Nordic countries. Most recently, the Nordic Council has concluded that the Faroe Islands do not live up to the UN Convention on Women's Rights. Denmark as a foreign policy actor for the entire Danish Realm, should take a stand on the Faroe Islands' paradiplomatic activities.

### **The Paradiplomatic Corps – a study of an uncovered field of study**

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Regions' entry onto the diplomatic stage has created a new paradiplomatic layer below the classical diplomacy with distinct operating conditions. This problematizes the traditional understanding of diplomacy as well as the state-based actor conceptualization. Consequently, this increasingly important group of actors exist within a research gap. The article aims to illuminate this uncovered knowledge-field through elite interviews with the heads of five paradiplomatic representations in Copenhagen. We find that the paradiplomatic corps largely tries to emulate the classical diplomacy in terms of location, decor and organization. The primary goal of the paradiplomatic activity is to achieve increased autonomy. Due to differences in their maneuvering space, there is great variation in terms of paradiplomatic actors' opportunity to act. Strategically, this means that paradiplomatic actors do not always act in a traditional manner but are forced to deviate from the protocol and pursue unconventional activities.

### **Scotland's international relations in change: Scottish representation in Copenhagen**

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Scotland will establish an international representation in Copenhagen in 2022, but the question is what can be expected of it. Through interviews with Scottish representatives, we have examined how Scotland is represented as a subnational player in terms of their international representations. We use this knowledge to set qualified expectations for the upcoming representation in Copenhagen. Based on our data, we have developed a model called "The Scottish model of efficient paradiplomacy", which outlines the elements we find characteristic for Scottish paradiplomacy. In the future there will be both a British and Scottish representation in Copenhagen. In addition, we recommend that Denmark engages diplomatically with both representations and thus avoid taking a position in their complex mutual relationship

### **The world's greatest bike race is coming to Sønderborg – An event with international aim and local impact**

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This summer the first three stages of the world's greatest bike race, Tour de France, will take place in Denmark. A number of Danish municipalities have jointly and individually undertaken the task of attracting, planning and hosting these stages – and are responsible for the work it gives rise to. One of these municipalities is Sønderborg, which as the destination city for the third stage, has faced and continues to face a great deal of work with planning and coordination in terms of attracting and hosting the Tour de France event. We analyse this work on the basis of an assumption that Sønderborg Municipality acts as meta-governor, and in continuation of the analysis, we make a

number of recommendations that other Danish municipalities can use as guidelines in relation to attract and hosting international events.

### **Review Article: The Oresund region – an idling growth engine?**

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In Europe strong urbanization tendencies contribute to major cities' significant and increasing importance for the state economy. Cities have become engines for growth due to the area's concentrated economical activities which decreases commute time, increases corporate competition and increases the access to skilled labor. Metropolitan regions like Amsterdam, Berlin and the Oresund region consequently compete in order to attract an increasingly scarce skilled labor force and investments. We do not know much about the role of economic integration in these regions, therefore we have developed an integration-scale that measures the level of integration, which has been declining since 2008 and has reached the lowest level since 2005. In this article, we focus on the economic development and integration as well as the political events that have had an impact on the historical development of Denmark and Sweden's common metropolitan region – the Oresund region.

### **Review article: Copenhagen-Beijing – Exit, Voice or Loyalty?**

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Officially, the City of Copenhagen does not engage in foreign policy. However, the Danish cap-

ital's sister city agreement with Beijing leads the City Council into difficult considerations about values and interests in foreign policy. With a point of departure in an analysis of the historical drivers in sister city agreements and with a refer-

ence to experiences from the other Nordic capitals it is concluded that the City of Copenhagen has become an important player in Denmark's China Strategy.