



SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
AARHUS UNIVERSITET



2022

The Danish general election

List of experts

Department of Political Science
Aarhus University



RUNE STUBAGER

Professor of political science

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Stubager is a leading researcher on Danish parliamentary elections.

He co-heads the Danish National Election Study, which has provided data and analyses on all Danish parliamentary elections since 1971.

He has extensive knowledge about Danish politics, the voters, the parties, the electoral system, government formation and the strength and weaknesses of Danish coalition governments.

Stubager has co-authored a book on the 2019 election as well as an English-language book on Danish voter behaviour over the 1971-2019 period. In this book, he describes the changing voter behaviour, including how Danish voters have become less loyal to parties, less trusting in politicians and increasingly polarised both socially and geographically (although still clearly less so than in other countries).

Stubager's most recent research focuses on class consciousness, which still exists despite the welfare state and high level of equality in Denmark.

In the upcoming election, Stubager will be paying attention to voter behaviour driven by sympathies for social groups, including social classes, and urban and rural voters. He will also look into the importance of voter trust in politicians in light of the so-called mink scandal.

**HELENE HELBOE PEDERSEN****Professor of political science**

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Pedersen's research focuses on political parties and politicians.

Her research interests include intra-party politics, coalition formation, party discipline and political representation.

Pedersen leads a research project on changing styles of representation, RepStyle, which investigates personalization of legislative behaviour among Danish and British politicians. She is also engaged in a research project funded by the Danish parliament investigating the use of administrative authorization in Danish legislation.

In the 2019 election, Pedersen will pay attention to intra-party battles between competing candidates running for the same party and to parties' position taking important for the following coalition formation process.

**JØRGEN ELKLIT****Professor Emeritus of political science**

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Elklit's research focuses on Danish elections, the development of electoral systems and election administration.

He has been an advisor to the Danish Parliament and the electoral authorities on electoral system and administration issues, and he has recently co-authored a book about the Danish parliamentary election law and best practices for administering the law.

For several decades, Professor Elklit has also been consulting and advising on democratisation and development of electoral systems abroad, particularly in emerging democracies. The list of countries where he has been active includes South Africa, Kenya, Lesotho, Tanzania, Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Nepal and China.

Elklit has been involved in an international research project concluding that Denmark is consistently either the top performer or the runner-up when comparing election administration and election conduct around the world.

Professor Elklit now lives in Sweden.

**RASMUS BRUN PEDERSEN****Associate Professor of political science
(international relations)**

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Pedersen is an expert on Danish foreign and security politics, EU politics and diplomacy.

His research focuses on European policy in Denmark (including Danish opt-outs from EU cooperation) and the country's relation to the USA.

He has conducted research on Denmark's global engagement, e.g. in military interventions. He can provide insights into intra-party battles between the political parties on foreign and security policy, defence policy, the EU, Denmark's relations to other countries and Danish responses to the international security situation.



MICHAEL BANG PETERSEN

Professor of political science

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Petersen's research focuses on the psychological underpinnings of political attitudes and behaviour and explains differences in how these attitudes and behaviour currently develop across Europe and the United States.

His research interests include trust in the political system, the management of the COVID-19 pandemic, hostility and misinformation on social media, and attitudes towards immigration, redistribution and criminal justice.

Petersen directs several major research projects and has advised the Danish government as well as other Danish and international authorities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the 2022 election, Petersen will pay particular attention to the role of misinformation, political polarisation and indications of reduced trust in the political system. As Petersen's research relies on comparisons of developments in Denmark, Europe and the United States, Petersen can put the Danish election into an international perspective.

