

Anja Bechmann, PI

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Research profile

Founding director of [DATA LAB - Center for Digital Social Research](#) and ‘Thinker in Residence’ at the Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts. Since 2016, I have created funding for and led interdisciplinary high-performing research teams with 10 scholars from e.g., neuroscience, sociology, information science, and media studies. I have experience developing social media methodological software (<https://digitalfootprints.dk/>) and published 57 peer-reviewed publications within the scientific focus areas of e.g., social media & collective behavior, information disorder, AI+data ethics and privacy.

Current and most recent positions

2019- Professor, Dept. of Media and Journalism, Aarhus University
2019 Affiliated Professor, Political Science, University of Antwerp
2017-2018 Jens Christian Skou fellow, Aarhus Institute of Advanced Studies
2013-2019 Associate Professor, Information and Media Studies, Aarhus University

Career breaks: 31-01-2011 - 17-10-2011 & 01-12-2006 - 31-10-2007: Maternity leave.

Education

2009 PhD (awarded December 2, 2009), Dept. Information & Media, Aarhus Uni, DK
2004 Master’s degree (awarded AU Gold Medal for the thesis), Dept. Information & Media, Aarhus Uni, DK

Fellowships, awards and honors (selected)

2021 NORDIS received the Chydenius Medal
2019 Appointed Thinker in Residence, The Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts, Belgium.
2017 One-year fellowship at the School of Information and Computer Sciences, University of California Irvine, US

Grants (selected)

2021-2023 NORDIS: Nordic observatory for digital media and information disorder, EU CEF (CI+PI)
2020-2022 EDMO: European Digital Media Observatory, EU CEF (Partner PI, WP Lead)
2020-2025 ROPH: Research on Online Political Hostility, Carlsberg Foundation (Co-PI)
2018-2021 SOMA: Social Observatory for Disinformation and Social Media Analysis, H2020 (Partner PI, WP Lead)
2018-2021 Nordic Disinformation, NOS-HS - Swedish Research Council (Co-PI)
2016-2018 Calculus of Culture, Independent Research Fund Denmark (Co-PI)
2015-2020 Starting Grant, Aarhus University Research Foundation (PI)
2014-2017 Facebook Footprints: Researching Social Big Data Patterns, AU IDEAS, Aarhus University Research Foundation (PI)

Supervision of PhD and postdoctoral fellows

2015- 4 postdocs, 6 PhDs (4 as main supervisor), host for 2 visiting PhDs in DATA LAB

Academic and administrative leadership (selected)

- 2018- Joint head of the Research Program for Media, Communication and Society, School of Communication and Culture, AU (46 researchers on all levels)
- 2016- Founder and leader of the Center for Digital Social Research – [DATALAB](#) at AU
- 2016-2020 Co-chair of the Association of Internet Researchers' Ethics Committee

Membership and appointments (selected)

- 2021- Member of the National Security Analysis Group, Ministry of Defence
- 2021- Member of the editorial panel for the development of media, Ministry of Culture
- 2020- Executive board member of the European Digital Media Observatory
- 2018 Appointed member of the EU Commission High-level expert group on disinformation
- 2017- Appointed member of the Academy of Technical Sciences, Denmark
- 2016- Editorial board member of Digital Journalism and Nordicom Review
- 2016- Member of the program committee for *Int. Conference on Social Media & Society*,
- 2005- Member of Assoc. of Internet Researchers (AOIR) and Int. Comm. Assoc. (ICA)

Reviews and assessments (selected)

Reviewer for the European Research Council, Swizz National Science Foundation (SNSF), Bergen Research Foundation, Reviewer for 12+ journals, (e.g., NMS & ICS) 4 doctoral committees, 7 hiring committees (at all professor-levels)

Recent keynote talks (selected out of 50+ talks)

- 2021 National Research Council of Canada, CA - *Responsible data*.
- 2021 Uni of Helsinki, FI *Media platformisation and small nations*
- 2020 WHO, CH *Infodemiology*
- 2019 Princeton, USA *Collective Behaviour, Social Media, and Systemic Risk*
- 2019 Malmö Uni, SE *Nordmedia*
- 2019 KU Leuven, BE *Metaforum*

Publication record and recent publications (selected)

H-index 19 (Google Scholar, November 12th, 2021)

21 peer reviewed journal articles, 2 monographs, 8 peer reviewed scientific reports, 9 articles in international peer reviewed proceedings, 17 peer reviewed book chapters.

- *Charquero-Ballester, M., Walter, J.G., Nissen, I., & **Bechmann, A.** (2021). Different types of COVID-19 misinformation have different emotional valence on Twitter, *Big Data & Society*, p.1-20. (BFI 2, JIF 5.3)
- *Osmundsen, M., Bor, A., Valstrup, P.B., **Bechmann, A.** & Petersen, M.B., (2021) Partisan polarization is the primary psychological motivation behind political fake news sharing on Twitter, *American Political Science Review*, 115(3): 999-1015. (BFI 2, JIF 7.8)
- Calleja N,..., **Bechmann A** et al. (2021). A Public Health Research Agenda for Managing Infodemics: Methods and Results of the First WHO Infodemiology Conference, *JMIR Infodemiology*, 1(1):e30979 doi: [10.2196/30979](https://doi.org/10.2196/30979). (new journal not in BFI yet)
- **Bechmann, A.** (2021). *DATA*, Aarhus: Aarhus University Press.
- **Bechmann, A.** (2020). Tackling Disinformation and Infodemics Demands Media Policy Changes, *Digital Journalism*: 855-863. (BFI 2, JIF 7.9)
- ***Bechmann, A.** & Nielbo, K.L. (2018). Are We Exposed to the Same “News” in the News Feed? An Empirical Analysis of Filter Bubbles as Information Similarity for Danish Facebook Users, *Digital Journalism*, 6(8):990-1002. (BFI 2 – JIF 7.9)

