

HELENE HELBOE PEDERSEN

Professor of Political Science | Vice-Head of Department

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RESEARCH PROFILE

Professor of Political Science at Aarhus University specializing in political representation, legislative politics, political parties, and citizen–politician relations. Current research examines politicians’ representative activities and working conditions, the evaluation of representative behaviour, and political responses to electoral outcomes.

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

April 2019–present	Professor of Political Science, Aarhus University
Feb. 2014–April 2019	Associate Professor of Political Science, Aarhus University
Feb. 2011–Feb. 2014	Assistant Professor of Political Science, Aarhus University
April 2010–Feb. 2011	Research Assistant in Political Science, Aarhus University
April 2006–April 2010	PhD Student in Political Science, Aarhus University

RESEARCH GRANTS

2025	Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF), “Electoral Choice: Which Role Does Legislators’ Quality Play?” Named member of research group; PIs: Professor Stefanie Bailer and Professor Nathalie Giger. Total grant: approx. €1.6 million.
2024	Independent Research Fund Denmark, “Justifying Defeat: Party Leader Framing of Electoral Losses”, Named member of research group; PI: Professor Martin Bækgaard. Total grant: €400,000.
2024	Danish Magtudredning 2.0, book grant with Professor Peter Bjerre Mortensen and Researcher Jonas Herby. €5,000.
2023	TrygFonden, Denmark, “Politik under press”, Principal Investigator. €400,000. [ADD
2023	Aarhus University Research Fund (AUFF), “Performing as a Politician. Developing and Evaluating Standards for Political Representation”, Principal Investigator. €67,000.
2018	Danish Parliament (Folketinget), “Bemyndigelser i dansk lovgivning”, Co-PI with Peter Bjerre Mortensen, Jørgen Grønnegaard Christensen, and Jørgen Albæk. €134,000.
2016	Aarhus University Research Fund (AUFF), Mobility Grant. €13,000.
2015	Independent Research Fund Denmark, Sapere Aude Starting Grant. “A New Style of Representation?”, Principal Investigator. €900,000.

AWARDS AND HONOURS

2017	Researcher of the Year, Aarhus BSS, Aarhus University (€7,000).
2015	Researcher of the Year, Department of Political Science, Aarhus University.
2013	Wright and Smith Memorial Prize for best article in West European Politics.

ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

Institutional leadership

- 2023–present — Vice-Head of Department for research coordination and junior researchers, Department of Political Science, Aarhus University.
- 2022–2023 — PhD Programme Director, Political Science, Aarhus BSS.

Research leadership

- 2023–present — Principal Investigator, TrygFonden project on political harassment and stress; research team includes one postdoctoral researcher and more student assistants.
- Principal Investigator, DFF Sapere Aude project on personalization of representation; research team comprised two professors, one postdoctoral researcher, and one PhD student.
- Co-PI, Folketinget-funded research project on secondary legislation in Denmark involving four professors.

Assessment and institutional responsibilities

- 2018–2025 — Chair or member of more than 20 academic assessment committees across career levels.
- Editorial Board Member, European Political Science Review — appointed; term beginning October 2026.
- Board Member, Aarhus Institute of Advanced Studies (AIAS), Aarhus University, since 2026.
- Board Member, Odder Højskole, since 2020.

CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECTS

Politicians’ working conditions in Denmark — Project leader. Supported by TrygFonden. Examines political harassment, stress, and politicians’ working conditions.

Framing electoral results — Research team member. Project on how party leaders frame electoral results, why they do so, and with what consequences. Supported by the Independent Research Fund Denmark. PI: Martin Bækgaard.

Evaluating representative behaviour — Research team member. Project on how to evaluate the quality of representative behaviour. Supported by the Swiss National Science Foundation. PIs: Stefanie Bailer and Nathalie Giger.

SUPERVISION AND MENTORING

- PhD supervision: 10 doctoral researchers.
- Junior scholar mentoring: Three assistant professors.
- Master’s and bachelor’s supervision: more than 30 theses.

VISITING POSITIONS AND RESEARCH STAYS

March 2026	Visiting Scholar, University of Gothenburg (host: Ann-Kristin Kölln).
May 2023	Visiting Scholar, University of Vienna (host: Fabio Wolkenstein).
March 2020	Visiting Scholar, Goethe University Frankfurt (host: Thomas Zittel).
October 2018	Visiting Scholar, University of California, Los Angeles (host: Georgia Kernell).
July–Dec. 2016	Visiting Scholar, University of California, San Diego (host: Kaare Strøm).
Feb.–April 2008	Exchange PhD Student, University of Oslo (host: Hanne Marthe Narud).

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL AND PUBLIC CONTRIBUTIONS in 2026

Sep 2026	Interview to DR: Når debatten bliver fri, lukker Dansk Folkeparti døren og mørklægger sit årsmøde
Sep 2026	Presentation for parliamentary co-partisan group working to limit harassment against politicians
Sep 2026	Presentation for parliamentary committee chairs, secretariats, and Head of Parliament on how to strengthen parliamentary committee work
June 2026	Interview to news site, Altinget: Millioner til ekspertviden går til partiernes kampagner og kommunikation
June 2026	Interview for newspaper, Politiken: Folketinget står svækket over for regeringen
May 2026	Participation in round table organized by Aalborg University and Democracy X on how to include more scientific evidence in the political, decision-making process
May 2026	Public talk on speed in the legislative process organized by Folkeuniversitetet
May 2026	Interview to Ritzau on coalition formation: Enhedslisten vil have papir på regeringsstøtte ligesom de havde i 2019
January 2026	Participation in round table organized by The Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and Letters on how to promote scientific input to the political, decision-making process

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed journal articles

- Kölln, A-K & **Pedersen, HH**, 2026, How Do Voters Reason About Intra-Party Democracy? Constraints rather Than Influence, Perspectives on Politics, forthcoming
- Vestergaard, R & **Pedersen, HH**, 2026, Ansatte i danske partier. Partisoldater eller forretningsudviklere? Politica, forthcoming
- Pedersen, HH**, 2026, Legislator or Representative? Politicians' Tasks According to Voters, British Journal of Political Science. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0007123425101245>
- Pedersen, HH** & Kjær, U 2026, 'How institutions do (not) contain personalized politics: centralized personalization in a decentralized electoral system', Democratization. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13510347.2024.2382369>
- Pedersen, HH** & Seeberg, HB 2025, Using Social Media to Respond to Negative Polls: Politicians' Issue Responsiveness on Facebook. The Journal of Politics, 87(3), 936-950. <https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/10.1086/733007>
- Kölln, A-K & **Pedersen, HH** 2025, 'Virtuous party linkages: Developing a data-based analytical model to explain voters' attitudes towards political parties', European Journal of Political Research. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1475-6765.12699>
- Binderkrantz, AS, Christensen, JG, Christiansen, PM, Nielsen, MK & **Pedersen, HH** 2024, 'Closed shutters or revolving doors? Elite career track similarity and elite sector transfers in Denmark', European Journal of Political Research, bind 63, nr. 3, s. 1022-1041. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1475-6765.12627>
- Bøggild, T & **Pedersen, HH** 2024, 'The Legislative Cost of Ruling: Voter Punishment of Governing Parties Fuels Legislator Party Dissent', European Journal of Political Research, bind 63, nr. 1, s. 132-152. <https://doi.org/10.1111/14756765.12609>
- Pedersen, HH** 2024, 'Party soldiers on personal platforms? Politicians' personalized use of social media', Party Politics, bind 30, nr. 1, s. 166-178. <https://doi.org/10.1177/13540688221140252>
- Pedersen, HH** & Seeberg, HB 2024, 'Using Social Media to Respond to Negative Polls: Politicians' Issue Responsiveness on Facebook', The Journal of Politics. <https://doi.org/10.1086/733007>
- Zittel, T, Louwerse, T, **Pedersen, HH** & Wouter, S 2023, 'Should we conduct correspondence study field experiments with political elites?', International Political Science Review, bind 44, nr. 4, s. 459-470. <https://doi.org/10.1177/01925121211026489>
- Pedersen, HH**, Louwerse, T & Zittel, T 2022, 'Ethics audits in cross-national research: Experiences from correspondence study field experiments with national politicians in four European democracies', Political Studies Review, bind 20, nr. 2, s. 184-191. <https://doi.org/10.1177/14789299211033449>
- Pedersen, HH** & Borghetto, E 2021, 'Fighting COVID-19 on Democratic Terms: Parliamentary Functioning in Italy and Denmark during the Pandemic', Representation, bind 57, nr. 4, s. 401-418. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00344893.2021.1973546>
- Pedersen, HH** 2021, 'Mismatched Preferences for Responsiveness: Danish Voters and Politicians', Scandinavian Political Studies, bind 44, nr. 2, s. 148-169. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-9477.12192>
- Pedersen, HH** & Rahat, G 2021, 'Political Personalization and Personalized Politics within and beyond the Behavioral Arena', Party Politics, bind 27, nr. 2, s. 211-219. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1354068819855712>
- Bøggild, T, Campbell, R, Kaldahl, M, **Pedersen, HH** & vanHeerde-Hudson, J 2021, 'Which Personality Fits Personalized Representation?', Party Politics, bind 27, nr. 2, s. 269-281. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1354068819855703>
- Bøggild, T & **Pedersen, HH** 2020, 'Voter Reaction to Legislator Dissent across Political Systems', Electoral Studies, bind 68, 102235. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.electstud.2020.102235>
- Binderkrantz, AS, Halpin, D & **Pedersen, HH** 2020, 'From policy interest to media appearance: Interest group activity and media bias', The International Journal of Press/Politics, bind 25, nr. 4, s. 712-731. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1940161220916710>
- Binderkrantz, AS, Kaldahl, M, **Pedersen, HH** & Tromborg, MW 2020, 'Pre-parliamentary party career and political representation', West European Politics, bind 43, nr. 6, s. 1315-1338. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01402382.2019.1643597>
- Binderkrantz, AS, Christiansen, PM & **Pedersen, HH** 2020, 'Mapping interest group access to politics: a presentation of the INTERARENA research project', Interest Groups and Advocacy, bind 9, nr. 3, s. 290-301. <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41309-020-00095-9>
- Harrits, GS & **Pedersen, HH** 2019, 'Symbolic Class Struggles and the Intersection of Socioeconomic, Cultural and Moral Categorisations', Sociology, bind 53, nr. 5, s. 861-878. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0038038519826016>
- Kaldahl, M, Møgeltoft Andersen, A & **Pedersen, HH** 2019, 'Balancing Costs of Legislative Party Switching in the Danish Parliament 1953-2015', Parliamentary Affairs, bind 72, nr. 1, s. 42-58. <https://doi.org/10.1093/pa/gsx078>
- Binderkrantz, AS & **Pedersen, HH** 2019, 'The lobbying success of citizen and economic groups in Denmark and the UK', Acta Politica, bind 54, nr. 1, s. 75-103. <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41269-017-0076-7>
- Pedersen, HH** & vanHeerde-Hudson, J 2019, 'Two strategies for building a personal vote: Personalized representation in the UK and Denmark', Electoral Studies, bind 59, s. 17-26. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.electstud.2019.02.010>
- Bøggild, T & **Pedersen, HH** 2018, 'Campaigning on behalf of the party? Party constraints on candidate campaign personalisation', European Journal of Political Research, bind 57, nr. 4, s. 883-899. <https://doi.org/10.1111/14756765.12256>
- Harrits, GS & **Pedersen, HH** 2018, 'Class categories and the subjective dimension of class: The case of Denmark', British Journal of Sociology, bind 69, nr. 1, s. 67-98. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1468-4446.12282>

- Binderkrantz, AS & **Pedersen, HH** 2017, 'What is access? A discussion of the definition and measurement of interest group access', *European Political Science*, bind 16, nr. 3, s. 306-319. <https://doi.org/10.1057/eps.2016.17>
- Harrits, GS & **Pedersen, HH** 2017, "'De er over det hele". En eksplorativ undersøgelse af danskernes opfattede overlap mellem klasse- og partipositioner', *Politica - Tidsskrift for politisk videnskab*, bind 49, nr. 2, s. 120-138. http://politica.dk/fileadmin/politica/Dokumenter/politica_49_2/harrits_og_helboe.pdf
- Kaldahl, M & **Pedersen, HH** 2017, 'Partiskift i Folketinget 1953-2015', *Økonomi og Politik*, bind 90, nr. 3, s. 52-63. https://www.djoef-forlag.dk/openaccess/oep/files/2017/3_2017/3_2017_6.pdf
- Binderkrantz, AS, **Pedersen, HH** & Beyers, J 2017, 'What is access? A discussion of the definition and measurement of interest group access', *European Political Science*, bind 16, nr. 3, s. 306-321. <https://doi.org/10.1057/eps.2016.17>
- Binderkrantz, AS, Fisker, HM & **Pedersen, HH** 2016, 'The Rise of Citizen Groups? The Mobilization and Representation of Danish Interest Groups, 1975-2010', *Scandinavian Political Studies*, bind 39, nr. 4, s. 291-311. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-9477.12073>
- Johansen, KH & **Pedersen, HH** 2016, 'The Power over the Marriage Ritual Positions in the administrative consultation prior to the implementation of same-sex marriages in the Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Denmark', *Journal of Church and State*, bind 58, nr. 4, s. 731-752. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jcs/csv055>
- Binderkrantz, AS, Christiansen, PM & **Pedersen, HH** 2015, 'Interest Group Access to the Bureaucracy, Parliament, and the Media', *Governance: An international journal of Policy, Administration, and Institutions*, bind 28, nr. 1, s. 95-112. <https://doi.org/10.1111/gove.12089>
- Pedersen, HH**, Halpin, D & Rasmussen, A 2015, 'Who Gives Evidence to Parliamentary Committees? A Comparative Investigation of Parliamentary Committees and their Constituencies', *Journal of Legislative Studies*, bind 21, nr. 3, s. 408-427. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13572334.2015.1042292>
- Binderkrantz, AS, Christiansen, PM & **Pedersen, HH** 2014, 'A Privileged Position? The Influence of Business Interests in Government Consultations', *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*, bind 24, nr. 4, s. 879-896. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jopart/muu028>
- Pedersen, HH** 2014, 'Book Review: Catherine Moury, Coalition Government and Party Mandate', *Party Politics*, bind 20, nr. 6, s. 984-985.
- Pedersen, HH**, Christiansen, PM & Binderkrantz, AS 2014, 'Lobbying Across Arenas. Interest Group Involvement in the Legislative Process in Denmark', *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, bind 39, nr. 2, s. 199-225. <https://doi.org/10.1111/lsq.12042>
- Christiansen, FJ & **Pedersen, HH** 2014, 'Minority coalition governance in Denmark', *Party Politics*, bind 20, nr. 6, s. 940-949. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1354068812462924>
- Christiansen, FJ & **Pedersen, HH** 2014, 'Regeringsgrundlag i Danmark. Hvordan benytter regeringen dem, og hvordan reagerer oppositionen?', *Politica - Tidsskrift for politisk videnskab*, bind 46, nr. 3, s. 362-385.
- Pedersen, HH** 2013, 'Is measuring interest group influence a mission impossible? The case of interest group influence in the Danish parliament', *Interest Groups and Advocacy*, bind 2, nr. 1, s. 27-47. <https://doi.org/10.1057/iga.2012.19>
- Pedersen, HH** 2012, 'Policy-Seeking Parties in Multiparty Systems: Influence or Purity?', *Party Politics*, bind 18, nr. 3, s. 297-314. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1354068810382940>
- Pedersen, HH** 2012, 'What do Parties Want? Policy versus Office', *West European Politics*, bind 35, nr. 4, s. 896-910. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01402382.2012.682350>
- Pedersen, HH** 2011, 'Etableringen af politiske forlig som parlamentarisk praksis', *Politica*, bind 43, nr. 1, s. 48-67.
- Pedersen, HH** 2010, 'Differences and Changes in Danish Party Organisations: Central Party Organisation versus Parliamentary Party Group Power', *Journal of Legislative Studies*, bind 16, nr. 2, s. 233-250. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13572331003740131>
- Pedersen, HH** 2010, 'How Intra-Party Power Relations Affect the Coalition Behaviour of Political Parties', *Party Politics*, bind 16, nr. 6, s. 737-754. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1354068809345855>

Peer-reviewed monographs

- Pedersen, HH**, Mortensen PB, Herby J, 2025. Det effektive men fortravlede Folketing, Aarhus: Aarhus Universitetsforlag
- Pedersen, HH** 2022 *Politiker. Dilemmaer politisk repræsentation*, Copenhagen: DJØF Forlag
- Christensen, J. G., Jensen, J. A., Mortensen, P. B. & **Pedersen, H. H.**, 2020, *Når embedsmænd lovgiver*, København: Djøf Forlag. 237 s.
- Pedersen, H. H.** (Redaktør) & Glavind, J. G. (Redaktør), 2019, *Gode spørgsmål, rigtige svar. Grundbog i samfundsvidenskabelig metode*. Gyldendal
- Binderkrantz, A. S. (Redaktør), Christiansen, P. M. (Redaktør) & **Pedersen, H. H.** (Redaktør), 2014, *Organisationer i politik*, København: Hans Reitzels Forlag.
- Pedersen, H. H.**, 2010, *Partiers interne organisering og parlamentariske adfærd*, Århus: Forlaget Politica. 224 s. (Politica ph.d.-serie).

Peer-reviewed book chapters

- Pedersen, H. H.** & Kjær, U., 2024, Et personaliseret valg, in Partiledernes kamp om midten: Folketingsvalget 2022. Hansen, K. M. & Stubager, R. (red.). København: Djøf Forlag, s. 451-490
- Møller Hansen, K., Kosiara-Pedersen, K. & **Pedersen, H. H.**, 2024, Kandidaternes kampagner og betydning for de personlige stemmetal, in Partiledernes kamp om midten. Folketingsvalget 2022. Hansen, K. M. & Stubager, R. (red.). København: Djøf Forlag, s. 511-540
- Binderkrantz, A. S. & **Pedersen, H. H.**, 2024, Routes of access and influence, in Research Handbook on Public Affairs: Connecting Evidence and Strategy. Timmermans, A. (red.). Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing, s. 192-205 14 s.
- Pedersen, H. H.**, 2023, Denmark's parliamentary administration, in The Routledge Handbook of Parliamentary Administrations. Christiansen, T., Griglio, E. & Lupo, N. (red.) Taylor and Francis Group, s. 211-221 11 s.
- Pedersen, H. H.**, 2023, Personalisation and political parties, The Routledge Handbook of Political Parties. Carter, N., Keith, D., Vasilopoulou, S. & Sindre, G. (red.). London: Routledge
- Hansen, K. M., Kosiara-Pedersen, K. & **Pedersen, H. H.**, 2021, Kandidaternes kampagner og oplevelse af chikane og hærværk i valgkampen, Klimavalget: folketingsvalget 2019. Hansen, K. M. & Stubager, R. (red.). København: Djøf Forlag, s. 287-308
- Pedersen, H. H.**, jun. 2020, The parliament (Folketinget): Powerful, professional, and trusted? The Oxford Handbook of Danish Politics. Oxford: Oxford University Press, s. 88-106
- Pedersen, H. H.** & Schumacher, G., 2015, Do Leadership Changes Improve Electoral Performance? In The Politics of Party Leadership: A Cross-National Perspective. Cross, W. P. & Pilet, J.-B. (red.). Oxford: Oxford University Press, s. 149-164 16 s.