

Lasse Laustsen – Curriculum Vitae

Summer 2024

GENERAL INFORMATION

Title: Cand.scient.pol., PhD (from Department of Political Science, Aarhus University)

Position: Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Aarhus University)

Address: Aarhus University, Department of Political Science, Bartholins Allé 7 (building 1340, office 238), DK-8000 Aarhus C.

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RESEARCH AREAS

My research interests fall within the fields of political psychology and political behavior. Integrating theories and methods from social, cognitive and evolutionary psychology I investigate classic political science topics such as voters' candidate preferences, discriminatory attitudes and behaviors, attitudes towards redistribution, social welfare and immigration as well as stability and change in public opinion over time.

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT RECORD

Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Aarhus University (September 2018 -).

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Aarhus University (November 2014 – Oct. 2018).

PhD in Political Science, Aarhus University (October 22, 2014). Supervisors: Professor Michael Bang Petersen (main advisor) and Professor Rune Slothuus. Both Dep. of Political Science, Aarhus University.

M.Sc. in Political Science (cand.scient.pol.), Aarhus University (August 19, 2011).

B.Sc. in Political Science, Aarhus University (July 3, 2008).

CURRENT POSITION

Associate Professor at Department of Political Science, Aarhus University, September 2018 – present.

ACADEMIC AWARDS, HONOURS & FUNDING

Funding:

Seed Funding (approx.. 700,000 DKR) from CEPDISC (Center for the Experimental Philosophical Study of Discrimination) for a cross-cultural study of bias against and stereotypes about female political candidates. The grant covers data collection with approx.. representative samples across 20 different countries (2022-23).

Seed Funding (100,000 DKR) from Aarhus BSS supplementary pool (“AUFF’s ekstrapulje”) for the project “Preferences for authoritarian leaders among preschool children”. The grant finances equipment and research assistants in relation to the data gathering (2018).

Carlsberg Post Doc Internationalization Grant for the project “Intergroup Conflict and Public Support for Authoritarian Leaders”. The grant finances a one year research stay at The Leadership Lab at VU Amsterdam with Professor Mark van Vugt (expected start was February 2019. Grant was abstained due to start as Associate Professor).

Awards and honours:

Roberta Sigel Best Conference Paper with early career scholar as first author (2023) for the paper “Do Citizens Discriminate Against Women Candidates? Evidence from a 20-Country Conjoint Study”. Awarded to Claire Gothreau as first author. Awarded by the International Society of Political Psychology.

“EliteForsk rejsestipendium” (travel and internationalization grant for PhD dissertation) (2013). Awarded by the Danish Ministry of Science, Innovation and Education for the project “Choosing the Right Candidate: How the Evolved Mind Informs Modern Voting” (300,000 DKR)

Roberta Sigel Junior Scholar Paper Award (2013) for the paper “Winning Faces Vary by Ideology: Evolutionary Psychology and the Role of Candidate Facial Traits in Democratic Elections” co-authored with Michael Bang Petersen. Awarded to “the best paper by a Junior Scholar” at the 2012 annual meeting of the International Society of Political Psychology.

Danish Society for Survey Research’s Master Thesis award for the thesis ”He has got the looks - Et studie af ansigtstræks betydning for danske politikeres valgbarhed” (2012).

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Lippert-Rasmussen, Kasper, Søren Serritzlew, Lasse Laustsen, Simone Sommer Degn & Andreas Albertsen. 2024. ”What is the folk concept of discrimination? Discriminators and comparators”. *Philosophical Psychology*. Online available: <https://doi.org/10.1080/09515089.2024.2310616>

Laustsen, Lasse & Claire Gothreau. 2023. ”Diskriminerer danske vælgere kvindelige og etniske minoritetskandidater? Resultater fra et surveyeksperiment.” *Politica* 55(4): 349-369.

Barusevičius, Henrikas, Florian van Leeuwen, Honorata Mazepus, Lasse Laustsen & Andreas Forø Tollefsen. 2023. “Russia’s Attack on Civilians Strengthen Ukrainian Resistance.” *PNAS NEXUS* 2(12): 1-5.

Laustsen, Lasse & Asmus Leth Olsen. 2022. “Is a Disease Leader Attractive? Six Tests of whether the COVID-19 Pandemic Affected Follower Preferences for Attractiveness, Health, and other Traits in Political and Non-Political Leaders.” *The Leadership Quarterly* 33(6): 101574.

Bor, Alexander & Lasse Laustsen. 2022. “Candidate Evaluations across the Aisle: Cross-Cultural Evidence that Out-Partisans Value Warmth more than In-Partisans.” *European Journal of Political Research* 61(4): 878-900.

Osmundsen, Mathias, David Hendry, Lasse Laustsen, Kevin B. Smith & Michael Bang Petersen. 2022. “The Psychophysiology of Political Ideology: Replications, Reanalyses, and Recommendations.” *Journal of Politics* 84(1): 50-66.

Kerry, Nicholas, Laith Al-Shawaf, Maria Barbato, Carlota Batres, Khandis R. Blake, Youngjae Cha, Gregory V. Chauvin, Jeremy D. W. Clifton, Ana Maria Fernandez, Andrzej Galbarczyk, Maliki E. Ghossainy, Dayk Jang, Grazyna Jasienska, Minoru Karasawa, Lasse Laustsen, Riley Loria, Francesca Luberti, James Morina, Zoran Pavlovic, Michael Bang Petersen, Adam R. Smith, Iris Zezelj & Damian R. Murray. 2022. “Experimental and Cross-Cultural Evidence that Parenthood and Parental Care Motives Increase social Conservatism”. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences* 289: 20220978.

- Laustsen, Lasse. 2021. "Candidate Evaluations through the Lens of Adaptive Followership Psychology: How and Why Voters Prefer Leaders Based on Character Traits." *Political Psychology* 42(1): 109-148.
- Chen, Fan Xuan, Xinyu Chang, Lasse Laustsen & Joey T. Cheng. 2021. "Harsh but Expedient: Dominant Leaders Increase Group Cooperation via Threat Punishment". *Psychological Science* 32(12): 2005-2022.
- Petersen, Michael Bang & Lasse Laustsen. 2020. "Dominant Leaders and the Political Psychology of Followership". *Current Opinion in Psychology* 33: 136-141.
- Laustsen, Lasse & Michael Bang Petersen. 2020. "Why are right-wing voters attracted to dominant leaders? Assessing competing theories of psychological mechanisms." *The Leadership Quarterly* 31(2): 101301.
- Laustsen, Lasse & Michael Bang Petersen. 2020. "Online Tallies and the Context of Politics: How Online Tallies Make Dominant Leaders Appear Competent in Contexts of Conflict." *American Journal of Political Science* 64(2): 240-255.
- Petersen, Michael Bang & Lasse Laustsen. 2019. "Upper-Body Strength and Political Egalitarianism: Twelve Conceptual Replications." *Political Psychology* 40(2): 375-394.
- Banai, Benjamin, Lasse Laustsen, Irena Pavela & Kosta Bovan. 2018. "Presidential, but not prime minister, candidates with lower-pitched voices stand a better chance of winning the election in conservative countries". *Evolutionary Psychology* Special Issue: Evolution and Politics April-June: 1-12 (<https://doi.org/10.1177/1474704918758736>)
- Laustsen, Lasse & Michael bang Petersen. 2018. "When the Party Decides: The Effects of Facial Competence and Dominance on Internal Nominations of Political Candidates." *Evolutionary Psychology* Special Issue: Evolution and Politics April-June: 1-13 (<https://doi.org/10.1177/1474704917732005>).
- Bruneau, Emile, Nour Kteily & Lasse Laustsen. 2018. "The unique effect of blatant dehumanization on attitudes and behavior towards Muslim refugees during the European 'Refugee Crisis' across four countries". *European Journal of Social Psychology* 48(5): 645-662.
- Laustsen, Lasse & Alexander Bor. 2017. "The Relative Weight of Character Traits in Candidate Evaluations: Warmth is More Important than Competence, Leadership and Integrity." *Electoral Studies* 49: 96-107.
- Laustsen, Lasse & Michael Bang Petersen. 2017. "Perceived Conflict and Leader Dominance: Individual and Contextual Factors Behind Preferences for Dominant Leaders." *Political Psychology* 38(6): 1083-1101.
- Laustsen, Lasse. 2017. "Choosing the Right Candidate: Observation and Experimental Evidence that Conservatives and Liberals Prefer Powerful and Warm Candidate Personalities, Respectively." *Political Behavior* 39: 883-908.
- Bøggild, Troels & Lasse Laustsen. 2016. "An Intra-Group Perspective on Leader Preferences: Different Risks of Exploitation Shape Preferences for Leader Facial Dominance". *The Leadership Quarterly* 27: 820-837.
- (Nominated as runner up for best article published in *Leadership Quarterly* in 2016)
- Laustsen, Lasse and Michael Bang Petersen. 2016. "Winning Faces Vary by Ideology: How Nonverbal Source Cues Influence Election and Communication Success in Politics." *Political Communication*. 33(2): 188-211.
- Laustsen, Lasse, Michael Bang Petersen & Casey A. Klofstad. 2015. "Vote Choice, Ideology, and Social Dominance Orientation Influence Preferences for Lower Pitched Voices in Political Candidates." *Evolutionary Psychology* 13(3): 1-13.

Laustsen, Lasse and Michael Bang Petersen. 2015. "Does a competent leader make a good friend? Conflict, ideology and the psychologies of friendship and followership," *Evolution and Human Behavior* 36: pp. 286-293.

Laustsen, Lasse. 2014. "Decomposing the Relationship Between Candidates' Facial Appearance and Electoral Success", *Political Behavior* 36(4): pp. 777-791.

Laustsen, Lasse. 2014. "Den personlige faktor: Højre- og venstreorienterede vælgere foretrækker forskellige kandidatpersonligheder", *Tidsskriftet Politik* (Danish language political science journal) 17(3): pp. 29-37.

BOOK CHAPTERS AND NON-PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Laustsen, Lasse. "Context-Sensitive Leader Preferences". In *The Sage Encyclopedia of Leadership Studies*. Online available via: <https://doi.org/10.4135/9781071840801>.

Laustsen, Lasse, Lene Aarøe, Kevin B. Smith & Michael Bang Petersen. 2021. "Psykologien bag casejournalistikkens magt". In Vibeke Borberg, Hjarn v. Zernichow Borberg, Christian Suhr & Niels Valdemar Vinding (Eds.), *Når Medierne Sætter Dagsordenen*. Chapter 11, pp. 239-259. Copenhagen: Djøf Forlag.

Andersen, Lotte Bøgh, Lasse Laustsen & Mathilde Cecchini. 2020. "Forskningskriterier." In Kasper Møller Hansen, Lotte Bøgh Andersen & Sune Welling Hansen (Eds.), *Metoder i Statskundskab* 3rd Ed. Chapter 4, pp. 97-121. Copenhagen: Hans Reitzels Forlag

Laustsen, Lasse. 2014. "Spørgeskemaer, fotografier og registerdata: Politikeres ansigtstræk og deres chance for at blive valgt". In Morten Frederiksen, Peter Gundelach and Rikke Skovgaard Nielsen (Eds.), *Mixed methods*. Chapter 8, pp. 136-150. Copenhagen: Hans Reitzels Forlag.

Hopmann, David Nicolas, Lasse Laustsen and Rune Slothuus. 2014. "Eksperimenter". In David Nicolas Hopmann and Mortens Skovsgaard (Eds.), *Forskningsmetoder i journalistik og kommunikation*. Chapter 12. Copenhagen: Hans Reitzels Forlag.

Laustsen, Lasse. 2017. "Hvornår og hvorfor foretrækker vi stærke ledere?" *Politologisk Årbog 2016-2017*, pp. 60-64. Copenhagen: Hans Reitzels Forlag.

INVITED TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS

"Political Gender Stereotypes Across 20 Countries: Patterns and Relationships with Voter Preferences and Women's Representation". Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, June 17, 2024 (invited by Mark van Vugt) (online)

"Interstate Conflict Increases the Appeal of Undemocratic Candidates". University of Amsterdam, May 7, 2024 (Invited by the "The Hot Politics lab", Bert Bakker, Gijs Schumacher, Matthijs Rooduijn & Honorata Mazepus).

"Cross-Cultural Evidence that Intergroup Conflict Heightens Preferences for Dominant Leaders". Leiden University, May 3 2022 (invited by Honorata Mazepus) (online).

"Adaptive Followership Psychology: How Evolutionarily Relevant Contexts Affect Leader Preferences in Modern Large-Scale Societies". New York University, April 21 2021 (invited by Christopher Dawes) (online).

“The Psychology of Followership and Leader Preferences – What types of leaders—and character traits in leaders—do voters prefer?” University of Southern Denmark, September 9 2018 (invited by Steven Ludeke).

“Partisan motivation and candidate Traits: Cross-cultural and experimental evidence that warmth matters more for out-party than in-party candidate evaluations.” Durham University, March 11 2020 (invited by Centre of Institutions and Political Behaviour, Patrick M. Kuhn).

“Inter- and Intra-Group Threats and Leader Dominance.” Jepson School of Leadership Studies – University of Richmond, December 6 2017 (Christopher von Rueden).

RECENT CONFERENCE PAPERS

Claire Gothreau, Nicholas Haas & Lasse Laustsen. 2024: “Continuous Gender Identity and Typicality: Results from a 20-Country Study”. Presented at the 2024 (September) annual meeting of the American Political Science Association (Philadelphia, United States)

Claire Gothreau & Lasse Laustsen. 2024: “Political Gender Stereotypes Across 20 Countries: Patterns and Relationships with Voter Preferences and Women’s Representation”. Presented at the 2024 (July) annual meeting of the European Political Science Association (Cologne, Germany)

Laustsen, Lasse & Kristian Vrede Skaaning Frederiksen. 2024. “Interstate Conflict Increases the Appeal of Undemocratic Candidates.” Presented at the 2024 (May) annual meeting of the Human Behavior and Evolution Society (Aarhus, Denmark) and the 2024 (September) annual meeting of the American Political Science Association (Philadelphia, United States)

Lasse Laustsen, Honorata Mazepus, Florian van Leeuwen, Henrikas Barusevičius & Mark van Vugt. 2023. “War, Aggression and Preferences for Dominant Leaders: A Panel-Based Experiment among Ukrainians Experiencing the 2022 Russian Invasion”. Presented at the 2023 (June) annual meeting of the European Political Science Association (Glasgow, Scotland).

Claire Gothreau & Lasse Laustsen. 2023: “Do Citizens Discriminate against Women Political Candidates? Evidence from a 20-Country Conjoint Study”. Presented at the 2023 (June) annual meeting of the European Political Science Association (Cologne, Germany) and the 2023 (July) annual meeting of the International Society of Political Psychology (Montreal, Canada).

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Collaborative project on followers’ preferences for leaders’ personality and character traits with Professor Mark van Vugt (VU University Amsterdam).

Collaborative project on children’s preferences for dominant and authoritarian leaders with Alexandr Bor (Central European University) and Lotte Thomsen (Oslo University). Research stay at University of Oslo, September 2022.

Collaborative project on the consequences of dominant leaders for intra-group collaboration using laboratory experiments with Joey T. Cheng (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign).

Research stay at the Intergroup Relations Lab, Harvard University, January and February 2014. Host Professor: James Sidanius.

Research stay at the Political Physiology Lab, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, April 2013. Host professor: John Hibbing.

Research stay at Center for Evolutionary Psychology, University of California Santa Barbara. January-March 2013. Host professor: Leda Cosmides.

Visiting graduate student at University of Washington Seattle, Department of Political Science. September-December 2010.

OTHER SCIENTIFIC QUALIFICATIONS

Member of two PhD assessment committees (at Aarhus University, Denmark, and Amsterdam University, the Netherlands).

Editorial member of *Politica* (Danish language political science journal), March 2019 – present.

Session chair for Political Communication and Public Opinion panels at the 2018 annual meeting of the Danish Political Science Association (with Carolin Rapp (University of Copenhagen)).

Co-organizer of workshop on Political Psychology at the 2017 meeting of the Nordic Political Science Association (with Asbjørn Sonne Nørgaard (University of Southern Denmark) and Sven Oskarsson (Uppsala University)).

Representative for assistant professors and post.docs in the employee representative council (“LSU”) at Department of Political Science, Aarhus University, spring 2016-spring 2018.

Representative for Department of Political Science (Aarhus University) in the Cognition and Behavior Lab’s “Human Subjects Committee” (advisory committee on ethical considerations related to social science experiments based on human subject participants at Aarhus University Business & Social Sciences). Autumn 2016-2022.

Organizer of the Political Behavior workshop (co-organizer with Martin Bisgaard) at Department of Political Science, Aarhus University, 2012-2016.

Ad hoc reviewer for among other journal: *American Journal of Political Science*, *American Political Science Review*, *British Journal of Political Science*, *Electoral Studies*, *European Journal of Political Research*, *European Journal of Social Psychology*, *European Union Politics*, *Evolution and Human Behavior*, *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*, *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, *Journal of Politics*, *Nature Human Behaviour*, *Politica* (Danish language journal), *Political Behavior*, *Political Communication*, *Political Psychology*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *Political Studies*, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)*, *Psychological Science*, *Public Opinion Quarterly*, *Socio-Economic Review*, *Social Cognition*, *The Leadership Quarterly*.

Conference presentations

Annual meetings of the American Political Science Association (2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021); Midwest Political Science Association (2012, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2018); Human Behavior and Evolution Society (2016, 2017, 2018, 2021); European Political Science Association (2022); International Society of Political Psychology (2012, 2013, 2014, 2019); the Danish Political Science Association (2011, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021); Nordic Political Science Association (2017).

TEACHING QUALIFICATIONS, TEACHING AREAS AND TEACHING EXPERIENCES

Courses in University Teaching and Pedagogy

“Adjunktpædagogikum” at Aarhus University – course on university teaching, learning and pedagogy. Spring 2016.

“Kursus i Blackboard” at Aarhus University – course on E-learning platform and tool Blackboard.

“Kursus om holdundervisning” at Aarhus University – course for teaching assistants in BA-level courses. Summer 2008.

Courses taught (taught in Danish due to study regulation requirements at Aarhus University)

BA program course “Almen Statskundskab: Politiske holdninger, deltagelse og repræsentation” (co-taught with colleague). The course consists of lectures with a full cohort of approx.. 300 students followed by smaller class sessions with 25-30 students per session (taught by TAs). Spring 2024.

BA program course “Metode I” (co-taught with colleague). The course consists of lectures with a full cohort of students followed by smaller class sessions with 25-30 students per session (taught by TAs). Spring 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022.

BA program course: ”Metode II” (co-taught with colleague). The course consists of lectures with a full cohort of students followed by smaller class sessions with 25-30 students per session (taught by TAs). Spring 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018.

BA-seminar: ”Politisk Ideologi: Hvor kommer vores politiske værdier fra, og hvilke konsekvenser har de for politisk adfærd og holdninger?”, spring 2021, spring 2022.

BA-seminar: ”Politisk adfærd i det 21. århundrede”, spring 2020, spring 2023 (co-taught w. Martin Bisgaard).

Master program seminar: ”Ledelsespsykologi: Psykologiske indsigter om ledelse anvendt i forståelsen af adfærd i offentlige og politiske organisationer” (co-taught with Christian Bøtcher Jacobsen), Spring 2017.

Master program seminar: ”Politisk Ideologi: Hvor kommer vores politiske værdier fra, og hvilke konsekvenser har de for politisk adfærd og holdninger?”, Autumn 2015, autumn 2019.

Master program seminar: ”Hvem skal jeg vælge, og hvad skal jeg mene? Betydningen af psykologi og biologi for vores politiske adfærd”, Autumn 2013.

Master program seminar: “Politisk Kommunikation: Indsigter fra Psykologi og biologi”, Spring 2012.

Supervision of eight PhD students, 19 master theses in different areas of comparative politics, political behavior and leadership research.

POPULAR DISSEMINATION, INTERVIEWS AND PRESENTATIONS

Examples on popular dissemination and interviews:

Hein, Niels: “Derfor følger vi med strømmen, når valgkampen bliver for kompliceret.” *Kristeligt Dagblad*, October 27, 2022. <https://www.kristeligt-dagblad.dk/liv-og-sjael/derfor-foelger-vi-med-stroemmen-naar-valgkampen-bliver-kompliceret>

Lasse Laustsen & Michael bang Petersen: “Trump’s abrasive personality might help him win reelection – if voters feel it’s a dangerous world.” *The Washington Post*, January 10, 2020.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2020/01/10/trumps-abrasive-personality-might-help-him-win-reelection-if-voters-feel-its-dangerous-world/>

Lasse Laustsen & Michael Bang Petersen: "Danskere opfatter muslimer som underudviklede: Hvilke konsekvenser har det?" *Videnskab.dk* June 2019, <https://videnskab.dk/kultur-samfund/danskere-opfatter-muslimer-som-underudviklede-hvilke-konsekvenser-har-det>

Examples on non-academic Presentations:

"Hvornår foretrækker borgerne 'stærke ledere', der potentielt endda agerer udemokratisk?", presentation at The Danish Science Festival ("Forskningens Døgn"), April 2024.

"Psykologien Bag Case-Journalistikens Magt", presentation for professional network of Danish health and science journalists, June 2021.

"Hvornår og hvorfor støtter borgerne dominerende politiske ledere?", presentation at Constructive Institute, journalism for tomorrow (independent institute for constructive journalism, www.constructiveinstitute.org), February 2020.

"Kandidater og deres personlige karaktertræk", presentation for "DJØF-Klubben ved Aarhus Kommune" (staff social club for bureaucrats in Aarhus municipality) in relation to the 2017 Danish local elections, September 26 2017.

"Det personlige valg: Hvilke typer af kandidater foretrækker vælgerne og hvorfor?" Guest talk provided to various Danish high schools (e.g. Campus Vejle (HHX), Herning Gymnasium, and Hjørring Gymnasium).