

Louise Halberg Nielsen

PhD Candidate at Department of Political Science, Aarhus University

✉ lh@ps.au.dk

<https://pure.au.dk/portal/da/persons/lh@ps.au.dk>

Updated: 18/02/25

Research interests

My primary research interest lies at understanding drivers of political participation and differences between societal groups, with a special focus on understanding persistent gender differences in political participation. Drawing on theories of political behavior, social psychology, and gender, my work examines factors such as the role model effects of women politicians and perceptions of gendered barriers in shaping women's political interest and ambition. Beyond gender and politics, I also engage with broader questions in political behavior including for instance political attitudes and behaviors during societal crises.

Academic appointments

PhD Candidate at Department of Political Science, Aarhus University

2022-2025

My PhD project focuses on explaining continuous gender differences in political ambition. Through three solo-authored papers, I examine women politicians' role model effects depending on more shared identities, women politicians as cautionary exemplars, and perceptions of gendered barriers as explanations of women's political ambition. Methodologically, I rely on surveys, experiments, and qualitative interviews. Supervisors: Professor Lene Aarøe and Professor Anne Binderkrantz.

Visiting Scholar at University of California, Berkeley

2024

Visiting Amanda Clayton and the American Politics Research Lab lead by Gabriel Lenz and David Broockman at UC Berkeley.

Full time Research Assistant on the HOPE-project

2021-2022

On the HOPE-project, I coauthored three papers with members of the research team on citizen attitudes and behaviors towards the politics surrounding COVID-19. I worked systematically with dissemination of results and analysis for media, public, and government in e.g. weekly reports. I also gained substantial experience with designing and collecting survey data, contact with participants, data management and storage, and analysis of large surveys and panel studies.

Principal investigator: Michael Bang Petersen

Papers

Publications

Nielsen, Louise Halberg, and Michael Bang Petersen. (2024) "Beyond Left and Right: The Role of System Trust in COVID-19 Attitudes and Behaviours across Eight Western Countries". *European Journal of Political Research*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1475-6765.12749>

Jørgensen, Frederik Juhl, Louise Halberg Nielsen, and Michael Bang Petersen. (2022). "Willingness to Take the Booster Vaccine in a Nationally Representative Sample of Danes". *Vaccines* 10(3):425. <https://doi.org/10.3390/vaccines10030425>

Under review

Nielsen, Louise Halberg. Women Politicians' Role Model Effects: The Influence of Shared Identities Beyond Gender. *Invited to revise and resubmit in Political Behavior*.

Work in progress

Nielsen, Louise Halberg. Perceived barriers and development of nascent political ambition

Nielsen, Louise Halberg. Women politicians as cautionary exemplars

Nielsen, L. H., Rasmussen, M. S., Jørgensen, F. J., Bor, A., Gregersen, M. F., Petersen, M. B: HOPE Comparative Rolling Cross-Sectional Survey Data on Attitudes and Behaviors During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Teaching experience

Gender and Politics (MA-course, Aarhus University)	2024
Methods II: Quantitative methods (teaching assistant, BA-course, Aarhus University)	2019, 2023
Methods I: Intro to qualitative and quantitative methods (student instructor BA-course, Aarhus University)	2018, 2019, 2021

Conferences and workshops

Conferences

American Political Science Association (APSA) Paper presentation	2024
European Conference for Gender and Politics (ECPG) Paper presentation and panel chair	2024
Danish Political Science Association (DPSA) Paper presentation and panel chair	2022, 2023

Workshops

Cepdisc Stereotypes and Sexism in Politics Workshop at Aarhus University Paper presentation	2023
Gender Dynamics in Politics, the Workplace, and Society at Lund University Participant	2023
Cepdisc Perceptions, Stereotypes, and Discrimination of Women in Politics Workshop at Aarhus University Participant	2022

Media and societal outreach

Public reports and blogposts

Blogpost in “The Loop”, ECPR’s research blog.

Nielsen, Louise Halberg. 2025. “System Trust Is Key to Explaining Covid-19 Attitudes and Behaviours”.
<https://theloop.ecpr.eu/system-trust-is-key-to-explaining-covid-19-attitudes-and-behaviours/>.

Authored weekly reports on the development of the COVID-19 pandemic and citizen’s attitudes as part of the HOPE-project. The reports were read by the government, media, and the public. See e.g.

- Nielsen, L. H., Roepstorff, A., & Petersen, M. B. (2022). Danskernes Adfærd og Holdninger Under Corona-Pandemien. Aarhus Universitet.
https://hope-project.dk/#/reports/danskernes_adfaerd_og_holdninger/versions/10-03-2022
- Nielsen, L. H., Jørgensen, F., Bor, A., Bjørn Hyldgaard, F., & Petersen, M. B. (2022). *Danskernes Smitteforebyggende Adfærd og Opfattelser: HOPE-Projektet*. Aarhus Universitet.
https://hope-project.dk/#/reports/Danskernes_Smitteforebyggende_Adfaerd_Og_Opfattelser
- Nielsen, L. H., Roepstorff, A., & Petersen, M. B. (2022). *Hvad kan vi lære om kriseadfærd fra corona-pandemien?* Aarhus Universitet.
https://hope-project.dk/#/reports/danskernes_adfaerd_og_holdninger

Media and podcasts

Segment in P4 Morgen on P4 Østjylland about Kamala Harris as presidential candidate (23/7/24)

Interview for Aarhus University’s LinkedIn page about the American Presidential Election 2024

Appeared in the podcast “Regelstaten” for a full episode on my research (05/04/24)

Part of P1 Morgen’s list of experts

Part of Aarhus University’s list of experts for media regarding the US election in 2024

Education

Master’s degree in Political Science, Aarhus University	2019-2022
Bachelor’s degree in Political Science, Aarhus University	2016-2019