

**COPENHAGEN
EDITION**

**Keeping
out asylum
seekers
by making
Denmark
look bad**

**Hey Danes,
please stop
speaking
back to us
foreigners
in English**

**CPH Art
week will
examine
our use
of shared
space**



ISSN 2246-6150

A foreigner at home

Moving from Greenland to Denmark can be a struggle without the right support

THE MURMUR

THE GOVERNMENT wants fewer asylum seekers to come to Denmark. They want Denmark to both appear to be, and actually be, a bad place to relocate if you're fleeing war and persecution. In July they reduced the level of benefits granted to asylum seekers and warned that after the summer holiday we will likely see further restrictions.

But how unattractive does Denmark need to be before asylum seekers start to notice? Immigration minister Inger Støjberg proposed placing adverts in newspapers, but it's unlikely that these adverts will make an impression.

We have some ideas. First, the government needs to get serious with international media and ban Denmark from being discussed in a positive light. The heaps of praise rained on Denmark for its bicycle culture, good business climate, and attractive people, should be discouraged at all costs.

Should international media fail to heed the government's wishes and continue to sing Denmark's praises, then the government could simply pull out of international conventions protecting children, banning torture and land mines. It could shut down public transport and the import of food. It could close communications networks and force military conscription.

These sorts of headlines would make Denmark appear enormously unappealing. So what if we can't travel without visas, our phones are tapped and our diet restricted to what can be grown in Denmark? At least we won't have to put up with 20,000 refugees every year.

Of course that's stupid. Globalisation is also a social contract. We cannot reap the benefits of trading with the world and travelling freely, without the rest of the world also finding out about how good we have it. Indeed, Denmark's wealth is created, in part, by the international knowledge workers and low-paid foreign labourers that help run Danish businesses.

Denmark also cannot participate in international wars that create refugees, without also accepting a share of caring for them. When they do arrive, turning them into a poor underclass is also extremely undesirable. These are people who have been found to genuinely need protection. Active investment in them is vital, if they are to become productive and integrated members of society.

Thankfully, civil society groups have stepped in to help integrate new arrivals. It cannot be solely the responsibility of the state to help, and we should all make an effort to make new arrivals feel as welcome as possible. No matter how grateful they might be for a better life, we all lose if they and their children become alienated from Danish society.

There's a reason Denmark is a great place to be, and it's not because we can bicycle, get paid high salaries, pay lots of taxes and then get some free services. It's a society that is more fair, charitable and socially conscious than many of its neighbours. It is in this spirit we should welcome new arrivals.

THE MURMUR

Even though I have a proper education, years of work experience as a shop assistant and references from Greenland, nobody wants to hire me in Denmark.

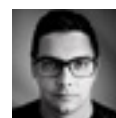
NIELS KRISTIAN
MØLLER

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CONTRIBUTORS



Elias Thorsson Assistant editor at The Murmur. He is pursuing his master's degree at the University of Copenhagen, studying American politics. In this issue he interviewed digital activist Peter Kofod.



Rasmus Degnbol The Murmur's photo editor, Rasmus is an award winning documentary photographer and filmmaker. His photographs accompany our cover feature on Greenlanders in Denmark.



Lesley Price A freelance journalist and copywriter hailing from Australia, Lesley currently works for Danish NPO, INDEX: Design to Improve Life®. This month she helps us understand how to move on swiftly and productively from breakups.



Nereya Ofieno A writer and creator with a background in cognitive science, musicology and communication, Nereya likes to discuss all three while eating sandwiches. She wrote our research column this month.



Alice Minor Hailing from Seattle, Alice is working to understand Danish society through the lens of intersectional feminism. This month she wrote about the failings of the CPR system.



Lena Rutkowska An Australian law graduate, human rights intern and freelance journalist, Lena reported on the government's decision to close the Iraq War Commission.



Henry Richards An English born, Australian grown writer who calls Denmark home, Henry likes everything here except the herring. This month he wrote a column about how annoyed he gets when Danes speak back to him in English.



Lars-Terje Lysemose Danish freelance journalist, editor and educator, Lars-Terje has taught at Greenland's School of Journalism and travelled extensively as a foreign reporter on four continents. He wrote our cover story about Greenlanders in Denmark.



Christian Bennike Danish journalist. Notoriously sceptical. Slave to the creative city elite. Opinionated oatmeal lover. Real Madrid fan. For real. This month wrote a column about why it's weird we eat pigs but not dogs.



Liam Duffy A writer from Galway, Ireland, focusing on poetry, culture and urbanism, Liam visited the brewpub War-pigs for this issue.



Peter Berke A Copenhagen-based freelance artist and illustrator, Peter graduated from the Hungarian University of Fine Arts. He provided the illustration for Alice Minor's article about the CPR number system.

MASTHEAD

Peter Stanners Editor-In-Chief, peter@murmur.dk

Mark Millen Director, Sales and Marketing, mark@murmur.dk

Mette Salomonsen Art Director, www.salomet.dk

Kevin McGwin Journalist, kevin@murmur.dk

SALES For advertising sales, please contact: advertising@murmur.dk
CONTACT THE MURMUR, Hedebygade 14, st.tv., 1754 Copenhagen V.
info@murmur.dk

PRINT Trykkeriet Nordvestsjælland, www.tnvs.dk

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MONTH IN REVIEW

DF BETRAYS ELDERLY

Despite a political platform that promises maintaining current levels of welfare spending, Dansk Folkeparti (DF) politicians in local councils have routinely voted for cuts to spending on care for the elderly.

Politiken Research looked at the voting records of the 66 councils that have made budget cuts to elder care since 2011 and found that DF had voted for cuts in 57 of them.

AIRFORCE CALLS FOR END TO ISIS BOMBING

The government's call to prolong the use of Danish fighter jets in the battle against ISIS in Syria has come under criticism from representatives of Fighter Wing Skydstrup (FWS) where the jets are ordinarily stationed in Denmark. The representatives claim that the continuous bombing missions are wearing down the old F16s, causing serious technical problems. They further claim that many of the flight mechanics tasked with maintaining the planes are suffering under considerable stress as they struggle to keep the planes ready for combat.

"We have to say stop," FWS spokesperson Henrik G. Christiansen told Berlingske newspaper. "Our people are under immense pressure, have no time for their families and sick leaves are at an all time high. At the same time the planes are tearing at the seams and need ever-more maintenance. The politicians need to take responsibility and allow us respite."



Forsvaret

Immigration screwup

In 2003 Leonardo Ronald Satria moved to Denmark from Indonesia, finished two university degrees, learned Danish and now has a high paying job, which places him in the top income tax bracket.

Despite his high level of integration, Satria has been told that he has to leave the country, due to a mistake by the authorities handling his application.

Elias Thorsson &
Lena Rutkowski



Wikimedia Commons

ANTI-WHALERS BOYCOTT DENMARK

Anti-whaling activists spammed the email accounts of Danish MPs to urge a ban on the annual pilot whale hunt in the Faroe Islands. "I am currently receiving three protest emails a minute, do these people think they will accomplish anything other than annoying me?" tweeted MP Mette Gjerskov (Socialdemokraterne).

Some of the emails involved violent threats including death. MP Rasmus Jarlov (Konservative) went on the counter offensive, arguing that before their slaughter the whales lived better and freer lives than many conventionally-farmed animals.

The campaign was orchestrated by militant marine conservation organisation Sea Shepherd, which has been accused of eco-terrorism by authorities in several countries. The Facebook page Go Visit Denmark was also flooded with comments calling for a boycott of Denmark until the centuries old tradition is stopped.

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AGEING POLICE FORCE

Police authorities are facing a crisis as around ten percent of its police force is over 60 years old and therefore able to retire. Out of the 10,520 member force, 1,280 have reached retirement age and police union Politiforbundet claims that this represents a clear danger to the country.

"This is a threat to the police, because if these 1,280 police officers decide to retire than we will find ourselves in an unmanageable situation," Politiforbundet's chairman Claus Oxfeldt told tv2.dk.

According to Oxfeldt, the 384 new police officers that graduate every year are insufficient to sustain officers numbers. This problem has been further exacerbated by the vastly increased number of overtime hours following last February's terrorist attacks.



Rispolitet

Ryanair pulls out of Billund

After clashing with Danish unions over workplace standards, Irish low-cost airline Ryanair pulled services from Billund airport in West Denmark. The airline made the move after Danish trade unions refused to drop strikes against the company amid accusations of wage dumping.

Earlier in May, Copenhagen's Mayor had banned municipal employees from flying with the airline in their official capacity. This was in response to the airline's refusal to employ their staff under Danish collective bargaining agreements. Ryanair argue that it was legally operating under Irish workplace regulations instead.



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Leading Nazi Hunter targets Dane

A 90-year-old Dane has caught the attention of international media after being targeted by the world's leading Nazi Hunter, Efraim Zuroff (left), who is seeking to have him tried for war crimes. Age 17, Helmuth Leif Rasmussen was a member of the Free Corps Denmark, who allegedly helped guard a concentration camp in Bobruisk, Belarus. 1,400 Jews were executed in the camp.

While he acknowledges being a member of the corps and staying at the camp in Belarus, Rasmussen denies that he was a guard. He claims he was there to be trained as a soldier.

As Rasmussen was already tried in Denmark in the postwar period, the Danish Prosecutor has declared that the State wants to avoid prosecuting him twice for the same offence.

GOVERNMENT BUDGET WOES

July saw a shaky start for the new Venstre-led government when one of its major supporting parties, Konservativerne, refused to contribute the necessary majority to pass the budget agreement for the municipalities because of potential property tax rises implicit in the deal.

Prime minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen was saved by the opposition when the Social Democrats and the Social Liberals agreed to support the 2016 budget proposals.



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RESEARCH

A NEW KIND OF LIGHT

What can you do when your taste in design conflicts with your sustainability conscience? Because when it comes to lighting, staying green isn't always so easy.

Luckily, the Technical University of Denmark (DTU) has started a new project to quell those troubles and harmonise design, sustainability and energy conservation. The original concept was made by AT Lighting, a small design company. Fotonik – DTU's department of Photonic Engineering – has helped to further develop CooLED, a custom-made light source that cuts energy consumption by up to 40%.

What's more, CooLED is developed with iconic lamp designs in mind – specifically the classic line of PH lamps from Louis Poulsen. The LED light bulbs were created to emit light in a way that flatters the design with minimal light loss.

LED light is created using semiconductors. Lenses are then applied to direct the light more precisely to where it is needed, for example in spot lights and LED street lighting. CooLED uses a specially-designed lens that can either focus or splay light according to which lamp the lens is designed for.

"The aesthetics of the light in Louis Poulsen's lamps are very important," says Fotonik project manager Jesper Wolff. "So the CooLED light sources combines an efficient light distribution without compromising the experience of the beautiful light in the lamps originally designed by Poul Henningsen."

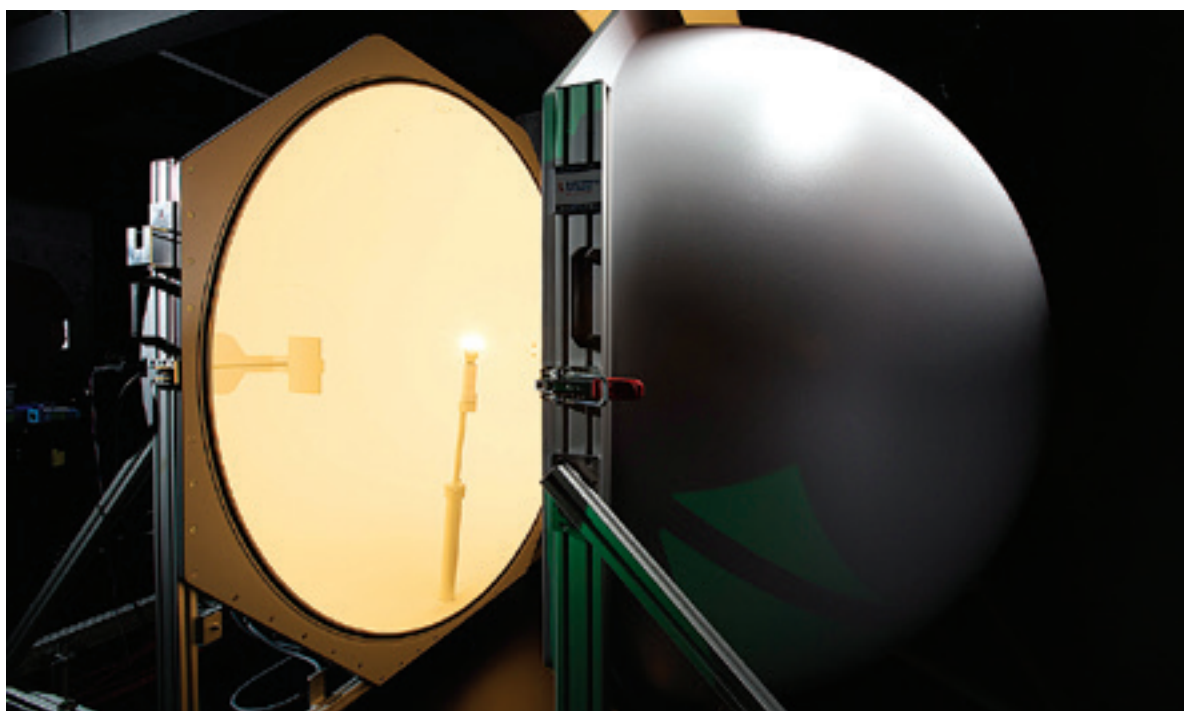
It's also got another trick. As you may have painfully learned when changing a bulb, light sources can get very hot. CooLED reduces its heat waste using tiny, tilted cooling fins at the base of the LED that allow for a continuous flow of air. The air coming naturally pushes the heat generated up through the fins in a cyclical manner, creating a chimney effect and a light source that can cool itself – extending lifetime and reducing the cost of energy.

Fotonik is currently testing the light sources and different types of lenses mounted in the various PH

CooLED light sources combines an efficient light distribution without compromising the experience of the beautiful light in the lamps originally designed by Poul Henningsen.

**JESPER WOLFF,
PROJECT MAN-
AGER AT FOTON-
IC, DTU**

Nereya Ofieno



A CooLED light bulb being put to the test.

lamps. While they anticipate that the CooLED will be up to 20-30% more expensive than competitors, it might end up using 40% less electricity.

INTO THE TRENCHES FOR THE KEY OF LIFE

The University of Southern Denmark (SDU) is going down – way, way down. More precisely, 11 kilometers below the ocean surface in deep sea explorations that are the first of their kind. Professor Ronnie N. Glud of the Biological Institute and the Nordic Center for Earth Evolution (NordCEE) has been granted 24 million kroner for three expeditions over a five-year period to shed some light on what is happening in the dark depths of the ocean.

At this depth the ocean floor is called the "abyssal plane", a pitch-black and seemingly empty abyss. But that's far from true – Glud and his team will be using robots to explore life at these depths and investigate the abyssal plane's biological system.

Few explorations at this depth have been conducted before, and SDU's will be the first of its kind seeking to retrieve samples and investigate the site "as-is". Many precautions and preliminary tests have

already been performed to ensure the deep sea exploration is a success.

"When we operate at these extreme depths, we cannot just take up a sample and investigate it, due to changes in hydrostatic pressure," says Glud.

The exploration environment will be at around 1,000 atmospheres of pressure, so the reduced pressure as the sample rises to the surface can affect the thermodynamics, chemical equilibria, and biology of organisms adapted to deep-sea pressure.

"During recovery, the pressure release will disintegrate the cells. We simply destroy the cells. That means what we study in the laboratory are just the few survivors – and they may not be the important players down at the sea bed," says Glud.

Glud and his team will spend the first year of the grant on developing robotic instruments to perform three main functions in the extreme depths: measuring microbial activity, collecting samples, and preparing samples so that they remain as they were in their environment.

"We inject various substances in the sediment to ensure the cells remain intact during recovery. This means that when we get the cells up, we can study intact cells and

know it is the same as down in the deep trench."

The ocean floor is full of organic materials that settle there – dead fish or sunken algae and anything else that dies and sinks to the bottom. These things either become buried in the sediment to later become oil or gas, or are eaten, digested, and mineralized by bacteria.

"The efficiency by which organic carbon is either buried or degraded by the bacteria is actually the key process that determines the chemistry of the oceans, including the oxygen concentrations. This process regulates oxygen availability on the planet and the conditions for life. That's why we are so interested in understanding the processes occurring in the seabed. We don't know anything about the microorganisms down there and how important they are for the carbon and nitrogen cycling in the oceans."

The five-year plan will begin in January 2016, with the first exploration expected to begin in late 2016. The three trenches to be visited are the Atacama Trench, the Kermadec Trench, and the Japan Trench, with depths of 8km, 10km, and 10.5km, respectively. The Murre is certain that James Cameron is very jealous. **M**

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Q&A

PETER KOFOD – DIGITAL ACTIVIST AND JOURNALIST

THE IRAQ WAR was a pivotal moment for writer and activist Peter Kofod. He was a university student at the time and was uneasy about the justification given for entering the war – that Saddam Hussein possessed weapons of mass destruction (WMDs).

He ended up in Baghdad in 2003 to participate in a human shield exercise whose goal was to disrupt the bombing and invasion of the country. While there, he witnessed first hand how the mainstream media were distorting the facts on the ground.

The next year, Danish military intelligence officer Frank Grevil released documents in which the intelligence agency FE concluded that there was little evidence to suggest Saddam Hussein actually possessed WMDs. Kofod supported Grevil throughout the ensuing court case, which saw Grevil prosecuted, sentenced and finally imprisoned for four months for releasing the documents.

The events inspired Kofod to support whistleblowers. He has since become one of Denmark's most well-known activists in the field, and was even the first Dane to interview NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden. He is a board member of the whistleblower support organization Veron and a writer for left-wing paper Arbejderen and online news media Den Fri.

His reputation as a reporter and digital activist is now bearing fruit. More than 70 Danes combine to donate over 5000 kroner a month to Kofod to support his work.

We talked to Kofod about why he has dedicated his life to information transparency and protecting our right to privacy.

You have done extensive work on information transparency, but why is it so important and do you think people are paying enough attention to the issue?



Andrea Sigard

Average consumers need to start demanding that their data is encrypted.

Elias Thorsson

No, I don't think people are paying enough attention, but I also don't want to be too negative. A lot more attention has been given to the issue by the general population and the media following Edward Snowden and his revelations.

When I give talks on information transparency I often tell this anecdote from 2004 during the Grevil case.

We had invited Daniel Ellsberg, an American whistleblower, to Denmark and I was trying to get the media to cover it. I managed to get in touch with an editor-in-chief of one of the bigger newspapers and he connected me to a music journalist. He thought that a whistleblower was someone who played the flute.

But now I'm giving talks in journalism schools on how to encrypt data and protect sources. This is a major change: I'm used to scream-

ing about how crap the media is. It's fun to be teaching and part of the system I have spent my career criticising.

In this age of mass surveillance, do you think it has become more important for journalists to protect their sources?

Firstly you have to figure out who you are interviewing. If, for example, you're writing about sports, nothing has changed there. But if your adversary is a government or even a big corporation, it can be really difficult to protect your sources. All email, chat and other digital communications are being spied on and hoovered up en masse.

So it is important to select what information you want to share. This is the change that has happened. Twenty years ago, if someone wanted to get hold of your da-

ta, they would have to physically access it. Now it can be done completely remotely.

It's even more important to be vigilant, because as the computing power of security agencies increases, the cost of adding more people to their spy machines approaches zero. As soon as the spy machine is up and running, we are already inside it.

But happily, my colleagues and I have been invited to become part of the curriculum in two of the four journalism schools to teach data protection.

How have governments and the judicial system changed to deal with developments in information protection?

There have been small changes to the laws, but those kinds of changes are not the most important. The real change will have to take place through technology. Data encryp-

tion needs to be the default setting. There has been some progress here. For example, Apple has started to encrypt its internal message service, but elsewhere it is not happening fast enough.

Average consumers also need to start demanding that their data is encrypted. There are some user-friendly and open source programs out there, such as apps from Open Whisper Systems, which easily allow people to encrypt between iPhones and smartphones. Once consumers are exposed to these, they might start demanding more encryption generally.

But can't surveillance serve a positive purpose?

It is important to remember that the point is not to make all surveillance impossible. Some of it, such as spying on terrorists to prevent an attack, is positive. But surveillance should only be performed after a warrant has been issued by a judge, and not through mass surveillance that affects everybody.

If just a small percentage of people switch over to encrypted data, it would effectively make mass surveillance too expensive. It's essentially free for intelligence services to add people who don't encrypt their data into their spy-

ing machine. But it gets far more expensive if they encrypt their data, as the intelligence services have to pay to hack them.

So by encrypting our data we can force agencies to prioritise who they are performing surveillance of.

Do you have any tips for our readers about how to protect their data?

Most people have smartphones these days, and for those I highly recommend everything from Open Whisper System. On iPhones it is available as Signal and RedPhone and TextSecure for Android users.

These are extremely easy apps to use as they just replace your normal text messaging app. If both partners have the app installed then the data is fully encrypted. That is how it should be, just like with your online bank. It's also not too difficult to encrypt emails and emails and computers, though installing the software can be a little tricky. But if you're interested, a group of privacy activists host so-called "cryptoparties" at Cafe Retro on the last Sunday of each month, where nice friendly geeks help you get set up. **M**

CRYPTOHAGEN.DK
PETERKOFOD.DK

As the computing power of security agencies increases, the cost of adding more people to their spy machines approaches zero.

DIGITAL SECURITY

Cryptographic tools can protect you from mass surveillance that all Danes are subject to. There are a variety of programs and apps that are free and open source, which means that everyone is able to examine their source code. This makes the programs safer and reduces the risk that they don't offer the protection they promise. Many of the programs are available online with YouTube tutorials on how to download and install them.

PROTECTING YOUR SMART PHONE

Your smart phone allows your movements to be monitored in real time. Smart phones are also vulnerable to hacking – your text messages and browsing behaviour can be intercepted and our phone calls can also be listened in on – the microphone can even be accessed while your phone is in your pocket.

Open Whisper Systems can encrypt your phone communication and is available as Signal for iPhone and Redphone for Android users. Signal also enables secure text messaging, while Android users can use TextSecure.

SECURE BROWSING

To avoid surveillance while online, use the free browser Tor, which is available for both smartphones and computers. Tor encrypts the browser's internet traffic by routing it through a number of Tor servers around the world. This prevents your online behaviour from being tracked back to your computer's IP address. Tor can be slower and less effective than other browsers, however.

This is a translated excerpt of an encryption guide published by the Danish Journalism Union, written by Freja Wedenborg. She is releasing a book on the topic in the autumn.

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Why did the government close the Iraq Commission?

The closure of the Iraq Commission by the new Venstre government has provoked criticism and sparked accusations of a cover-up. With allegations of prisoner mistreatment emerging, does Denmark need to investigate its involvement in Iraq?

CENSORSHIP ISN'T USUALLY a key theme in Danish politics, as the country routinely reaps international praise for its transparency. But the formal winding-up of the Iraq Commission, designed to investigate Denmark's participation in the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts, couldn't have been better timed to provoke accusations of a cover-up.

Former Liberal Party (Venstre) prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen and then-foreign minister Per Stig Møller from the Conservative People's Party (Konservative) were due to be called by the commission to answer for Denmark's participation in the Iraq War and treatment of prisoners by Danish forces.

While the new government argues that disbanding the commission is a pragmatic and fiscally responsible decision, critics argue that the government is yielding its reinstated power to silence independent review of its past conduct.

VENSTRE: COMMISSION A FARCE

After long criticising the project's stagnation and bureaucratic dysfunction, Venstre pledged in January to close the commission should it form government.

"It has been going on for two years now, it has cost seven million kroner so far, and it still hasn't produced a thing," wrote Løkke Rasmussen on Facebook in February. "It's a farce."

There was also criticism levelled at the alleged internal disagreement between the three commissioners, even sparking Social Democrat and then Minister of Justice Mette Frederiksen to declare her impatience to Berlingske in January.

The new Venstre government also maintains that the basis for Denmark's participation in the



Danish forces on patrol in Iraq in 2005.

Henning Bagge / Scanpix

Iraq War and the circumstances surrounding Danish soldiers' detention of persons has already been adequately covered. Instead, they pledged to divert the funds to support services for Danish veterans.

Right wing ally the Dansk Folkeparti (DF) also accused the former centre-left wing government of setting up the commission to politically embarrass Venstre, who led the decision to enter the war.

"It's purely political teasing," DF defence spokesperson Marie Krarup told Ritzau. "What's

worse, they've made a political issue into a legal issue."

Timing is everything, however. The commission was disbanded just after former PM and NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen and then Minister for Foreign Affairs Per Stig Møller were summoned to appear before the commission.

Fogh Rasmussen would likely have been questioned about a memo obtained by Danish newspaper Politiken, which revealed the PM^a assured Danish military support to the US one year prior to the war.

This is despite Rasmussen's claim at the time that no decision about Danish participation had been made.

The memo also indicates that Rasmussen altered the justification for the war from the alleged existence of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq to Saddam Hussein's failure to cooperate with UN weapons inspectors.

Far left party Enhedslisten believes the hearings were a significant factor in the commission's premature closure.

"We believe they closed the commission because they are

Lena Rutkowski

afraid. It is not a coincidence that the commission was closed just before former government members were called up to answer for the war," said MP Finn Sørensen.

**FORMER COMMISSIONER:
UNANSWERED QUESTIONS**

For Professor Jørgen Albæk Jensen, one of the three commissioners appointed to investigate Denmark's involvement in the war, this is also telling.

"Of course it's difficult to guess why the government shut down the commission. They didn't want it to carry on and my personal guess would be that they didn't want to face the potentially uncomfortable questions the commission might ask."

He believes that it is too early to close the commission just as it begins to call for these hearings.

"There are a lot of unanswered questions – enough that it's unjustifiable to close the commission at this point. We were at the stage where we had questions for the then prime minister and foreign minister."

"We've come a long way and now everything that we've collated is wasted."

Anti-torture organisation Dignity also argues that the commission's closure sends a message about the government's disregard for standards of accountability.

"Interrupting work as important as the Iraq Commission, which was looking into Denmark's compliance with national and international standards during an armed conflict, is obviously not a good signal," said Jens Modvig, Dignity's Director for Prevention of Torture in Detentions.

"In my opinion, the government has signalled that there is no desire for transparency and accountability, since the government's actions shall not be reviewed and analysed as had been planned."

**ALLEGATIONS OF PRISONER
MISTREATMENT**

The commission's disbanding also arrived days before allegations that the government had approved Danish military cooperation with

controversial US security firm Blackwater in Iraq, despite assurances that the two were merely in "dialogue".

Other potential points of concern for the commission include recent suggestions that the then-defence minister was aware that the Iraqi Police Force mistreated prisoners in their care and continued to instruct Danish forces to hand survivors over to them.

To Modvig, the government is clearly wrong to suggest that issues surrounding the war have been "adequately covered".

"The public recently learned that some 300 Iraqi prisoners held by Denmark, and therefore under Danish jurisdiction, were handed over to the Iraqi authorities. This is severely worrying if they were at risk of being tortured by the Iraqi authorities."

Sørensen from Enhedslisten agrees.

"That the war has been 'adequately covered' is a big lie. It has not. A deal between the Army and Blackwater was alleged and we don't know any more about that," said Sørensen.

It also raises possible international legal implications for Denmark.

"If Denmark handed prisoners over to the Iraqis knowing they would be tortured then that is a breach of international law. But that was the point of the commission; we need to try the issues in front of a court judge," said Dignity spokesperson Anders Bernhoft.

COMMISSION MISREPRESENTED

Professor Jensen says allegations of internal strife and stagnation were also misrepresented and exaggerated.

"It took a long time to get security clearance for the classified documents," he said, nodding to the hurdles faced by the commission in accessing sensitive and classified military information from Danish intelligence.

"However in the meantime we did what work we could with non-classified documents."

He also disputes suggestions that the three commissioners refused to cooperate.

"It was more of an issue with electing the wrong chairman. Once we got a new chairman six months ago, everything ran much more smoothly. [PM Lars Løkke] Rasmussen's portrait of a commission which did not function does not apply to the past six months of work."

Sørensen agrees that delays and expenses are not reasonable justifications for the commission's closure.

"That is a very bad excuse. You could use it against any commission – they all take a long time and use a lot of money to draw conclusions."

DOCUMENTATION WITHHELD

What also doesn't help the government's case is the PM's refusal to go before a parliamentary committee to justify the commission's closure. Similarly, the government does not plan to release the documents that have been collated during the commission's two-year tenure, though their support party Liberal Alliance have challenged the government to publicly release these documents.

"The government has thus far failed to provide any sufficient reason for why the documents should be held back," Liberal Alliance's foreign affairs spokesperson Mette Bock told Berlingske.

Enhedslisten MP Sørensen is interested to see whether Liberal Alliance will support his party's move to reinstate the commission when Parliament resumes session in October. Liberal Alliance could provide the centre-left with a majority outside the government to pass the proposal.

"It will be interesting to see whether they will cross the political divide and vote with us," said Sørensen

Meanwhile, Professor Albæk Jensen agrees that the documents ought to be made public.

"If a fiscal argument is used to close the commission, then the logical conclusion is to release the documents and not waste the money, resources and time we've already spent – that is if the concern *is* really fiscal" **M**

IRAQ COMMISSION – TIMELINE

11 APRIL 2012: The Social Democrat-led government formally presents the Iraq Commission, and bestows it with a five-year mandate to investigate Denmark's participation in the war in Iraq and the subsequent handling of prisoners in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

28 JANUARY 2015: Justice Minister Mette Frederiksen admits that she's losing patience with reports of poor cooperation from within the commission.

26 FEBRUARY 2015: Michael B. Elmer resigns from his position as Chairman of the Iraq Commission, citing internal cooperation difficulties. Venstre renews the call to shut down the commission.

24 MARCH 2015: The Justice Minister Mette Frederiksen nominates High Court judge Michael Kistrup as the new chairman.

2 JUNE 2015: The Commission summons former prime minister and NATO secretary general Anders Fogh Rasmussen and former Foreign Minister Per Stig Møller to appear before the commission. The hearings are scheduled for February 2016.

28 JUNE 2015: The Commission is formally wound up by the newly-elected Venstre minority government.

3 JULY 2015: A confidential memo obtained by Danish newspaper Politiken demonstrates that then-Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen offered the United States military support in Iraq one year before the war.

4 JULY 2015: A series of documents released to Jyllands-Posten via the Iraq Commission reveal that the government had approved Danish military cooperation with controversial US security firm Blackwater in Iraq, despite assurances that the two were merely "in dialogue".

7 JULY 2015: Prime Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen rebuffs requests in parliament to explain his decision to close the commission before a parliamentary committee.

7 JULY 2015: Liberal Alliance call on the government to release documents collated by the commission over the past two years.

15 JULY 2015: A confidential memo reveals that Danish forces arrested 12 citizens placed them in the hands of the Iraqi authorities with risk of a death sentence, with no knowledge of what happened to them later.

Keeping Denmark Danish means making Denmark look bad

In international newspapers, immigration minister Inger Støjberg wants to run an information campaign to warn off asylum seekers from seeking protection in Denmark. But while the move satisfies her parliamentary partners in the populist Dansk Folkeparti, dissenting voices within her own party Venstre argue it is a petty and counterproductive strategy

STAY AWAY FROM DENMARK. This is the government's message to the unprecedented levels of refugees and asylum seekers fleeing conflicts around the world.

The Liberal Party (Venstre) – which formed a minority government in June – has long argued that the rising numbers of asylum seekers arriving in Denmark is a result of generous benefits and living conditions. Over the last four years they repeatedly attacked the former centre-left wing government for improving the living conditions of asylum seekers, including the right to live and work outside of asylum centres.

Venstre claimed that these improvements were responsible for a massive rise in asylum seekers. 2249 asylum applications were lodged in 2011, rising to 6104 in 2014, according to Statistics Denmark. Experts pointed out, however, that the increase roughly tracked a general rise in applications to the EU over the same period – from 310,000 in 2011 to 627,000 in 2015.

The flow already seems to be reducing, however. Only around 1,100 asylum applications were lodged in Denmark this July compared to 1,733 the year before. Despite this, the government is intent on reducing this number through a number of controversial new initiatives.

FROM WAR TO POVERTY

Despite being the 17th most populous country in the EU, Denmark still receives the fifth most asylum applications relative to its population. Venstre's suspicion that Denmark's level of benefits was to blame was supported by a document from the EU's border agency Frontex, which reported that

The question is whether [immigration minister Inger Støjberg] wants to solve the problem or survive politically because of them.

JENS ROHDE, MEP FOR VENSTRE

Peter Stanners

in 2014 human smugglers posted a website detailing the varying level of benefits and ease of family reunification in a number of EU countries.

This news satisfied integration minister Inger Støjberg.

"With this paper in my hand, I can conclude with certainty that the conditions of stay mean something," she told Jyllands-Posten newspaper. "We have now tightened the level of benefits and more restrictions will come."

Støjberg was referring to the reduction in benefits for asylum seekers implemented within weeks of forming a minority government following the June election. Asylum seekers will now receive an equivalent amount to students, but without the added benefits of loans and the ability to also earn money on the side.

While they can claim a 1,500 kroner "integration bonus" for learning Danish, political consultant Stinne Bech from Amnesty Denmark argues that the reduction in benefits will only serve to force asylum seekers into poverty.

"The new benefit will create poverty and discrimination, not integration. It's out of touch with reality to suggest that we can regulate away the flow of refugees through reducing benefits."

PRESSURE ON FINANCES

Rising numbers of asylum seekers have placed pressure on public finances. In 2011 the government spent around three billion kroner on housing and processing asylum applicants, while the bill in 2015 is expected to run to 9.2 billion.

Given these figures, Venstre can make an economic argument for limiting the numbers of asylum seekers, especially given the evidence that refugees and asy-

lum seekers do seek out particular countries in which to settle.

"The vast majority of Syrians did not apply for asylum in the Member States of entry but rather in other Member States for many different reasons, notably because they expect to receive more attractive welfare benefits," states Frontex in their 2015 Annual Risk Analysis.

In order to claim asylum in Denmark, refugees must first travel undetected through Europe, exposing a major problem with the EU's protocol for handling asylum. In practice, asylum seekers must have their applications processed in the country through which they entered the EU. That means that if an asylum seeker is registered in Italy, but then travels to Denmark to make a claim, Denmark can send the asylum seeker back to Italy for processing.

Many asylum seekers are aware of this situation, along with the poor conditions in southern European countries such as Italy and Greece, which are the primary points of entry into the EU. Frontex has registered a number of cases where Ital-

ian authorities have deliberately failed to register asylum seekers in order to let them travel through Europe to lodge their application.

THE PACIFIC SOLUTION

In May, the European Commission proposed redistributing arriving refugees and asylum seekers among EU member states. The goal is to reduce the pressure on countries such as Italy and Greece, but the Danish government has decided not participate in the programme.

Instead, the government is set on implementing its own programmes to reduce the numbers. These initiatives are warmly supported by their support party the anti-immigration Dansk Folkeparti (DF), the second largest party in parliament, which has repeatedly called for stricter limits on immigration and for helping refugees closer to conflict zones, instead of on Danish soil.

In April, the party proposed copying Australia's "Pacific Solution", in which refugees arriving by boat are either towed back to land, or taken to the pacific island Nauru, around 3,000 kilometres miles away, for processing.

This controversial approach has been credited with reducing the numbers of refugees arriving in Australia by boat, but it has also had catastrophic consequences for those who are detained.

According to Julian Burnside, an Australian barrister, human rights activist and refugee advocate, the approach often results in indefinite detention for the asylum seekers – a situation that causes catastrophic personal harm.

"Typically, boat people fall into hopelessness and despair after about 12 months. Australia's detention system, both onshore and offshore, has



Venstre MEP Jens Rohde is not towing the party line on asylum seekers. Photo: Europa-Parlamentet i Danmark.

seen many refugee applicants, including children, try to kill themselves. It has seen hundreds of refugee applicants, including children, harming themselves especially by swallowing poison or cutting themselves," says Burnside (see page 22).

Around 90 percent of asylum seekers arriving by boat are ultimately granted protection, making the system punitive and needlessly harsh, argues Burnside.

STØJBERG'S SCARE TACTICS

In late July, Støjberg stated that she had not ruled out any new and restrictive policies for asylum seekers. Shipping asylum seekers offshore for processing is unlikely, but she did announce that she would copy the Australia's information campaigns that warn against seeking asylum in the country.

"It's an information campaign whose message is that you can no longer expect the record high levels of benefits that were introduced by the former government, and you should instead travel to another country," Støjberg told Politiken.

The planned campaign, which would run in countries where refugees travel from and through, was swiftly condemned by the opposition, but also from within her own ranks, including MEP Jens Rohde, who has repeatedly broken with party lines on asylum.

"The question is whether she wants to solve the problem or survive politically because of them," he told Politiken, urging Støjberg to visit Greece and refugee camps in the Middle East in order to fully appreciate the gravity of the problem.

High-profile businesswoman Stine Bosse, chairman of the pro-European Europabevægelsen, also penned a letter to Støjberg that argued the adverts would do Den-



Scampix

Integration minister Inger Støjberg wants to run adverts in international newspapers to warn off asylum seekers from seeking protection in Denmark.

mark more harm than good.

"How would these scare campaigns be received outside Denmark?" she wrote in political magazine Ræson. "Do they promote Denmark's international influence? Has the minister for all of Denmark's refugee and immigration policies even bothered to talk to the business community, which is only just starting to truly recover from the crisis, about how they can continue to attract people from around the world to this country?"

Bosse also argues out that Denmark would likely reduce its numbers of asylum seekers if it joined the EU programme to resettle refugees.

TORTURE VICTIMS SUFFER MOST

Whatever restrictions the government puts in place, asylum seekers are unlikely to stop seeking out Denmark for protection. Among them are vulnerable individuals suffering from trauma related to their experience in war zones.

According to anti-torture organi-

sation Dignity, the decision to lower benefits is counterproductive.

"The deal will undoubtedly increase the stress on torture victims and other highly traumatised individuals and reduce their ability to integrate," stated CEO Karin Verland.

"It is odd to increase the stress and insecurity on a group that most needs calm and stability, and destroy their opportunity for proper living conditions in Denmark." **M**



Neglected and invisible

– Life as a Greenlander in Denmark

With high rates of unemployment, homelessness and substance abuse, many Greenlanders experience social marginalisation after they arrive in Denmark. But because they are regarded as ordinary Danes in the eyes of the state, they miss out on much of the help that other immigrants are offered

WITH HIS BLACK HAIR, brown eyes and dark complexion, 40-year-old Niels Kristian Møller doesn't look like a typical Dane. In fact, despite his name and Danish passport, he isn't really a Dane at all. He comes from Nuuk, Greenland's capital, more than 3,800 kilometres from the Danish mainland.

His family is drawn from the island's indigenous Inuit culture, with their own language and traditions. It shares little in common with modern Danish society, but

in the eyes of the Danish authorities, he's a Dane. While other immigrants are met with language tuition, training and integration programmes, Møller was left to fend for himself when he arrived in Denmark.

Despite coming from a culture that spent centuries adapting to life in one of the most remote, isolated and challenging locations in this world, Møller has found integrating into modern Danish society to not be so easy. And he's

far from the only Greenlander to struggle.

HUGE CONTRASTS

For the past 18 months his bed has been a sofa in a friend's small apartment in Ryparken, on the outskirts of Copenhagen's Østerbro district. It was his only option to avoid living in the streets. Unemployed and living on social welfare, he only has a vague idea of how to find work or a flat of his own.

Words: Lars-Terje Lysemose

Photos: Rasmus Degnbol

"I'm not an alcoholic and I come from Nuuk, where more than 20% of the population is Danish, so I speak Danish almost fluently. I thought I understood the Danish way of life. But even though I have a proper education, years of work experience as a shop assistant and references from Greenland, nobody wants to hire me in Denmark. I don't really get any help to find work or help to find out how everything works here in Denmark," he says.



Niels Kristian Møller has found the move from Greenland to Denmark very challenging. Unable to find his own apartment, he has slept on a friend's sofa for the past 18 months.

After years of searching for a job in Denmark and a couple of moves back and forth between Greenland and Denmark, he has more or less given up on the job hunt. He feels abandoned. The job centre has written him off as being unfit to work due to depression and has told him to see a doctor. But Møller has not been able to keep a doctor's appointment and his inability to find work only makes him feel more apathetic.

It's a different story in Green-

land. Work is easy to find by word of mouth or just showing up at the doorstep of prospective employers. But in Denmark he is a stranger, with no connections and little understanding of how to navigate the labyrinthine labour market.

And while other immigrants are met with integration programmes and offers of tuition in Danish language, Møller is considered just as Danish as if he had been born here. Danish is his second language, however, and the in-

digenous culture, traditions and mentality of his native Greenland are miles away from modern-day Denmark.

FLEEING BOREDOM

Møller arrived in Denmark with all of his belongings squeezed into a single small trolley bag. He wanted to escape the small isolated town of Nuuk where everyone knows everyone else. He felt like he was going mad and lonely from isolation, and trapped be-

Greenlanders are not offered to take part of the integration programmes like other immigrants, though they could definitely benefit from it.

JEPPE SØRENSEN, AALBORG COUNCIL'S SPECIAL BRANCH FOR GREENLANDERS

tween his parents as they went through a divorce. Denmark was an easy escape.

Every year, a number of Greenlanders do what Møller did and spontaneously jump on a plane to start a new life in Denmark. And, like Møller, some of them are not as successful as they had hoped to be when they first set out to the land of their dreams.

The troubles they face are outlined in a 2013 report from the Danish Council for Socially Marginalised Groups, the government's independent committee that represents the interests of socially marginalised groups:

"When the decision to move to Denmark hasn't been planned or prepared, the prospects of having a good start are diminished. Several Greenlanders move to Denmark without bringing any substantial amount of money with them and without bringing means of finding a place to live. They typically start off living with family or friends and don't manage to get a place of their own or to find a job. And many of them don't get in touch with the authorities or seek help until after having been in Denmark for a long while."

SHOCKING STATISTICS

A new study from SFI, the Danish National Centre for Social Research – which The Murmur was given access to before its publication – reveals some disquieting trends. Greenlanders in Denmark are 47 times more likely to end up homeless compared to native Danes and 12 times more likely to be in treatment for alcohol abuse.

Only 31% of Greenlanders in Denmark have a job compared to 58% of Danes and their income is generally significantly lower than the average for ethnic Danes. A staggering 44% of Greenlanders receive social welfare, unemployment insurance or are on early retirement whereas only 11% of Danes are in the same situation.

The statistics are based on 3,700 Greenlanders who moved to Denmark between 1999 and 2011 and a control group of 200,000 Danes. The conclusion is clear: a large minority of Greenlanders in Denmark are unemployed, homeless, live in poverty, on social welfare, in bad health or are addicted to alcohol.

HIDDEN ETHNICITY

Most Greenlanders in Denmark live in one of the five largest cit-



ies. In Aalborg there are so many Greenlanders on social welfare that in 2008 the city council set up a special branch of its welfare office just to help them.

"Greenlanders are not offered to take part of the integration programmes like other immigrants, though they could definitely benefit from it," explains Jeppe Sørensen, leader of the special branch in Aalborg, Denmark's fourth largest city and home to an estimated 1,300 Greenlanders.

Finding the Greenlanders who would benefit from the programme isn't easy, however, as they are registered as Danes in the national identity database.

"If Greenlanders were to be registered as being Greenlanders in the national identification registry then at least we could try to reach out to them once they move here, just as we do with newly arrived foreigners, and try to help them before they actually get into any trouble. If we got hold of

The authorities' lacking efforts in integrating Greenlanders is a sort of mistaken equality – treating Greenlanders as if they were Danes.

MILLE SCHIERMACHER
MEMBER OF THE
COUNCIL ON THE
SOCIALLY EXPOSED

them earlier, then we could connect them to some positive networks before they get bogged down. But it's a tricky balance to keep because the majority of Greenlanders manage their lives just fine, so it could be perceived as being a discriminatory measure to contact them in the first place, simply because they move here."

Noting ethnicity in the CPR registry is exactly what the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination suggests that Denmark should do. In a report released in May, the UN body strongly criticised Denmark for inaction on protecting the rights of ethnic minorities. But while they argue that noting ethnicity in the CPR registry would help ethnic minorities get the help and the rights they are entitled to, Danish law currently prohibits the authorities from registering racial or ethnic backgrounds, along with political, religious or philosophical persuasions.

As a result, nobody really knows

exactly how many Greenlanders actually live here. SFI estimates that, based on place of birth, between 16,000 and 18,000 Greenlanders live in Denmark.

BEING NEITHER NOR

Back in 2003, the Ministry of Social Affairs released a white paper on socially-marginalised Greenlanders in Denmark. The paper noted that, "as Danish citizens, they are not provided with the same help to integrate as refugees and immigrants. In that sense the Danish citizenship becomes something of a hindrance rather than a help to integrate in the Danish society and therefore to make an actual influence on the terms of their own everyday lives."

Mille Schiermacher is a member of the Council on the Socially Exposed and an anthropologist at the Greenlandic House in Copenhagen, one of four independent private institutions across the country that aims to help Greenlanders in Den-

mark. She explains:

"The authorities' lacking efforts in integrating Greenlanders is a sort of mistaken equality – treating Greenlanders as if they were Danes. But the culture in Greenland differs significantly from that of Denmark and many Greenlanders end up in trouble once they move here and need help to navigate through the Danish way of life."

The Greenlandic House in Copenhagen runs a small mentorship project and advertises the project in Greenland so people know where to go for help even before they arrive in Denmark. Currently, only 13 Greenlanders participate in the programme.

SHUNNING OTHER INUITS

Møller remembers seeing the advertisements back in Greenland but in Denmark he shuns other Inuits and tries to avoid meeting them – Greenlanders and their way of thinking is exactly why he wanted to get away. He has no interest in meeting up with other Greenlanders here, even if he feels lonely at times.

Meeting Møller again a couple of months after our first interview, he appears more optimistic and says with a big smile:

"Sometimes in my sleep I dream of Greenland and think I'm back there but luckily, when I wake up, I'm still here in Denmark. And the other day I finally got a mentor from the job centre to help me. It's going to be all right now."

CHANGING STEREOTYPES

The social workers I spoke to all agreed that the number of Greenlanders who move to Denmark without a home or a job is on the rise. They will continue to face social marginalisation unless changes are made, such as adopting the UN's recommendations.

But Jørn Holbech, director of the Greenlandic House in Aarhus, also argues that Greenlanders who successfully find work and a home in Denmark – which are the majority – should speak up and do more for their fellow countrymen.

"Otherwise, the negative stereotypes are only exaggerated. The general public only notices those who have nowhere to live except for the streets. We need to change those stereotypes in order for the general public to get a more positive view on Greenlanders and to help them integrate and find jobs." **M**

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Surviving the breakup apocalypse

Are you Gen Y and suffering a breakup? Psychology researcher Adriana del Palacio González says spending time thinking about it can actually be good for you – as long as you do it right

HOW MANY times have you been told to pull yourself together and move on following a particularly painful breakup? Conventional wisdom is that wallowing in misery is counterproductive and even mentally damaging.

But psychology researcher Adriana del Palacio González from the Department of Psychology and Behavioural Sciences at Aarhus University argues that it's not what you think about that counts, but rather how you do it.

"You can keep thinking about the breakup. You just need to think about it analytically instead of playing the blame game – and this is something that can be learnt," she explains, adding that breakups are a leading cause of depressive episodes in young adults.

Del Palacio-Gonzalez specialises in exploring the line between normal and abnormal psychology and how cognitive variables – the different ways we process information – affect our mental health. She is particularly interested in how and when we are vulnerable to emotional disorders, as this could provide better predictors for anxiety or depression.

"I think we can all agree that breakups are one of the most distressing experiences of our lives," she says. "We can generally go one of two ways – they can either strengthen our personal resilience or activate mental health issues. Understanding what goes on in our minds during these events is extremely important, but it's not easy when you have to split a lot of hairs and you only just scratch the surface."

For years, experts have been trying to understand the psychology of a broken heart, particularly when the emotional distress can also impact our physical health. If you've ever felt like a breakup or a rejection – even from a relative stranger – is like going through war, you might not be far off. Several studies have found that feel-

ing rejected activates many of the same regions in the brain as when experiencing physical pain. Emotional pain shares neural pathways with physical pain, so lingering trauma from breakups can cause an almost constant release of stress hormones that wear the body down.

Del Palacio-Gonzalez's studies could turn this agony into more of a happy ending, however, after making some discoveries that could give the heartbroken some tools for more successful damage control.

DO YOU BROOD OR REFLECT?

"When we look at depression or anxiety, we look at a number of elements – including biological, social and environmental factors – which influence how we deal with stressful situations," she explains.

"Cognitive styles or thinking patterns are resources people have when they go through an emotionally taxing situation. It may sound strange, but some people simply think a lot and others don't, and this will inherently influence you in the long run."

In her search to understand which types of cognitive activities either hinder or help us, Del Palacio-González examined a number of thought patterns including brooding, reflection, deliberate thinking and intrusive thinking.

The sample in her study consisted of 148 university students who experienced the breakup of a romantic relationship in the preceding four months. The relationships had ranged from six weeks to six years in duration.

She found that brooding and intrusive thinking did not contribute to a successful mental recovery, but rather to increased distress and depressive symptoms.

In turn, individuals who engaged in reflective and deliberate thinking were far better at moving on from the experience.

"Brooding involves intrusive

thoughts that can pop up at any time of the day as a negative distraction. It is often highly emotional and involves blame, either of yourself or someone else for the situation. Engaging in these repetitive judgmental thoughts can be very distressing," she explains, adding that brooding is

Lesley Price



Nicolas Raymond

often an accurate predictor of other depressive symptoms.

Employing reflective thought, on the other hand, treats the break-up as a problem that needs solving or a situation that needs to be re-framed. Individuals who said they were reflective and purposefully took time

to understand the breakup were more likely to experience personal growth, an increased sense of self-reliance and improved relationships with family or friends.

"It's viewing the situation in a more analytical and objective manner – it's a much more constructive thought process," she explains.

There is no perfect formula for predicting who will brood and who will reflect. But for those more susceptible to brooding, Del Palacio-González says stressful experiences endured during childhood can play a crucial role.

"They don't need to be particularly traumatic like abuse or a death in the family, but can just be a series of stressful events that slowly shape a way of thinking," she explains, adding that those who are caught in negative mental patterns needn't abandon hope entirely,

as we are not hardwired to think in one particular way.

"It's like developing bad posture – it can always be corrected. You can learn to turn your thoughts on and off, and be trained to look at these events in your life more like a movie screen."

THE CONTEXT

Although a powerful tool, Del Palacio-González acknowledges that learning to adopt positive mental habits are only one piece of the puzzle.

"Of course the context of the breakup makes a difference, including the nature of the relationship and who initiated the ending," she explains. "But interestingly, in both my study and others, longer relationships didn't always lead to more depression after the end. You also have to take into account the participants' direct actions after the events. The research al-

so consistently found that those who did not initiate the breakup experience more symptoms, at least soon after the breakup, compared to those who initiated the breakup."

Researchers are still trying to figure out whether remaining friends after a breakup is desirable, but Del Palacio-González says most findings suggest that it's best to avoid casual contact.

"Some authors have explored if having contact with the ex-partner after the breakup might influence how well people cope, and many found that those who had contact with their ex reported more love and sadness than those who didn't," she explains.

Del Palacio-González adds that being female can have its advantages in these scenarios. During her research she found that women appeared to be more emotionally resilient

Thinking about things more deliberately and not allowing them to catch you off-guard will have a more positive effect.

than men, showing more positivity and growth after the distressing event.

"In my experience, most women report more appreciation after a break-up, even if they are also very distressed" she says. "They generally believe that they have gained something out of the experience and are more hopeful and optimistic than men."

But while women tend to turn to their friends to deconstruct the situation and the relationship, men tend to suppress their feelings and engage in social activities to avoid thinking about it. This can be counterproductive, says Del Palacio-González.

"The bottom line is, thinking about things more deliberately and not allowing them to catch you off-guard will have a more positive effect," she says. "It's safe to say that suppressing thoughts might offer temporary relief, but most research says that this strategy will backfire and prolong the distress." **M**

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CAPTURED

After nine years and over 4.7 billion kilometres, NASA's New Horizons spacecraft rocketed past the dwarf planet Pluto in July. It will take around 16 months to send back all the data it captured from its fly by, but it has already given us some spectacular images. This global view of Pluto is a composite of four images from New Horizons' Long Range Reconnaissance Imager (LORRI) combined with colour data from the Ralph instrument. The images, taken when the spacecraft was 450,000 kilometers away from Pluto, show features as small as 2.2 kilometers. Incredible.



INTERVIEW



Australian Government, Department of Immigration and Border Protection

The Manus Regional Processing Centre is an immigration detention and offshore asylum processing centre located on Los Negros Island in Manus Province, Papua New Guinea.

Boat people fall into hopelessness and despair

Human rights activist Julian Burnside argues that Australia's offshore processing of refugees does far more harm than good

IN AN EFFORT to curb the numbers of asylum seekers arriving in the country, the populist Danish People's Party argues Denmark should copy Australia's approach – process their applications offshore.

But Julian Burnside, a prominent Australian barrister, human rights activist and refugee advocate, argues the approach is punitive and unfairly marginalises an already vulnerable group.

Burnside took the time to explain how the "Pacific Solution" works and what its consequences are.

Peter Stanners

Could you briefly explain how refugees typically arrive in Australia?

Three streams of refugees arrive in Australia each year. First, there is the offshore resettlement stream. Along with a few other countries, Australia handpicks people from refugee camps in other countries and brings them safely to Australia. It is an admirable scheme. The quota each year varies, but at present it is set at 13,750 people per year.

Second, there are refugees who come by aeroplane. These are

people who are able to get travel documents from their country of origin and a visa to come to Australia. Once the person has cleared Passport Control in Australia, they apply for a protection visa.

Third, there are people who are unable to get travel documents from their country of origin or are unable to get a visa to come to Australia. These people are unable to board a plane to fly to Australia, since airlines will not allow a person to board a flight to Australia unless the person is holding an Australian passport or a valid

visa to enter Australia. The reason for this is simple: if an airline brings a person to Australia who is not entitled to enter Australia, the airline has to return the person to their point of embarkation at its own expense.

The people who are unable to get travel documents or a visa to enter Australia have no choice but to use people smugglers. People arriving in Australia by use of people smugglers have typically come from that sector of the world to the north-west of Australia. They typically do not pass through any countries which have signed the Refu-

gees Convention and they typically end up in Indonesia. Indonesia has not signed the Refugees Convention. When they arrive in Indonesia, they can obtain a one-month Indonesian visa but after that one month visa expires, they face the prospect of being thrown in jail if they are apprehended by the Indonesian police.

Even if they hold UNHCR documents showing that they are refugees, they will be jailed if the Indonesian authorities find them. If they wait in the Indonesian community for some country to agree to resettle them, they will typically have to wait between 10 and 30 years. Some of them – the most courageous and enterprising – use people smugglers to bring them from Indonesia to Australia.

How many refugees arrive by boat each year and are they treated differently to refugees who arrive by other means?

The number of so-called 'boat people' arriving in Australia has varied over the decades. The average arrival rate over the last 20 years is about 2,000 people per year. In 2012, there was a spike: 25,000 boat people arrived in Australia in 2012. Typically, the arrival rate of boat people in Australia tracks in parallel with the movement of refugees globally.

Australia's treatment of boat people differs dramatically from its treatment of people arriving by aeroplane. People arriving by plane are unlikely to establish a claim for protection, but they are allowed to live in the community without causing any kind of concern.

Over the past 15 years, more than 90 percent of boat people arriving in Australia have been assessed, by Australia, as refugees legally entitled to protection. During the same period, approximately 30 percent of people arriving by aeroplane and then claiming asylum have been assessed as refugees.

Unlike those arriving by aeroplane, boat people have been subjected to increasingly hostile treatment by Australia, despite the fact that they are almost certain to be assessed as genuine refugees.

They are the subject of relentless public and political vilification and they are subjected to a regime of punitive detention. On arrival in Australia, boat people are assessed to see whether there is some reason why they cannot be sent offshore to Manus Island, part of Papua New Guinea, or to Nauru: an independent Pacific island nation, with a land area of 21 square kilometres.

What fate awaits refugees who are processed offshore?

Offshore processing is carried out in punitive conditions and is explicitly designed as a deterrent. Those who are unable to be sent offshore are generally subject to the regime of indefinite mandatory detention. This means that the refugee is held in detention for as long as it takes to assess their claim for protection. In a number of cases, this has involved a person being held in detention for many years, even though it is not an offence to arrive in Australia, without a visa, seeking protection.

These policies apply equally

to men, women and children regardless of their age or state of health.

Indefinite detention and the "Pacific Solution" cause catastrophic harm. Typically, boat people fall into hopelessness and despair after about 12 months. Australia's detention system, both onshore and offshore, has seen many refugee applicants, including children, try to kill themselves. It has seen hundreds of refugee applicants, including children, harming themselves especially by swallowing poison or cutting themselves.

You are an opponent of offshore processing, though it has been claimed that it has reduced the numbers attempting to arrive in Australia by boat. Do you understand the concerns of Australians who worry that large numbers of refugees could undermine social cohesion?

No, I do not understand the concern that the numbers of refugees arriving in Australia might undermine social cohesion. It is not an argument that is plausible in Australia.

Demographically, Australia is fairly mixed. We have an annual migrant intake of approximately 200,000 people per year. By comparison, the largest number of boat people arriving in Australia in a single year was 25,000, in 2012.

Since the end of World War II, Australia has become increasingly multicultural. At the end of World War II, Australia's population was five million people. It is now approximately 23 million people. A very large part of that increase is the result of migration – orthodox migrants as well as refugees. Australia is a genuinely multicultural society, although it is still almost exclusively an English-speaking nation.

After the end of the war in Vietnam, Australia received about 25,000 Indo-Chinese refugees each year for about four years. They were welcomed into Australia with bi-partisan political support. They caused no significant social difficulty, and Australia was smaller and less prosperous then than it is now.

The real threat to social cohesion is the kind of dishonest politics which sees Australia's two major political parties deliberately misleading the public about boat

The mistreatment of boat people has become increasingly explicit, crude and politicised.

people. Australia's two major political parties have reduced political discussion to the lowest and crudest level ever seen, and both major parties seek to advance their own interests by dishonest rhetoric designed to provoke fear and harness xenophobia.

To what extent is the debate about refugees an ideological culture war – means to shore up power in parliament – rather than actually address the impact of refugees on Australian society?

As someone who grew up in Australia in the 1950s and 1960s, I find it very baffling that Australia's approach to refugees has been so conspicuously harsh in recent years. The answer is, almost entirely, a function of the political process.

In 2001, the Liberal Government of John Howard was concerned that some of its supporters were transferring their support to the hard right wing party One Nation, run by Pauline Hanson. Prime Minister John Howard decided that one way he could win back previous Liberal voters who had moved to One Nation was to take a hard stand on boat people. He saw his opportunity when the Norwegian cargo ship the MV Tampa, rescued 434 Afghan Hazara asylum seekers whose refugee boat was sinking in the Indian Ocean. Howard sent out the SAS who took command of the bridge of the Tampa at gunpoint and prevented the asylum seekers being put ashore in Australian territory.

The mistreatment of boat people has become increasingly explicit, crude and politicised. Boat people have been referred by Liberal Party politicians as "illegal" since 2001, despite the fact that boat people commit no offence by attempting to reach safety in Australia. In addition, the current Liberal Government renamed the Department of Immigration and Citizenship to call it the Department of "Immigration and Border Protection". By referring repeatedly to "illegals" and "protection" the politicians have induced the false idea in the community that a hard-line on boat people is protecting Australia from criminals. It is utterly false but politically effective.

I do not know how much further this will degenerate. It is a dangerous path. **M**



Julian William Kennedy Burnside
An Australian barrister, human rights and refugee advocate, and author, Burnside practises principally in commercial litigation, trade practices and administrative law. He is known for his staunch opposition to the mandatory detention of asylum seekers, and has provided legal counsel in a wide variety of high-profile cases.

Source: Wikipedia



ESSAY



Peter Berke / peterberke.com

I am more than a number

The ten-digit CPR number allows you to participate in Danish society. But for all the doors it opens, it still has the power to categorise people in ways they don't agree with. And it may get worse

AFTER TURNING 18, Sara Méndez decided to take a more masculine sounding name. Méndez was assigned the male gender at birth, but self-identifies as a transgender non-binary person. Identifying as neither a man nor a woman, Méndez prefers the pronoun 'they' to 'he' or 'she'.

Méndez always thought a name like Antonio sounded about right. It both references their Spanish heritage and distances from their assigned gender.

But changing a name isn't that easy in Denmark. The state only allows individuals to choose from lists of names for men, women, and a limited gender-

The ID system was designed with archetypes of Danish men and women in mind.

Alice Minor

neutral selection. An individual's gender is registered by the Danish state, and visible in the personal identification number – CPR number – that all Danish residents hold.

To legally adopt a name not found on the list for one's assigned gender, people in Denmark must first change their CPR number. Before September 2014, this was only possible after genital surgery. In effect, not just sterilization – but castration – was a prerequisite to name change.

When Méndez discovered these high stakes they quickly put the plan aside.

CPR: A NECESSARY EVIL

Danish law has since been improved. Residents can now legally define themselves as female or male but the issue remains touchy for transgender people in Denmark. The number itself reveals legal gender and now the UN would also like Denmark to register racial information.

Interacting with many Danish state services without a CPR number is almost impossible. Given recent changes, it is all the more pressing that we understand its role in Danish society.

The ten-digit CPR (Det Centrale Personregister) code was designed to make it easier to inter-

act with the state's bureaucracy. The first six digits show the bearer's date of birth. The last four are a sequence number that, combined with the first six digits, uniquely identifies the individual. It also indicates the individual's gender assigned at birth: odd for male, even for female. There is no option for non-binary people like Méndez or for intersex people such as the 'x' used in German IDs for intersex babies.

While it is common across Europe for national identity numbers to display gender, it is largely unheard of in the Americas. Similarly, many country's ID numbers don't include a person's birth date.

The ID system was designed with archetypes of Danish men and women in mind. Carsten Grade from the CPR department of the Ministry of the Economy and Interior explains, "Gender is included in the number because that's how it was made in 1968 – it was a reasonable way to construct the number at the time." Almost fifty years later, gender's presence in the CPR number remains unexamined.

Until 1987, South Africa's identity numbers indicated race. We now understand that this fuelled discrimination. And yet, on May 15, 2015, the UN recommended that Denmark adopt racial identifiers into the CPR. They argue it will help track discrimination and hate crime statistics, but the proposal demonstrates a lack of insight into the CPR number's function in Danish daily life.

In many countries, the national ID is used for taxes and employment contracts – but little else. Not in Denmark. Your legal gender is shared with the librarian, doctor's receptionist, university officials, police, DSB employees, landlords – and more. We do not have the right to decide how and when our legal gender status is disclosed because the CPR card is integrated into all levels of society. Including race in the ID number would bring it under the same daily scrutiny.

EMBEDDED RACE?

Mikkel Jensen is in the process of changing his CPR number and explains how having a female-numbered CPR card has made his personal trans identity a public matter.

"It takes energy every time to explain. It causes social discomfort and leads to misunderstandings. I don't want to be forced to inform people all the time that I'm a transman – I want to choose when I bring it up," says Jensen.

The problem isn't simply that Jensen's card displays the incorrect gender: it's the mere existence of gender identifiers. When he receives a male CPR number, Jensen worries he'll have to defend his gender to officials with a narrow idea of maleness. He wants the health system to regard him as a man with low natural testosterone levels. Other than that, his gender identity is irrelevant to strangers.

Jensen, who is multiracial, is also outraged at the United

Nations suggestion to include race. "What will they want to say about me – that I'm brown? White? Asian? Black? You can't boil gender or race down to clear categories."

PLEASE FIT OUR BOXES

Trans experiences with legal gender demonstrate how the CPR system squeezes individuals into categories that do not necessarily exist. The Danish system is prepared to handle "abnormal" people – non-Danish speakers, homosexuals, single parents, people living with disabilities – but only if they conform to the prototypes constructed about these groups.

"Intersex and trans people shed light on the mistakes that are invisible in the system," explain Elvin and Elias from the Transpolitisk Forum in an interview. with the Murmur. "The people who don't fit in reveal problems."

For example, transgender women who have received new CPR numbers have been sent automatic reminders for cervical cancer screening. They are allowed to be women before the law, but being a woman doesn't mean having a cervix. The CPR number lacks the digits to articulate that nuance.

DROP THE GENDER

There are other problems with the CPR system. Immigrants can't get one until they have an address, but finding housing can be difficult for new arrivals even when they have a job waiting. Until they have a number, they are unable to access the rights and services to which they are entitled.

Including race in the CPR number could be counterproductive if the goal is protecting minorities. If race were included in our numbers, can we trust all the authorities that use the number to be completely free of racism and prejudice?

A myriad of services are available to Danish CPR number holders. The troubling fact is that the CPR creates groups that we must conform to – groups that are neither normal nor inevitable. A system that was intended to give access actually excludes those who don't conform to gender norms. If we can agree that markers like race or sexual orientation have no place on a national ID card, then it's time we also take that step with gender. **M**

THE MURMUR WANTS YOU!

We always need fresh faces to keep The Murmur producing high quality, English-language journalism. Here are a few of the people we are looking for:

EDITORIAL INTERN - PART TIME

We are looking for two aspiring journalists with a passion for journalism and feature writing, to join us for a six-month internship starting in February, 2016. You need to be self-motivated, confident and willing to learn. You need to be curious and capable of engaging with subject areas you are unfamiliar with. Most importantly, you must be interested in seeking out the human angle behind the headlines.

We would prefer a student intern who can organise their hours around their studies, but we will consider all applications. Payment is negotiated, and depends on the candidate's qualifications and level of experience.

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Do you have a unique insight into our mundane daily lives, or a new perspective on the important issues of the day? We are looking for new columnists to share their thoughts and experiences, regardless how big or small the topic.

CONTRIBUTORS

Over the past 15 issues, The Murmur has worked with dozens of writers, photographers, editors and columnists. We love collaborations and fresh points of view, no matter how obscure or niche. Even if you just have a seed of an idea, you are welcome to pitch it to us.

If you are interested, please get in touch by emailing our Editor-in-Chief Peter Stanners – **PETER@MURMUR.DK**

COLUMN

Ignorance is bliss until someone dies

I will never find a lasting relationship, unless I accept responsibility and analyse what I did wrong. That process might be difficult, but so are most things worth doing

IF I HAD TO RATE MY LOVE LIFE

and relationship history, then I would give it the grade of medium failure. "Medium", because in my 27 years I've managed to secure more than a fair number of relationships, and "failure" because that is how they have ultimately all ended.

What has changed throughout the years, however, is the degree of soul searching needed after each failed relationship. At some point there comes a time to ask the question, "Is it possible that maybe I'm at least partially to blame?"

When you are young and overflowing with confidence and a sense of immortality, your mental hangover, like its physical counterpart, recovers very quickly. The payment for being drunk on love is like a slap in the face – painful, yet short and manageable. When you get older, however, breakups become a searing pain that pierces the soul. You shout to the sky and a promise to all the deities that if he/she/it makes the pain go away, you promise never to do it again.

The pain becomes so grave that you are forced to face difficult questions such as what went wrong, what could I have done better and is happiness a myth? This process is much like forming an internal committee to analyse and scrutinise the past so that the future can be better.

It's a painful, yet priceless, lesson on actions, inactions and misguided intentions. To look inwards, perhaps with the help of professionals and experts. Sure, these 'professionals' might not always be the right ones and maybe we fail to be objective about things so close to our heart. Our motives, too, might be a bit political, but it doesn't make the process any less important.



The author during happier times.

It is very human to want to avoid self-criticism. It is never appealing or pleasant to face up to our faults and delusions. In the short term, avoidance might save us some grief and perhaps even some money, but in the long term we will remain ignorant about what went wrong, which dooms us to repeat our mistakes.

I think we can all agree that my desire to understand my relationship problems is a good thing. But at least I didn't invade, torture or kill anybody. Some of my relationships might have ended really badly, but at least they had nothing to do with the creation of ISIS.

War is the most evil thing humans have ever created. It destroys lives, murders children, breaks down order and causes millions of people to risk their lives

and abandon their homes and loved ones to flee in search of safety. As in the case of Iraq, it can also create monsters, and worse yet, allow them to use the ensuing chaos to come to power.

The newly-elected Venstre minority government has decided to close the Iraq Commission, which was meant to investigate Denmark's involvement in the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars. In so doing, we are being denied the possibility of understanding the facts surrounding the catastrophic wars and of attributing responsibility.

It is true that the commission's three-year history has been fraught with problems, and maybe Venstre's defence spokesman Troels Lund Poulsen has a point when he claims it was politically motivated. But that doesn't make

It is very human to want to avoid self-criticism. It is never appealing or pleasant to face up to our faults and delusions.

it any less vital. We need to fix it, not destroy it.

Last year I interviewed Per Stig Møller, who was Foreign Minister during the Iraq War, and asked him whether he regretted contributing to sending Danish soldiers and arms into a war that has now gone so horribly wrong. His answer was that it was the right thing to do based on what they thought they knew at the time. This might just be a way for him to protect himself, but it might also be true. The fact is we just aren't sure.

In fact there are a lot of things we are not sure about: the legality of the invasion, the treatment of prisoners of war and why Denmark was involved in the first place when so many countries around the world chose to stay out.

People like former military intelligence officer Anders Koustrup Kærgaard have revealed that the Danish military turned a blind eye when prisoners were mistreated and perhaps even broke the Geneva Convention. Relevant documents have mysteriously disappeared, Danish soldiers have been killed and billions of kroner were effectively wasted on a hopeless war. All the while, hundreds of thousands of innocent Iraqis civilians have died.

The Iraq War is arguably the biggest crime Denmark has been involved with in recent history and the Iraq Commission is the least we can do to repent. Just like the fallout of a painful break up, we must ask tough questions, demand satisfying answers and accept responsibility so that we don't repeat the countless mistakes.

Relationships can sometimes be terrible and political, but at least they are not war. And usually no one dies. **M**

Elias Thorsson

COLUMN

Three crap excuses Danes give when switching over to English

For all the talk about immigrants having to 'integrate' into Danish culture, finding the opportunity to even practice Danish is ironically difficult

"WHY DON'T WE JUST TAKE it in English?" When speaking to a Dane in Danish, there is nothing worse than when they suddenly switch over to English. It can cast a dark cloud over an otherwise sunny day. You might as well say, "Oh, I can hear your Danish is terrible. Let's just speak English instead."

It particularly annoys me when I'm sitting in a room full of Danes who are speaking Danish before one turns to me and changes language. Sure, I know it's not done to be nasty. Of course, you're just trying to be accommodating. But it's still bloody annoying.

My theory is that part of the reason Danes switch to English is because they are still not used to hearing their language spoken in a foreign accent. Danish is hardly a difficult language to learn. The real problem lies in pronouncing it in a convincing accent. As an adult I have concluded it is impossible without a tracheal transplant. When listening to the radio, you can pick out the foreigner in a second. Often they have lived in the country for decades, but still cannot escape detection as a non-native speaker.

It's a confusing limbo. For while Dansk Folkeparti bang on about integration and the parliament increases its hostility towards foreigners, I have been repeatedly asked why I even bother to learn Danish. It's absurd. Here I am, trying to fit in and speak Danish, when someone comes along, switches to English, and asks me out loud what I'm doing trying to learn their language in the first place.

This situation reveals a commonly held belief that Denmark

When Danes hear a foreigner butcher their language, they often decide it's easier to switch to another language than sit through learning the nuance of another accent.

Henry Richards



Thankfully, Henry has *SOME* friends that bother to let him speak Danish.

is a tiny little country with no impact on the rest of the world. Many Danes seem genuinely curious about why anyone would find a reason to move here. It's doubly absurd to an English speaker, as we tend to come from parts of the world where migration is a long established fact. We have long understood that people want to learn our language and we can understand, for the most part, what people are saying even if their English is almost unintelligible. We have learned to listen politely and soften the edges of our own accent while trying to unpick the subtleties of the other.

Yet when Danes hear a foreigner butcher their language, they often decide it's easier to switch to another language than sit through learning the nuance of another accent.

When I've objected, I have often been met with excuses. Here are some of the excuses I've heard and why I think they're lame.

1. "I'M JUST TRYING TO MAKE THINGS EASIER FOR YOU"

Well thanks, Danish person, for trying to make communication in this particular situation smooth-

er, but I'm looking at the big picture. The Danish I am learning will hopefully stay with me for life. I'd much prefer to endure this lengthy learning process rather than conduct my cappuccino order in my native English. If you want to make my life easier in the long term, then please provide me with the opportunity to practice my shitty Danish.

2. "BUT I WANT TO PRACTICE MY ENGLISH TOO."

Ok, this makes sense, but I still have a rebuttal. We are in Denmark. We should speak Danish. I'll speak English with you until your heart's content, should we meet in England or Australia or wherever. I've noticed that Danes get around a lot. Use your next trip abroad to practice your English. I can only speak Danish to Danes in Denmark.

3. "IT'S JUST THAT I HAVE LOTS OF ENGLISH SPEAKING COLLEAGUES AND I'M SO USED TO SPEAKING ENGLISH."

This only serves to remind me that I am an outsider in this country – you're just lumping me in with your English-speaking colleagues,

people who "don't speak Danish". I don't understand how it could come more naturally for someone to speak English than their native tongue. The true reason for switching to English in this case seems to be that they know the person they are communicating with is a foreigner. I happen to come from a stable and privileged country, but what if I were a refugee, making an effort to integrate in Denmark? What if returning to my homeland is not an option? Switching to English despite my efforts to speak Danish could, in this scenario, be taken as an insult to my efforts in building a home here. It could be seen as a sign that I haven't successfully integrated yet and perhaps I never will. So why bother trying?

In short, Danes please don't "do us a favour" or assume we don't want to speak your language. If you hear me making an effort then throw me a bone! When you switch to English you deny us the opportunity to integrate and become part of the future. Sure, sometimes it's nice to get the attention for being foreign, but hey, I would like to just blend into the background too.

Man, it feels good to have gotten all that off my chest. I feel so much better. To conclude on a positive note, I would like to extend a message of solidarity to my fellow foreign comrades – don't give up, keep on strugglin'. We've just got to stick to our guns and insist that those well-dressed, good-looking, flag-flying Danes speak their native language with us.

And to those Danes who have spoken, and continue to speak, Danish with me, I salute you. You are the rødkål to my flæskesteg. **M**

COLUMN

To kill an animal

Our society is deeply embedded with hypocritical attitudes about the value of animal life. Because somehow, when it comes to animals, our morals suddenly get really, really weird

I RECENTLY HAD A BEER with a friend who grew up on a small farm in the southern part of Jutland. It's the kind of place where you don't pay a vet 1,400 kroner to have them put down your dog if it's sick or old. You just take it behind the barn and shoot it yourself. He told me that his father used to do it, not just because he wanted to save money, but also to save the dog a stressful trip to the vet.

"But what if you miss? What if you hit it in the leg and it runs away?" I asked.

"That doesn't happen," he said. His father would cover the gun barrel in liver pate and when the dog started licking the cold metal, he would shoot it through the mouth. Bang!

It's the kind of story that gets to you. On the one hand, a dog is just an animal and if it's sick or old it's okay to kill it – it doesn't really matter how. On the other hand, dogs are loyal family friends that people treat just as well as humans (often better). It's not okay to trick a loyal friend into putting a cold steel barrel in his mouth so you can put him out of his misery. Logically speaking, killing a dog with a gun or an injection is arbitrary. But it doesn't feel the same.

It goes to show how weird our morals are when it comes to animals. We constantly mix up rational judgment, emotions and moral assumptions into one big eclectic pool of hypocrisy.

Denmark seems to care more and more about animal welfare. Just think about the fuss about the slaughter of Marius the giraffe by Copenhagen Zoo, or the killing of Allan the rabbit live on Radio 24/Syv in May. Why isn't there a similar uproar over the 25,000 piglets that die every day in Danish farms

Logically speaking, killing a dog with a gun or an injection is arbitrary. But it doesn't feel the same.

Christian Bennike



Cute, but that doesn't stop us killing and eating them.

Liz West / flickr

or the 20 million other pigs Denmark slaughters every year?

While the market for pet cremations and pet funerals has exploded, so too has the consumption of dead animals.

Thanks to former Minister for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries Dan Jørgensen, we now have a law against having sex with animals, while pig farmers daily violate the sexual integrity of their livestock through brute manual insemination. It's weird that sexually arousing an animal will land you in jail, while others earn a living castrating baby piglets without the use of anaesthetics.

There's nothing logical about our relationship with animals. Think about it: Why didn't the farmers from Jutland just cook their dead dog and eat it for supper? Dog meat is perfectly healthy and many people in the world con-

sume it, including in Switzerland. There's no logical explanation why the family shouldn't too.

But it isn't that simple. Animals aren't just animals; ants are different from blue whales and pets are different from farm animals. Dogs are pets and we don't eat pets. Period. As every dog owner will tell you (and they do!), dogs have very complex emotions. They dream, they fear, they love. But then again, so too do pigs. Pigs have an even more complex mental life than dogs and yet we kill and eat them by the millions.

The reason we don't eat pets is not logical; it's simply because we love them. When we have a personal, loving relationship with a specific dog, it's impossible for us to ever eat it. It's much harder to extend your circle of sympathy to the thousands of pigs that are driven to the slaughterhouse every day.

When we pass illogical animal laws and lose our minds over dead rabbits on the radio, it's because we think about our own little Gromit. We fail to grasp the natural world as something concrete. Instead it's a sensation, a brand, that tingling feeling we get when we watch a BBC wildlife documentary in super HD, or when we pick up a sack of biodynamic vegetables from a guy you know that knows some farmers north of the city.

If the Kingdom of Denmark were an animal, we would be an ostrich hiding its head in the sand (though, of course, that's a myth). When it comes to animals, we should always think long and hard before casting moral judgment, because our morals are corrupted by sentimental emotions towards our own little lives and that makes our judgments weird. Really weird. **M**

Institut Sankt Joseph's International Bilingual Program

An educational program that offers students the possibility to thrive in both a Danish and international context

BILINGUAL PRIMARY (AND NOW) SECONDARY EDUCATION

Institut Sankt Joseph will expand its groundbreaking international bilingual program into secondary education beginning in August 2015. The program will be running classes from ages 5-13, or stages 1-8 of the Cambridge International Examination system.

Only 11 months after opening the international bilingual department, the program has seen its student body grow from 75 students in 2014 to 120 in 2015. Institut Sankt Joseph feels that this growth is a testament to a long-standing demand for a bilingual program in the Danish educational system.

The program is explicitly designed to offer the academic quality and transferability of Cambridge International Examinations, in addition to providing a framework for the possibility of authentic integration and internationalisation.

The school attempts to achieve this by providing a dual curriculum model in which mathematics, English and the sciences are taught in English by native English speakers, following the Cambridge International Examinations system. Danish, Art, PE, Religion and Music are taught in Danish by native Danish speakers, following the Dansk Fælles Mål (Danish National Curriculum).

AUTHENTIC INTEGRATION-AUTHENTIC INTERNATIONALISATION

It is Institut Sankt Joseph's firm belief that its bilingual model is quite distinct from other international programs in the area.

The program is the first fully-integrated English and Danish bilingual program of its kind in Denmark. The school feels that too many times children go to international schools that teach exclusively or primarily in English. As a result, the pupils never learn Danish or become fully integrated members of the Danish society they live in.

In addition, Institut Sankt Jo-



YOU CAN READ MORE ABOUT INSTITUT SANKT JOSEPH AND ITS INTERNATIONAL BILINGUAL PROGRAM BY GOING TO WWW.SANKT-JOSEPH.DK/EN.

seph believes that the concept "internationalisation" needs to be more than just a buzz word. Achieving authentic integration and internationalisation requires making both international and Danish friends and learning together in the same environment.

Institut Sankt Joseph's bilingual program is committed to providing a platform that can overcome the barriers to successful internationalisation and integration. The program aims to accommodate short and long term expats, mixed background families residing in Denmark and Danish families returning home from abroad. The goal is to provide a program in which students become fully bilingual and multicultural, and equally prepared to attend a Dansk gymnasium (Danish high school), an IB diploma program, Cambridge A levels, or an International high school.

BUILDING UPON THE BILINGUAL SUMMER PROGRAM

The concept behind the international bilingual program was first

realised over three years ago. In July 2013, Institut Sankt Joseph launched its summer school program as a pilot project. Now in its third year, the programme continues to grow.

The summer school program has had over 100 children in attendance, split almost equally between students from Danish schools and students from international schools; all involved in different learning, language, community service and creative activities.

The children in attendance have continually shown that differing languages and cultures do not necessarily need to be barriers, but rather can create an environment that helps expand friendship networks and promote understanding of other cultural perspectives through learning and play.

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR DENMARK AND ABROAD

Institut Sankt Joseph's International Bilingual Program is only 11 months old, but as it enters

its second year, the program has taken major steps in transitioning from an idea into a reality. As its second year commences, the school has developed international partnerships with other bilingual schools and witnessed how students who arrived with only one language now switch back and forth between Danish or English. In addition, despite having English as their second or third language, students performed very well on their Cambridge primary checkpoint examinations.

Institut Sankt Joseph hopes to build on these first year achievements and continue to collaborate with parents and the larger community so that its students can flourish.

With the rapid expansion of the program, only time will tell if Institut Sankt Joseph's hybrid approach can keep up with its ambitious goals and ultimately make good on its promise to provide students an educational product that gives them the tools to thrive in both a Danish and International context. **M**



CAPTURED

Kevin Goss-Ross and Christoffer Rosenfeldt were hired by Roskilde Festival to photograph the attendees. They came across this reveller in a costume of Zoidberg from cult cartoon Futurama and decided it would make a great shot if he posed in a pile of rubbish. "He didn't even hesitate," Rosenfeldt said.





HOPPY NECTAR & STICKY FINGERS

Danes and Americans can find common ground in their affection for beer and pork. In the meatpacking district Kødbyen, this shared love affair has materialised in the brewpub **WarPigs, a collaboration between Danish and American brewers**

The air is humid and sweet and the sun beams through the floor-to-ceiling windows that run the length of the building. Customers chatter, chefs patrol the open kitchen and bartenders inspect glassware. Tucked into the furthest end of the vast premises, stainless steel tanks produce a quarter of a million litres of beer a year – it's the lifeblood of WarPigs.

Copenhagen's newest brew-pub is a joint venture between the 3 Floyds Brewing Company from Indiana, USA, and Copenhagen's own Mikkeller. With seating for 280 inside and out, it's an ambitious venture and one of the largest establishments in Kødbyen. So far, business has been good.

"It's going to be a challenge just to keep up with demand here," says Lan-Xin Foo, winner of Mikkeller's latest in-house brewing competition and assistant to head brewer Kyle Wolak from 3 Floyds.

"The point of this brew pub is to keep it local, just for the people in Copenhagen. And I think they are ready for more flavours."

HOT AND SMOKY

Later on this balmy afternoon, the brewers take some measurements and samples from inside a boiling vat of beer before returning outside to finish eating. A few bench-

es away, a couple discreetly changes their toddler's nappy next to sun-struck diners sipping beers and snacking on barbecue served in greased paper trays.

"Most Danes have no idea what a brisket is," says Mikkeller founder Mikkel Borg Bjergsø. "I discovered the Texas-style barbecue in the states and I think it's a rather interesting cuisine because it is so handheld. It isn't gourmet but it is really, really delicious and if you do it well it can be extremely good."

Danish diners also had to adjust to the bread, he explains.

"We have had a lot of complaints about the bread because it is white, so they think it is shitty. But it is actually made by one of the best bakeries in Denmark. People don't understand, but it's our responsibility to educate them."

WarPigs brings an American approach to food to Copenhagen. You queue up at the kitchen for service, choose your meat and select portions by weight, while sides come in polystyrene pots and on paper plates. Overall, WarPigs fits a trend to increase the quality of common "fast-food" without increasing the pretense of the dining experience.

WarPigs contrasts sharply with Bjergsø's previous food venture, Øl & Brød, a 'smørrebrød' restaurant with multi-course set menus that come with spirit and beer matches – Mikkeller beer, naturally.

"WarPigs is a lot of meat, a lot of preparation of raw material – it's a lot of no-service-and-eat-with-your-hands."

**MIKKEL BORG
BJERGSØ**

Words: Liam Duffy

**Photos: H. Agnes
Genay**

"WarPigs is a lot of meat, a lot of preparation of raw material – it's a lot of no-service-and-eat-with-your-hands."

The beer production is also very hands on, says Foo, and explains that there's a good reason it's called "craft beer".

"We are actually crafting beer by hand. There are some breweries where you can just sit in front of a computer and I don't think that is much fun. We might be making small batches, but they're produced by many caring hands."

MERGING OF MINDS

Like all good collaborations, a balance must be struck evenly between the two investing parties. WarPigs shares the aesthetics of other Mikkeller bars, with toned down furniture and 'hyggelig' touches. The bathroom doors are heavy steel, but the windows are lined with dozens of miniature cactuses. Industrial rolls of paper towels serve in place of napkins, but there is still a cloakroom.

3 Floyds' American influences are present elsewhere. Rock and country music is piped in throughout the day and evening, while head chef Andrew Hroza's hot and smoky barbecue is unashamedly all-American.

"Mikkeller and 3 Floyds are very different brands, but their approach is quite similar as they're always trying out new ideas and

collaborations," explains Kamilla Hannibal, WarPigs Communications Manager.

"But while Mikkeller is Nordic, with cool and light colours, cartoons and a playful feel, 3 Floyds' universe is more heavy metal, with skulls and things like that. With WarPigs based in Copenhagen, on Mikkeller's turf, it was important for us that WarPigs was its own thing – we don't brew any Mikkeller beer here at all."

WarPigs also bears the feeling of a family restaurant, and while there are 20 beers on tap – six regulars and 14 changing – it doesn't have the same geeky feel of other Mikkeller establishments. Beer geeks are still catered for through a membership club that allows consumers to invest in WarPigs in exchange for a range of perks and offers.

"Some people thought it was awful and elitist and some people saw it for what it was – it is for people who want to taste beers early and get other cool stuff," says Hannibal of their five-tiered membership programme.

Nick Floyd from 3 Floyds came up with the idea and shaped it on his enthusiasm for role-playing games such as Dungeons and Dragons. It offers customers varying degrees of merchandise, limited edition beers and access to special events and tastings.

Entry-level membership is a



Left: A typical tray from Warpigs – one of the 20 beers on tap together with cole-slaw and brisket.

Above: Lan-Xin Foo won Mikkeller's latest in howuse brewing competition and the chance to work with 3 Floyds head brewer Kyle Wolak, right, at Warpigs.



Trooper at 660 kroner, rising to 65,580 kroner for the second most senior membership, the Colonel. The pricing of membership is perhaps indicative of WarPigs target market, as the odd values in kroner become tidy values of 100 and 10,000 US dollars when converted. The highest rank is the General, of which there is only one. Originally, half a million kroner was expected, but with the rank still unfilled you now only need to make WarPigs your own financial offer and explain what a perfect day as its General would be. In exchange is some extreme VIP treatment.

"We want someone who can invest a little bit but also someone who is really passionate and of course can be an ambassador for the brand," explains Hannibal.

HITTING THE JACKPOT

WarPigs opened on April 10 with free beer, barbecue and music. It was one of the first warm days of the year, drawing city dwellers to bask in the sun outside.

"I saw a picture of a lot of people sitting outside and some people drinking cans of Carlsberg, but I think that is pretty cool actually," reflects Bjergsø. "It shows that we also attract people who can't even afford our beer but still think it is a fun place to be."

Global interest in the Mikkeller brand is enormous, and they could open 50 bars this year if

"The point of this brew pub is to keep it local, just for the people in Copenhagen."

LAN-XIN FOO

they agreed to all the collaborations they've been offered. Far from pushing for global domination, Bjergsø is taking a more considered route, opening the next enterprise in South Korea. It's important for him to be able oversee all operations, he says, so fast growth is undesirable.

His strategy seems to be paying off. In the past nine years, he has transitioned from a school teacher to leading one of the hottest independent beer brands. In January, Mikkeller was even ranked the world's third best brewery by esteemed beer critics' website Ratebeer.com.

"We want to make people smile and it is fairly easy with beer. It would be harder if we did slippers or something," jokes Bjergsø.

Foo also feels grateful to belong to the Mikkeller community.

"There isn't any other position in the world I would want right now – I feel like I've hit the jackpot." **M**



COPENHAGEN BREWPUBS

Liam Duffy rates the best and worst that the city has to offer.



Bryggeriet Apollo

Vesterbrogade 3

Located in the Hereford Beefstouw attached to Tivoli, they have been brewing onsite since 1991 and offer a Pilsner and English-style Ale along with monthly specials such as Rhubarb Ale or a Belgian Pale. The brewery complements the restaurant, so try get a small table outside or a seat near the salad bar to escape the seated diners. The beers are well-made, easy drinking and appropriately conventional to go with your steak or ribs.



Vesterbro Bryghus

Vesterbrogade 2B

Belonging to the tourist trap Strecker's group that includes seven other cafés, Vesterbro Bryghus offers Amber, Brown, Red, Blonde and Indian Pale Ale served unfiltered and unpasteurised and all around terrible. The Carlsberg is probably better here.



Kølsters Tolv Haner

Rantzausgade 56

After opening their doors in December 2014, Kølsters immediately made an impact and landed a nomination for AOK's best beer experience in 2015. Large windows and low-fi wooden furniture lend an airy feel to the bar, while a sprawl of benches on the street corner keep a crowd. The father and son team behind the brew-bar opt for atypical ingredients such as pine, spruce and other Nordic flavours and spices. This adds a unique element to their beers, which otherwise seem unfinished due to cloudiness and a roughness of taste.



Nørrebro Bryghus

Ryesgade 2

It's one of the city's more visible breweries as the supermarkets stock their bottled beers. Based in the Nørrebro district since opening in 2003, most of the beer production actually takes place in Hedehusene, west of Copenhagen. They have brewed over 200 beers to date, with a current core range of ten straightforward but well crafted beers. The location by the inner city lakes offers an industrial aesthetic – its two bars are large and dark with bare brick walls and picnic benches lining the footpath outside. It's a good place for large groups.

Ølsnedkeren**Griffenfeldsgade 52**

In 2012 they began brewing beer in the basement of their bar, before acquiring the bankrupt Stronzo brewery in Gørlose in 2014. Their expanded output means you can now find their beers throughout the city's beer bars and shops. Their menu is ever changing and offers pleasing and traditional styles alongside more innovative brews. The interior is a good example of how to balance hipster eclecticism and Danish design, and their happy hours offer some of the best value for good beer in town.

**BrewPub****Vestergade 29**

With seven taps serving their own beer straight from the tanks along with seven guest beers, there is something for the more conservative and the more experimental. Its location and restaurant keeps the place rather busy and the narrowness of indoor area can make it seem a little hectic, so escape to their large courtyard-terrace while the weather is good.



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THE ART OF SHARING

**From August 21 to 30,
Cph Art Week will bring
together the city's modern
and contemporary artists
to investigate what it
means to share space**

IT OFTEN SEEMS like artists inhabit a parallel world, with their own language and culture. Their work isn't always beautiful or easy to understand, so we can be forgiven for wondering what it is all about.

Cph Art Week helps us get a little closer. Over ten days at the end of August, the festival assembles and showcases the city's art scene.

The festival is spread over more than 60 art museums, project spaces and galleries and features 38 guided tours, debates, conference-

es, performances and artist talks as well as 58 exhibitions.

This year's theme is 'Shared Space', and will explore our relationship to sharing and communicating ideas both inside and outside the art world. Modern society is characterised by our ability and desire to share, but what impact does it have on our lives and larger society? This question will be answered through meetings between the public, art professionals, and artists, which will hopefully encourage greater reflection on how art contributes to society.

"We want to draw attention to what happens when art is exchanged and produced across different spaces. Art is for everyone and constitute a space which we share, affect and negotiate – this year's festival will emphasise what it means to share one's space as an artist, institution, audience and society," says Jan Falk Borup, director of art news website Kunsten.nu, which launched the festival three years ago.

The festival is more than a passive presentation of what modern and contemporary art Copenhagen has to offer. Alongside the exhibitions, there will be salon conversations, guided tours, artist talks and parties. All will help you get beneath the surface.

Now in its third year, Borup says the festival was launched to provide an insight into the emerging talents, artistic trends, and issues of the moment. The festival accommodates both mainstream and narrow artistic activities and making art accessible to a broad audience in an interesting way. Along the way, Copenhagen's reputation as a metropolis for high-quality contemporary art is cemented.

"We want to make the city buzz with activities in the name of art and take everyone – connoisseurs and curious minds alike – on an exploration through the art world of Copenhagen," says Borup. **M**

CPHARTWEEK.DK

3 PICKS



SMK Fridays: Art + Talks + Summer + Street Food + Harbour + Bar

Friday, August 21, 16:00 – 22:00

The Royal Cast Collection, Vestindisk Pakhus, Toldbodgade 40, 1253 Copenhagen K
FREE

CPH Art Week kicks off with a special summer edition of SMK Fridays, though instead of its regular setting at the National Gallery of Denmark, the harbour and thousand of plaster casts at The Royal Cast Collection creates the backdrop. The evening will include performances, site-specific works of art made to take place on water, and artist talks with a number of painters, experts and students from The Royal Academy.



Wireless Footnotes From Another World of Art – Guided ride

Sunday, August 23, 15:00 – 17:00

Meet at Statens Værksteder for Kunst, Strandgade 27, 1401 Copenhagen. Ends at Format Art Space, Nansensgade 35, 1366 Copenhagen K
FREE

Join artist Kristoffer Ørum for a bike ride and discover brand new digital art works created specifically for Cph Art Week. Wireless Footnotes From Another World of Art is the third instalment of Kristoffer Ørum's digital art project Captive Portal, which uses six open wifi networks to invisibly distribute digital works of art in the public sphere. Six visual artists (including Matthew-tobin Nye, above) and authors were invited to create work for Ørum's project. During the guided tour he will share his thoughts about the significance of their placement, and how they relate to the festival's theme 'shared space'. Remember to bring a bicycle.



Studio Day bike ride

Thursday, August 27, 11:00 – 22:00

Meet at Astrid Noacks Atelier, Rådmandsgade 34, 2200 Copenhagen N

See the entire programme at www.copenhagenartweek.dk

Free

Another bike ride: visit some of the most interesting non-profit and artist-driven exhibition spaces in Copenhagen. Experience everything from performances and art experiments to curator reflections, talks, and book launches. The day starts with a philosophical brunch and a performance at Astrid Noacks Atelier before making stops at GREEN IS GOLD, SixtyEight, TYS, and NHL Space. The day ends with the mini-symposium "What's the Alternative?" at Officin in collaboration with New Shelter Plan and Ok Corral. The ride is free and you can join at any time.

Cph Art Week '15

21 → 30 aug
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cphartweek.dk

GUIDED ART TOUR

Interested in contemporary art? Join us for a guided art tour during Cph Art Week.

Find all tours on cphartweek.dk

nu
kunsten .

WHAT'S ON • AUGUST

ALL MONTH

SUMMER CINEMA
American visual artist Angelica Mesiti brings her latest work, the video installation 'Citizens Band', to Denmark.

Huset's Biograf
Rådhusstræde 13, CPH
huset-kbh.dk



CPH FASHION WEEK
Enjoy some of the best talent, latest trends and best parties all part of the Nordic Region's largest fashion event.

Locations across CPH
Copenhagenfashionweek.com
August 5 – 7

6

NEW YEAR, OLD FAVES
This year New Note Festival features Choir of Young Believers, Oh Land and Vinnie Who, just to name to a few.

Hillerød
newnotefestival.dk
Ends August 8



THE UNHEARD VOICES
Hear some of the newest, emerging music talent from all around the country at Uhørt, a diverse and intimate festival on Refshaleøen.

Refshalevej 207A
uhoert.dk
August 7 – 8



ONE FOR THE DANCERS
Strøm festival is back for another year and once again featuring some of the best local and international electronic music.

Locations across CPH
stromcph.dk
August 8 – 15

15

COPENHAGEN PRIDE
Support the LGBT community and join the party marching parade from Frederiksberg to Copenhagen City Hall Square. Costumes compulsory.

Vesterbrogade, CPH
copenhagenpride.dk
August 15



HC ANDERSEN FESTIVAL
Relive all the fairytales and celebrate one of Scandinavia's most acclaimed authors at this lively event for all ages.

Odense
hcafestivals.dk
August 16 – 23

16

FUTURE ISLANDS
After blowing the crowds away at Roskilde last year, the American synthpop legends return for two shows.

Vega
Enghavevej 40, CPH
vega.dk
August 16 – 17

16

PAINTING THE TOWN
Join the world record attempt for largest colour splash of chalk drawings along one of the city's most iconic streets.

Nørrebrogade, CPH
www.thesoulwash.tumblr.com



RATATAT
The Brooklyn-based electronic duo return to give Denmark a taste of their latest album 'Magnifique' released just last month.

Vega
Enghavevej 40, CPH
vega.dk
August 17

20

LOUISIANA LITERATURE FEST.
Be surrounded by the stunning gallery scenery and hear some of the most beautiful contemporary literature read by the authors.

Louisiana
Gammel Strandvej 13, 3050
louisiana.dk
Ends August 23

Lesley Price



FOR THE FOOD LOVERS
Join 100,000 visitors from both home and abroad to experience some fine Nordic cuisine and seasonal produce at Copenhagen Cooking.

Locations across CPH
copenhagencooking.com
August 21 – 30

WHAT'S ON • AUGUST

21

COPENHAGEN ART WEEK

An inspiring week of exhibitions and events to give art enthusiasts an insight into the Danish creative scene.

Locations across CPH
copenhagenartweek.dk
Ends August 30



ODENSE FILM FESTIVAL

Celebrating their 40th birthday this year, the short film festival will present a number of master-piece films in the category of animation.

Locations across Odense
filmfestival.dk
August 24 – 30

28

RAW CPH

With their biggest line-up ever, Copenhagen's leading clubbing event is back with two days of non-stop music and party vibes.

Copenhagen Skatepark
Enghavevej 80, CPH
rawcph.com
Ends August 30



CULTURE IN THE NORTH

The Aarhus Festival will be boasting cultural events at almost every museum, club and public space for 10 days.

Aarhus
Locations Across Aarhus
aarhusfestuge.dk
August 28 – September 6

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