

**COPENHAGEN
EDITION**

**We need to
find radical
solutions
to climate
change to
save the
planet**

**Despite the
gentrification
Vesterbro's
spirit of
resistance
lives on**

**In Iceland
the Jolly
Roger is
flown high
by a rising
Pirate Party**



ISSN 2246-6150

Finding inspiration in isolation

Soho Rezanejad talks about identity, defying expectations and letting go

THE MURMUR

THE BLOOD hadn't even dried in the Bataclan before every conceivable position, opinion and argument about terrorism, radicalisation, Islam and Western imperialism had been aired. People wanted to find someone to blame – what made the men do what they did? Can we blame poverty and alienation? Were they brainwashed? Are they an expected consequence of Western Imperialism?

Never before have we been so connected and confronted by each other's beliefs, values and ideas. We are enriched by this sharing of knowledge, but it is also the source of enormous conflict. The more connected we get, the more narratives are added to the web, making it harder to find satisfying answers.

When wars break out, terrorists attack and the economy slumps, who do we blame? Assigning responsibility is made difficult by understanding the interconnectedness of narratives. The world starts to feel overwhelmingly complicated, so disillusionment, with the idea that we can make any difference, sets in.

But while the world can be a miserable place, it doesn't mean that we shouldn't try to treat those in our immediate environment with compas-

sion and engagement. We are mostly powerless to prevent wars and economic crashes, but we can protect ourselves from the fallout of these crises by developing more resilient local and community bonds.

Not only will this hopefully make us happier, it means we can more easily mobilise against policies that we perceive as threatening social cohesion and well-being. The powerful go to extreme lengths to maintain the status quo, from denying climate to funneling their money offshore away from the tax authorities. These are real problems and it's in their interests that we remain divided and disillusioned.

Accepting the benefits of globalisation does not mean we shouldn't care most about what is happening directly around us. Maybe by taking more responsibility for the health and well-being for those near us, we can reduce the chances that our neighbours turn against us when other external pressures are applied.

So that's our Christmas message – let's just try and be nicer to each other and maybe read less news. Just not less Murmur, you should definitely keep reading the Murmur.

The Murmur

It may be politically impossible to save the human race.

Ross Jackson

page 28

CONTRIBUTORS



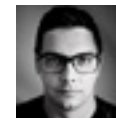
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We are looking for an aspiring journalist with a passion for reporting and feature writing to join us for a six-month internship starting in February, 2016. You need to be curious and self-motivated. You will be writing in English but we hope you can also read and speak Danish. Email a CV, cover letter and examples of your work to Editor-in-Chief Peter Stanners — peter@murmur.dk



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MONTH IN REVIEW

Don't say bomb

A joke landed two Greek men in jail. As they were checking in for a flight at Copenhagen airport one of them told the check in staff that there was a bomb in one of their suitcases. He added that his friend was a terrorist who was wanted for the attacks in Paris. The men were arrested and the terminal was evacuated after the check in staff raised the alarm. After being presented in court, police were given permission to hold the men in custody for 13 more days.

PM CANCELS REFUGEE DEAL

Denmark will no longer participate in a voluntary EU programme for the redistribution of refugees. PM Lars Løkke Rasmussen told this year's Liberal Party (Venstre) conference that the increasing number of arrivals in Denmark justified pulling out of the deal. "The precondition was that Greece and Italy would better control the situation, which they haven't," Rasmussen said. Some councils have opted to erect tent camps to house single male refugees, which has been criticised by Anders Ladekarl, secretary general of the Red Cross in Denmark. "We aren't lacking buildings with solid roofs," he told Politiken.



Peter Stanners

TAX CRISIS DEEPENS

A scam that defrauded the tax authority SKAT of over six billion kroner could be far more extensive than previously thought. The scam involved fake foreign companies applying for tax refunds for stocks they didn't own. SKAT now thinks 9.1 billion kroner might have been fraudulently claimed.

Peter Stanners



Peter Dedecker / flickr

The au pair trick keeps refugees out of Gentofte

While the government tries to keep down the numbers of refugees arriving in Denmark, Gentofte council's wealthy status has indirectly reduced the numbers that are resettled in its borders. Refugees who are granted residency are distributed across Danish councils, but of the 12,000 refugees that were distributed among Denmark's 98 councils this year, Gentofte only received 104. Local newspaper Villa Byerne discovered that Gentofte accepts fewer refugees than other councils due to a high population of non-Western immigrants. The number of refugees that a council receives depends on three conditions. First is the council's population, second is the population of non-Western immigrants and refugees, and third is the number family members brought to the country through family reunification. Gentofte is popular with diplomatic families and highly-educated internationals, bringing the population of residents with non-Western backgrounds to 6,856. Also included in this number are 771 Philipino au pairs. Together, they reduce the quota of refugees that the wealthy council is obliged to accommodate.

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RARE SHARK CAUGHT
A lobster fisherman pulled up more than he bargained for when a four-metre basking shark got lodged in his net. The shark is a rare visitor to the Kattegat, where it was caught near the island Anholt.

The species, which is harmless, can grow up to 12 metres in length, making it the second largest species of fish after the whale shark. The shark has been donated to the Natural History Museum, which will study the specimen to try and understand how the species survives during winter months when they are unable to eat plankton.



Anders Peter Schultz, Natural History Museum of Denmark

COLD TERROR ALARM
Rumours of a potential terror attack at Nørreport station led to its evacuation exactly a week after the deadly Paris terror attacks.

A circulating text message spread the unsubstantiated allegation that the intelligence agencies were keeping secret an imminent attack on the station. Police eventually closed the station after masked individuals were observed there. When it transpired the men were just cold, it was reopened.



Hus Forbi

Homeless activists chastise government
Hus Forbi, the newspaper sold by homeless, received the Freedom Prize from the governing Liberal Party (Venstre). "In the eyes of many Danes, being homeless is equated with being hopeless, this is a shame," PM Lars Løkke Rasmussen said. "Most want to take responsibility for their lives if they are given the opportunity. [...] For many homeless, selling the newspaper gives them something meaningful to wake up to in the morning."

Hus Forbi deputy chairman Henrik Søndergaard Pedersen accepted the award at the Venstre party conference and used the opportunity to condemn the government's decision to cut housing allowance in the 2016 budget. "The number of homeless has risen between 2009 and 2015. The government's policies will only create more homeless and put Hus Forbi sellers – who have faced long battles against their own inner demons – back on the street." Hus Forbi was launched in 1996 and is sold by over 2,000 homeless across Denmark and in Greenland.

TRIPLE GANG MURDER
A gang conflict is thought to be the motive behind the deaths of three young men, aged between 19 and 24, who were murdered as they slept. Police say there were no signs of forced entry into the Frederiksberg apartment, leading them to believe the perpetrators had a key.

According to BT, the three were known to police. Two were recently released in a case relating to illegal possession of weapon and bullet proof vests, as well as drugs trafficking.



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GET STUCK IN

Grapes of obscurity



In late November, the newest addition to Copenhagen's flourishing wine scene opened its doors. The goal was to showcase over 140 different varieties of grapes, many of which will undoubtedly be unknown to the average consumer. VINTRO, located on Ravnsborggade in Nørrebro, will attempt to give Copenhageners a more nuanced view of what wine can be.

"Over the past 20 years, globalisation has resulted in the wine scene being dominated by five red and two white grape varieties," explains Jakob Schierbeck, one of the four founders. "We are against that development, and will instead attempt to promote the remaining 1000 grape varieties."

Schierbeck has traded wine in France and Italy for the past 22 years and has recently moved back to Denmark with his family. Through the opening of VINTRO, he hopes to share his insight and unique experience of the international wine scene with Copenhagen's wine aficionados.

"We are so used to the standard flavours of certain wine-producing areas. We hope to take our customers on a journey of flavour through unknown terroir from which very few have tasted the delicious wines produced," says Schierbeck.

The team of four come from a variety of backgrounds, but they all share a deep passion for wine and appreciation of its diversity. "We don't want to necessarily educate people, we only want to show them how delicious, diverse and affordable wine can really be," says Gustav Prior Knock.

Don't worry, VINTRO is a great place to try out wine even if you're not sure whether furmint, vranec and xinomavro are the names of sumo wrestlers or delicious varieties of grapes.

Vintro Vin
Ravnsborggade 5, 2200 KBH N
Vintrovin.dk

Sure, I'll bite

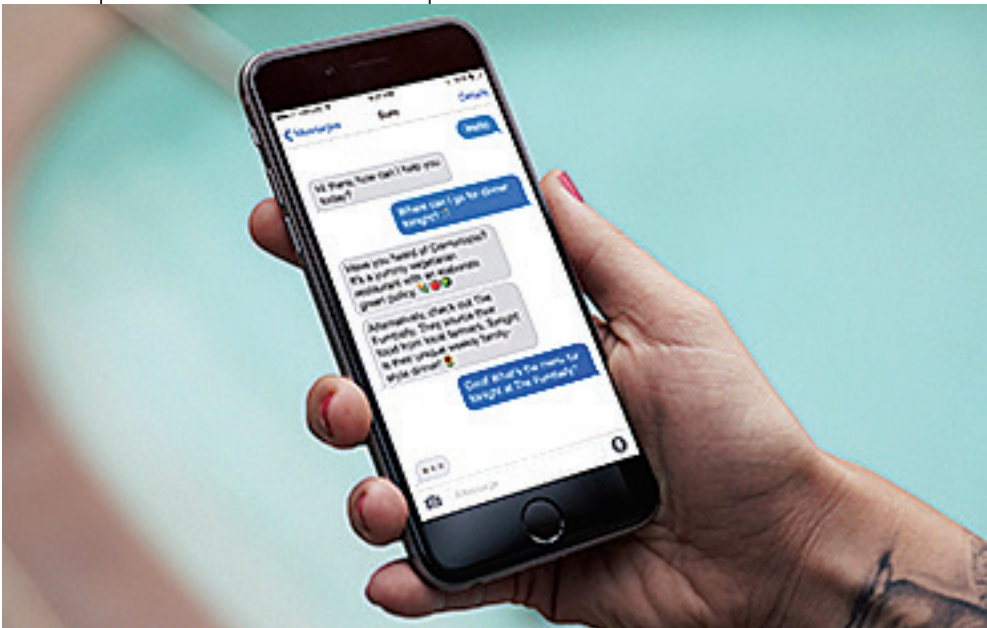
Google can often seem indifferent to your attempts to track down a good place to eat. You type a search, and it shrugs back some answers. But now there's a friendlier answer for eco-conscious diners. The new testing service **Sure** provides detailed information about sustainable dining options in the form of chatty, cheerful texts.

Sure trawls its database of restaurants, cafés and bars to offer dining options to the hungry user, and can dig up menus and trusted recommendations. For now, it's available in Copenhagen and Aarhus.

When you type in "Where should I have lunch in Nørrebro today?" or "is there a good coffee place nearby?" the responses are so conversational, that you almost feel like you're texting with an emoji-happy person who just happens to know every green-friendly joint in the city and really wants you to get excited about your food.

Copenhagen-based Juraj Pal, Sure's co-founder, says he started the service after realising that people don't need to be pushed to be more sustainable or responsible with their consumption habits.

"Instead they want a tool that makes it easier for them to change a simple piece of daily routine – such as where they go out for dinner or where they shop for groceries – to make a positive impact. We started Sure to make sustainable the new normal."



Meet a stranger over a meal



Jeff Kubina / flickr

In 2013, the owner of a vegetable shop in Copenhagen spontaneously decided to invite a handful of students – who by chance were in his shop – into his tiny, slightly dirty kitchen out back. He had decided to teach them his 'secret lunch recipe'. The students were so delighted by the experience

that they wanted to share it with the rest of the world.

The result was the website Cook With A Local, founded in August 2010, a platform that allows anyone to host or attend a cooking class in their local area. The goal is to bring people together through the preparation and enjoyment of a meal.

The platform has already gathered a large following, with just under 3000 likes on Facebook and over 1000 active users world wide. This development is solely the result of organic growth – the company has not spent any money on marketing. On the basis of these numbers, co-founder Christopher Pilgrim believes the site has potential to develop on a global scale.

"We hope that as many people as possible will have the opportunity to experience what preparing a meal together can do to help eradicate boundaries between cultures and social standing," says Pilgrim.

In Pilgrim's eyes, the key to the platform's success lies in the fact that users prepare the meal together.

"The key is in the cooking because that is where people bond. If strangers are just sitting around the table eating, the conversation has a tendency to stop once in a while. If you are cooking and the conversation stops, you can just focus on chopping a carrot or something. So when you actually sit down at the table, the conversation has already taken off," the co-founder explains.

Facebook.com/cookwithalocal
cookwithalocal.net

Vesterbro's new local eatery

In early November, restaurant Wascator celebrated its ten-year anniversary with a party arranged by the regular customers of the Nørrebro institution. The local atmosphere cultivated at Wascator has been a key ingredient in the restaurant's success, and the founders hope they can recreate it at their new venture, the trattoria Italo Disco, in Vesterbro.

The three friends Bo Jørgensen, Levent B. Engin and Kasper Thorsted have rebuilt an old butchers shop on Oehlenschlägersgade to create a new local diner whose name references a curiously kitsch sub-genre of Italian electronic music.

"We do not want any quick-paced hype – we will get there when we get there. To us, the most important thing is that the place has its own feel, its own spirit. And that the food is top-notch, obviously," head chef Engin told iByen.

While Thorsted and Jørgensen wait tables and manage the bar, Engin will be in the kitchen every evening cooking up a seasonal menu made up of fresh, natural ingredients imported directly from Italy. The wine list primarily consists of organic, natural Italian wines – not because of any dogma, but simply because the owners liked those the best.

Italo Disco
Oeglenschlägersgade 6, 1663 KBH V
italodisco.dk



Q&A

RAFEL SHAMRI - FOOTBALL IS PURPOSE

When Rafel Shamri was 16 she started a local football team in Vejle, Jutland, to give a sense of purpose to kids from rough neighbourhoods. Over the years the team also became a way of combatting radicalisation, which is why this summer, aged 20, she became the first ever Dane to win the prestigious European Citizenship Prize. The prize is awarded every year by the European Parliament to a maximum of 50 Europeans who have made exceptional efforts towards the unification of cultures, people, or who have in other ways contributed to the development of the European Community.

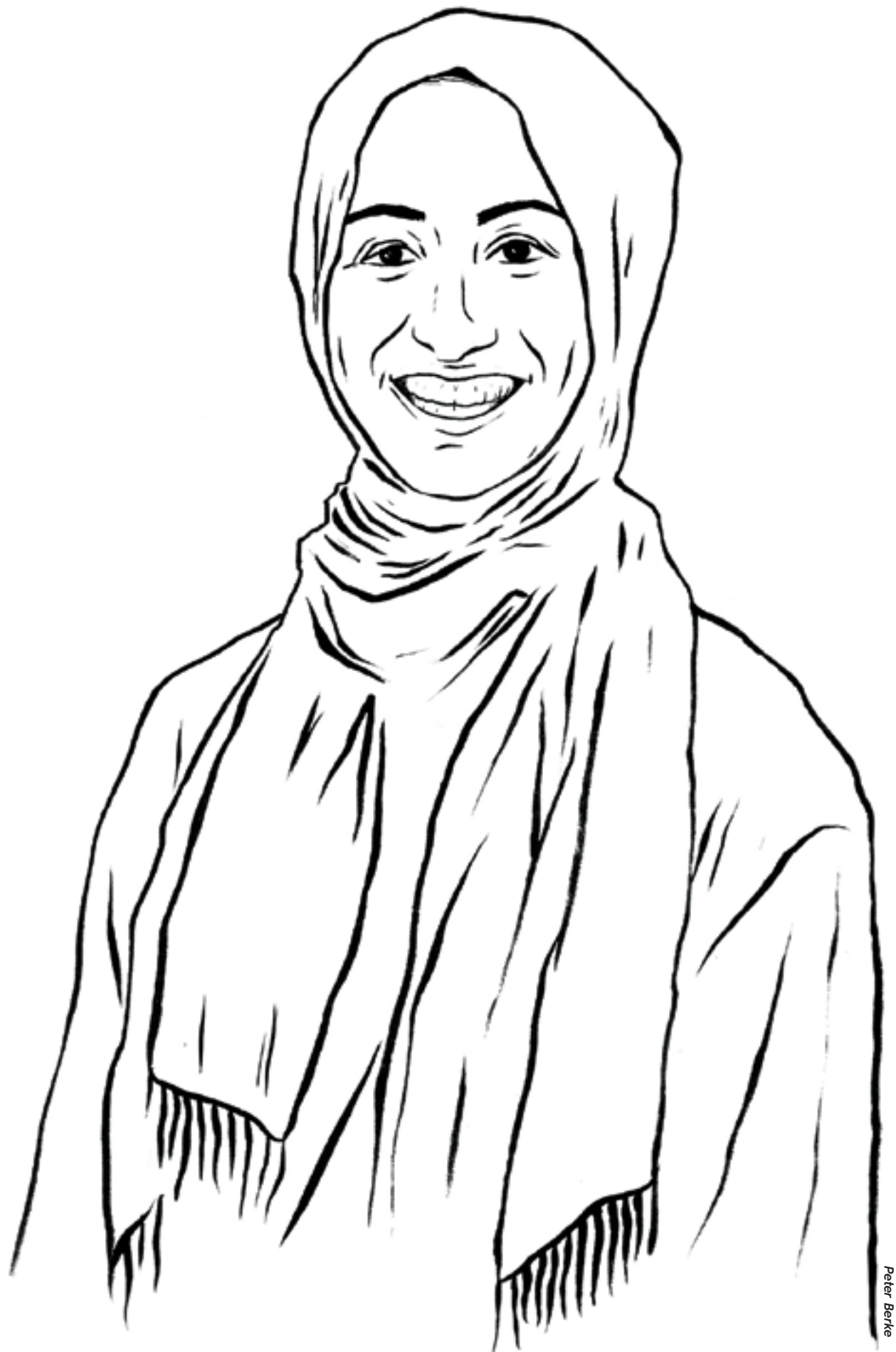
Why did you decide to start the football team?

I started the team because I lacked one to go to when I was younger. I needed some space to be myself and to be heard without being judged while doing something that I love – playing football. Football unites people on and off the pitch, it does not matter whether you are black or white, rich or poor – the only things that matter are hard work and talent.

We also needed the kids to do something other than just hang around in the streets. We had so many meetings in my local community where everyone would just say, "we have to do something", without anyone acting or taking responsibility. I was only 16 when I had the idea for the football team and I was furious with the grown-ups for not having done anything about it. Many of the kids who were my age were too far-gone to be saved, but I knew we could help the younger kids move away from the horrors of gangs and radicalisation.

Where does your love for football come from?

My dad used to play football with me when I was a kid and he passed



Peter Berke

down to me my love of the game. I used to feel free when we were at the football ground. On the pitch I was not just that little girl wearing a hijab – I was powerful. Now, when I see the kids improving on the pitch and in school, and working hard instead of lounging about on the streets – I become truly delighted. That is all I wanted from my work.

How does the football team keep youngsters out of trouble?

When the kids are playing football, they literally do not have time for much else. They come home from school, change their clothes, come down to kick a ball about, and on the days where there is no training, they know they have to behave in order to be selected for the next match. The fact that they have to behave in order to play motivates them tremendously.

I sometimes laugh at the amount of money the government spends on integration programmes, which hardly ever show any results – and then my little project seems to be making a real,

palpable difference. What is really funny is that all it took was love, effort and time.

Why are you motivated to be a good example to young people?

I am trying to be a front figure for the younger generation. To inspire them and to make sure they know that there is always a place for them, where they can feel at home and be safe. I take these kids away from the streets and show them that there is more to life than having a sort of 'gangster-like' existence. I aim to help them be heard and seen by society, not as trouble-makers, but as the genuine people they are underneath their stopy attitude.

What do you hope to achieve with the project in the future?

These youngsters need a voice. Society is constantly telling them how to behave and how to act, but people rarely listen to the hopes and dreams of these kids. I hope that I support them and show that there is more to life than

A few years ago weed and other drugs flooded my neighbourhood. We all felt that something had to be done – fast.

Joshua Hollingdale

being a thug in your local neighbourhood.

What was it like winning the European Citizen's Prize?

It was a big honour to win the prize and I was so ecstatic to represent Denmark through winning the award. It is truly hard to put it into words I was just so delighted that our hard work had paid off in such a big way.

Is there anything else you would like to tell our readers?

I think that very few people understand that integration is a two-way street. I am a ghetto-kid and I have witnessed that great things can come from taking the 'best of both worlds' so to speak. Ghetto-kids like myself just want to be heard, supported and accepted. I do not think many people understand what it is like to feel and be regarded as a stranger in one's own country. I would like to urge society to reach out to these kids and listen – sometimes a helping hand and a smile is all it takes. **M**

European Citizenship Prize

The European Parliament has awarded the European Citizen's Prize every year since 2008 to projects and initiatives that facilitate cross-border cooperation or promote mutual understanding within the EU.

The prize, which has symbolic value, is also intended to acknowledge the work of those who through their day-to-day activities promote European values.

MEP's nominate potential recipients to the prize and the winner is picked by a jury led by the EU Vicepresident Sylvie Guillaume. Rafel Shamri was nominated by Socialdemokraterne MEP Christel Schaldemose.

Rafel Shamri was one of 47 winners in 2015.

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POLITICS ROUNDUP

2016 budget agreed

After lengthy negotiations the governing Liberal Party (Venstre) finally passed the 2016 budget that included large investments in health care and lowered taxes on new cars. The deal was agreed together with right wing parties the Conservative People's Party (Konservative), Liberal Alliance (LA) and the Danish People's Party (DF), along with left-wing Social Democrats (Socialdemokraterne).

A central element was an additional 2.4 billion kroner to health care and one billion for eldercare in 2016. The additional funding will support maternity units, tackle infections in hospitals and quicken the diagnosis of patients. The elderly can look forward to increasingly qualified frontline staff.

The registration tax on certain vehicles was lowered from 180 to 150 percent, significantly reducing the cost of larger vehicles. "I almost didn't believe it," Liberal Alliance's leader **Anders Samuelsen** told Politiken newspaper. The reduction will 350 million kroner, but is hoped to create 700 new jobs.

A sticking point in the budget was a bill for funding the police force through until 2020. After setting aside an additional 1.9 billion kroner to strengthen policing, justice minister **Søren Pind** told Berlingske newspaper that it will ensure, "the strongest police force Denmark has seen in recent times".

The funding was found by slashing foreign aid to 0.7 percent of gross national income from 0.87 percent and reducing benefits for unemployed and refugees.

DF have been criticised for breaking promises to secure an annual 0.8 growth of the public sector. The new estimation is a much lower 0.3 percent.

"No, it's not very much," conceded DF leader **Kristian Thulesen Dahl** to Politiken. "But we've still be able to secure some improvements," he said, pointing to investments in healthcare.

Nor could he promise 0.8 percent growth for the following year. "I have to wait to see what comes

Stopping large cities from planning affordable housing has nothing to do with growth.

FRANK JENSEN
(RIGHT)

out of the budget agreements which have been made," he said, maintaining that 0.8 percent was still the party's goal.



News Oresund

New Growth Package

By drawing on 100 different initiatives, the government hopes to boost nationwide growth and help suffering rural areas. Key focus areas for the ambitious growth package include agriculture and the food industry, which will see 300 million kroner of investment.

"The overarching goal is that the less-populated, outer regions of Denmark also experience growth," industry and growth minister **Troels Lund Poulsen** told Berlingske.

Another tool for stimulating growth is the dispersal of public sector jobs from urban hubs to rural areas.

"We have skewed job growth, which is concentrated in East Jutland, Central Jutland and the capital. We want to be better and to secure job growth for all parts of Denmark," said Poulsen.

The package includes 15 pilot projects along the Danish coastline that are being allowed to proceed despite strict rules that prohibit new construction within 300 metres of the coast. This has drawn criticism from Denmark's largest nature and environment organization, Danmarks Naturfredningsforening.

"For generations we have agreed that the coast is a zone where everyone is able to enjoy the landscape and see the water," says

Ella Maria Bisschop-Larsen, president of Danmarks Naturfredningsforening.

Copenhagen's mayor **Frank Jensen** (left) also opposes part of the package that rolls back a provision that demands 25 percent of new urban areas be allocated to social housing.

"It's grotesque that the government is rolling back the 'cheap housing law' as part of a growth plan. Stopping large cities from planning affordable housing has nothing to do with growth," Jensen told Politiken.

The growth package, which will be rolled out over four years, is worth nine billion kroner and is predicted to boost GDP by 2.5 billion kroner.

Asylum rules even tighter

The government continued its election promise to tighten conditions for refugees and immigrants. 24 new rules were agreed by the government together with Konservative, LA and DF on the right wing, and Socialdemokraterne across the aisle.

Private firms will now be allowed to take over some policing jobs, such as detaining, transporting and guarding refugees and asylum seekers. Private firms will be allowed to use force and handcuff individuals under "extraordinary circumstances" when the police are under staffed, but will not be allowed to use weapons such as batons, pepper spray or guns.

Police will now be able to detain asylum seekers when they enter the country. Until now, police were not able to detain arrivals who lodge an asylum claim after crossing the border without the proper documentation. The purpose of detaining the asylum seekers is to properly determine their identity and the reason for lodging their asylum claim.

If the number of refugees and asylum seekers rises sharply, police will now be able to detain them for longer than 72 hours before having to present them to a judge. Under current rules, they

must be released if they cannot be presented to a judge within this time frame.

Other notable restrictions include forcing rejected asylum seekers to report to the police three times a week, or even to be kept in custody until they can be repatriated. The police can also temporarily close the borders to rail, bus and ferry traffic under "exceptional circumstances", but only if they are in accordance with Schengen regulations.

The Socialdemokraterne's chairman **Mette Frederiksen** told Politiken that the new rules would ensure that failed asylum seekers would be turned away more quickly.

"It makes sense that if we are to take care of refugees who actually have cause for protection, then it's important to return those who do not," she said.

What drew more criticism, however, was the speed with which the new rules were passed through parliament. Usually several months are needed for a thorough debate in parliament, but the bill was passed in only three days. The government argued that the speed was necessary due to the acute situation, but centre left Radikale were horrified.

"The situation is reminiscent of a dictatorship, where laws are proposed one day and passed the next," MP **Ida Auken** told Politiken.



Police given more money

A new financing package for the

Lena Rutkowski &
Peter Stanners

police to last until 2020 will increase the police force by 300 over the coming years, as well as increase the annual police budget by 480 million kroner per year for four years.

The additional funding will strengthen the domestic intelligence agency PET, increase police presence at borders, develop initiatives against gang communities and improve efforts to tackle cyber and economic crime.

With a large portion of police staff set for retirement over the coming years, the police are having to double their intake to around 1800 over the next four years. To accommodate this increase, a new police school will be established in West Jutland and the length of police schooling lowered to two years.

The police union were pleased with the outcome of the deal.

"We would have liked an immediate increase of 1,500 staff from next year, but we knew that wasn't possible," union head Claus Oxfeld told Berlingske.

DF wanted a far more ambitious deal, but still thinks it is possible to increase the number of police officers by 2,000 before 2020. "Then we will have a stronger police force that can manage their tasks, which include burglaries and fighting terror," DF MP Peter Skaarup told Berlingske.

Unemployment benefits slashed

After reaching out across the aisle to support the budget and new asylum conditions, Socialdemokraterne decided it could not join the government in a third major political deal in November – introducing a benefits cap on recipients of the least generous unemployment benefit, *kontanthjælp*.

The government argues that some individuals have little incentive to work as the difference between receiving *kontanthjælp* and taking a low wage job is too small. The government points to a 20 percent increase in the number of Danes receiving *kontanthjælp* – to around 150,000 – since the former

Socialdemokraterne-led government eased the rules for receiving *kontanthjælp* and removed the – arguably punitive – unemployment benefit for immigrants, *starthjælp*.

According to the employment ministry, the new benefits cap will mean that a typical family with two children will now be 3,100 kroner better off each month if one adult takes a job instead of receiving *kontanthjælp* – up from 2,100 kroner before the reform. *Kontanthjælp* recipients also need to make themselves available to the labour market for at least 225 hours a year under the new rules.

"Far more people need to take the step from public support and toward the labour market, and that requires that there is a noticeable difference between remaining on benefits and taking a job," employment minister **Jørn Neergaard** said.

Socialdemokraterne have accused DF of breaking an election promise by supporting the reform.

"This is precisely the opposite of what [DF leader Kristian Thulesen Dahl] said during the election," MP **Pernille Rosenkrantz-Theil** told Politiken. "They were crystal clear before the election that they would not introduce a limit on *kontanthjælp* and they did it anyways. They are letting down Denmark's most marginalised residents."

The reform is hoped to increase employment by 700 people and save 530 million kroner before 2019, which the government wants to put towards a tax reform in the spring.

Students rejoice

A 2013 education reform introduced to reduce the length of time students take to complete university education has been widely criticised. Students argued they were overworked and not given sufficient opportunity to participate in relevant internships during their education.

The government has now decided to ease these requirements, lowering the minimum number of ECTS points students must complete each year from 60 to 45, while students who also work as entrepreneurs will

receive dispensations for certain course requirements.

"The changes reflect the enormous demand from universities for increased flexibility, but without compromising on the goal to significantly reduce the length of study time," education minister **Esben Lunde Larsen** said.

In 2011 students took on average 6.1 years to complete a five-year education. The 2013 reform demanded that universities reduce this by an average 4.3 months per student or face sanctions.

The University of Copenhagen needs to reduce the average length of study by 7.6 months per student by 2020 or risk losing 345 million kroner.



EP / Danmark

DF misused EU funds

DF must repay 102,700 kroner they received in EU party financing. The sum contributed to the costs of a 2013 publicity campaign, ostensibly related to the EU, in which the party sailed a boat to 16 harbours around Denmark.

But an investigation by the Bureau of the European Parliament found that the timing, three months ahead of Danish local council elections, constituted a breach of financing rules. EU party funding cannot be used for domestic election or referendum campaigns.

Morten Messerschmidt (above), an MEP for DF who participated in the sailboat campaign, said he was surprised by the decision given that the financing had been approved beforehand.

"I am in no doubt that that the

It makes sense that if we are to take care of refugees who actually have cause for protection, then it's important to return those who do not.

METTE FREDERIKSEN

campaign was run by the book," Messerschmidt wrote on Facebook.

"I also want to the Bureau of the European Parliament to immediately assess all other campaigns and adverts made by EU parties. The rules should be the same for everyone."



Rasmus Degnbøl

Handicapped politician wins

Kristian Hegaard (above) was excluded from the Fredenborg council's negotiations to cut its disability budget in March when five of the seven other members argued that he had a personal and economic interest in the outcome of the cuts. But the State Administration has now found that his colleagues acted unlawfully by barring him from the meeting.

24-year-old Hegaard, who represents the Radikale and sits on Fredenborg council's social affairs committee, is physically disabled and requires an electric wheelchair and live-in helper. Hegaard was a recipient of one of the services – a subsidy for his live-in helper – that was facing cuts at the meeting.

The council now have two months to respond to the ruling with suggestions for avoiding a repeat incident.

"The case demonstrates the importance of standing up for your rights," Hegaard told Politiken. **M**

CITY

Grandiose public bridge made private

In recent years architecturally-innovative bridges have been springing up all over Copenhagen. Locals delight in the hip new Cirkelbroen on Christianshavn designed by Danish-Icelandic artist Olafur Eliasson and the winding bicycle bridge that links Islands Brygge with Vesterbro.

Copenhageners were also looking forward to making use of another public bridge crossing Nordhavn harbour. The bridge, 65 metres above sea level, connected two new towers, together called the LM Project by Steven Holl Architects.

The original idea was that the bridge would be open to the public, but a majority in Copenhagen city council last month voted to keep the bridge for the private use of residents. City councillor Jacob Hougaard (Socialdemokraterne) told Politiken newspaper that the bridge was too much of a "prestige project" to be taken into ordinary use.

The design, by, won the Progressive Architecture Award in 2010 and it was designed to stand out in the cityscape, with a thin walkway between two epic towers. Public developer By & Havn had described it on its website as a "handshake over the harbour."

But according to the Socialist People's Party (SF), its value as a landmark has now been diminished.

"It could have been a symbol for the city and a good opportunity for Copenhageners and tourists to come and go between the two towers and look over the harbour and the city. It's an unfortunate end to something that could have been a major landmark for Copenhagen," city council member Peter Thiele (SF) told Politiken.

Deputy mayor for technical and environmental affairs, Morten Kabell (Enhedslisten), agrees that the move will take something away from the ordinary citizen.

"The whole point of granting permission to build these spectacular towers on either side of the harbour was to give something back to Copenhageners. That's up in smoke now," he told Politiken.

But critics say that, while architecturally striking, the bridge poses practical problems unforeseen by the designers in their quest for originality.

"Practical considerations didn't enter into the architectural competition. Subsequent analysis has shown that it's next to impossible to have a public pedestrian and bicycle bridge of that height," Michael Nielsen from ATP Ejendomme, told Politiken.

Furthermore, city councillor Lars Berg Dueholm (Liberal Alliance) believes the project demands too much of the developer.

"Of course people have the right to build a house on a plot of land. But that doesn't mean that when they build something the city council must have something in return," he told Politiken.

But Kabell believes the decision to privatise the walkway is a sign that the city is transforming into an increasingly exclusive space – one that demands its citizens to pay to fully engage with it.

"I can only say that a majority in the city council had nothing against an access point where you had to pay in order to enter," he said.

According to the city plan for Marmormolen, the redeveloped Nordhavn pier that the LM Project belongs to, a bicycle bridge is needed to cross the harbour to Langelinie. With the LM Project's elevated bridge now out of public use, the city council has opted to follow the developer's recommendation that a bridge be constructed for cyclists at a more conventional height.

Building a new district

An entirely new neighbourhood is set to be carved out of the listless social housing project Urbanplanen in Western Amager. The area is currently dominated by social housing, but offers residents little else in the form of neighbourhood character or atmosphere.

The area's central point, Solvang Centre, is currently an empty stretch with dark passages and few shops. It will now be torn down and turned into the Solvang district with new housing and pedestrian streets, while



In the original plan, Copenhagen residents were to have access to the elevated bridge in the LM project, but no longer.

It's an unfortunate end to something that could have been a major landmark for Copenhagen.

PETER THIELE (SF)

Lena Rutkowski

a clock tower bathed in green light will serve as a unique landmark.

Critics have claimed that the current layout of Urbanplanen needed to be changed as it has facilitated social problems among its isolated residents.

"This is how we approached urban design in the seventies. The area is built in a way that cuts it off from the surrounding area," Mikkel Warming, who is secretary general of Partnerskabet, the project's central coordinator, told Magasinet KBH.

He adds that reducing the sense of isolation will require more than a change to its physical nature.

"We want residents outside of Urbanplanen to use the area's attractions, but we also want local residents to get out and mix in other areas of the city, otherwise this kind of housing development can easily become a closed-off system with its own norms and rules. But that requires both new buildings and social action. Physical changes must be backed up with a range of activities."

PLH architects won a competition to overhaul the district and their

proposal includes the construction of terraced houses, family homes and youth accommodation, while also leaving space for public buildings such as a culture house. The vision is of a bright, open and green space which offers plenty of places to relax in an area that stretches around 10,000 m².

By introducing housing for young people, the evaluation committee behind the renewal plan hopes to give a much needed spark to the area.

"The youth accommodations will add a new and unique identity to the area," PLH architects wrote in a press release.

"We're looking for urbanity and identity, through a process that will lift the place out of anonymity and offer both form, space and urban life."

Allowing for three years of processing and consultation, the new area is expected to be ready in 2018. Residents and interested parties are invited to come forward with their contributions before the plan is finalised. M

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Giving addicts the tools to save themselves

Since opening in 2012, legal injection rooms have yet to register a fatality despite one facility having overseen half a million of injections. The reality is very different on the streets and in the homes of addicts where increasing numbers are losing their lives from overdosing. The answer could be to equip drug users with the antidote

NANA WALKS towards the doorway of her living room as she feels the heroin surge through her veins. She squats by the door and looks back towards her boyfriend who is being shot up by a friend. She can sense something is wrong with the drug, she is going under. In a daze she tries to call out to warn the men that they are in danger too. But she cannot speak and no words exit her mouth before she loses consciousness from an overdose.

Nana recalled her overdose experience in a video for *ILLEGAL Magazine*. While she was saved by an injection of an antidote, Nana's boyfriend, who also overdosed that day, died. His life might have been saved had he also been administered the antidote in time, but addicts who take drugs at home have to wait for paramedics to arrive, and often that is too late.

Legal injection facilities were established to make it safer to inject and smoke drugs such as heroin and cocaine – the drugs responsible for most overdose deaths. The first legal injection facility in Denmark was opened in October 2012 in Copenhagen's Vesterbro district. It was a landmark moment in Danish drug policy, representing a move away from the criminalisation of addiction.

SAVING LIVES

Besides providing a safe location and clean needles for taking drugs, addicts can also feel safe in the knowledge that should they overdose, staff are on hand to administer an antidote. Skyen (The Cloud) injection room on Istedgade opened three years ago and has overseen over half a million fixes of, primarily, cocaine and heroin that is either smoked or injected. 370 potentially-deadly overdoses have been successfully treated in Skyen, which has not reported a single fatality since it opened.

The introduction of injection fa-



Rasmus Koberg Christiansen in injection facility Skyen on Istedgade, where he is daily manager.

cilities in Copenhagen and Aarhus could be responsible for the drop in overdose deaths between 2011 and 2012, from 285 to 210, according to the Danish health authority.

The number deaths from overdoses shot back up to 263 in 2014, though there was no registered increase in cities such as Copenhagen and Aarhus, which have legal injection facilities. Rasmus Koberg Christiansen, daily manager of Skyen, says the injection facility is doing its job.

"There has been a significant rise in overdose deaths in Southern Denmark and in other areas where there are no injection facilities. If you look at the treatment systems in the areas where deaths are rising, I believe there is enormous potential to improve their preventative strategies," he explains, before urging caution about how to interpret the statistics.

"There are so many poten-

Joshua Hollingdale

tial reasons for the increase and I would be very careful about drawing final conclusions based on these numbers, as it is really hard to measure deaths caused by overdoses precisely. The reported rise could also be the result of the authorities doing more autopsies and therefore finding more cases of fatal overdoses, a stronger drug coming into circulation, or a number of different factors – it is really hard to say."

INJECTION FACILITIES QUESTIONED

Associate professor Esben Houborg from the Centre for Alcohol and Drug Research at Aarhus University says there is a link between the introduction of injection rooms and the drop in drug-related deaths.

"It is likely that the injection facilities have had a part to play in the drop in deaths in 2011 and 2012 – why the number has now risen I could not possibly guess without further studies," he says.

Despite their potential, health minister Sophie Løhde is unwilling to support the creation of more injection facilities, arguing that roughly 80 percent of all overdoses take place in private homes.

"If the fatalities are going to drop, it is necessary to employ several tools and create equal focus on preventative efforts, addiction treatments and harm reduction," the minister told Ritzau.

Michael Lodberg Olsen established the first injection room in a renovated ambulance in 2011. The success of his project led to the creation of the first non-mobile injection room. He points out that the mortality rate is highest outside so-called 'open' drug scenes, where drug addicts meet up in large groups in public spaces.

"With eight out of ten overdoses taking place in private homes, we absolutely have to change our way of tackling the issue. Injection rooms are only effective in cities where drug users gather in public places," explains Olsen.

ANTIDOTE DANMARK

Olsen adds that while it is important to carry on the work of the injection facilities and set up more of these facilities across the country, it is essential to take a different approach in places without these open scenes.

"It is hard to be sure, but it is almost certain that the injection facilities are keeping fatalities low in Copenhagen and Aarhus. For this reason we should definitely be setting up

more facilities around Denmark. But we also need to start educating users and providing them with the right tools so they can help each other when they overdose outside the facilities."

Overdosing is always a risk when injecting opiates such as heroin or methadone into the bloodstream. While in some cases it can cause cardiac arrest, non-fatal overdoses can leave the user with organ damage. According to the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) there are up to 25 non-fatal overdoses for every fatal overdose.

Thankfully, overdoses are easy to treat with the non-toxic drug naloxone, though it is normally only available in injection facilities or hospitals. To increase its availability, Olsen has co-founded the volunteer organisation Antidote Denmark to provide drug users with naloxone so they can treat each other.

"When users are fixing in small groups in the living facilities of private homes in smaller towns without an open drug scene, they are very likely to have either drugs or stolen goods lying around. When someone overdoses, they do not call for an ambulance as a police car will almost always accompany the ambulance to the site of the overdose. Instead, users have been known to drag their overdosed friends onto the street and call for help – and by then it is often too late," Olsen explains.

Antidote projects carried out in the United States have had enormous success rates. A study conducted by the Clinical Addiction Research Education Unit at Boston University showed a 50 percent drop in fatalities among addicts in some communities. One set of naloxone antidote costs roughly 250 kroner and training takes around 20 minutes.

"The only way to tackle the issue is to educate the users and their loved ones and teach them how to save each other. We cannot do this fast enough – it is essential if we want the mortality rate among users to drop." **M**

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The Mærsk Giant jack-up operates in the North Sea.

Drill Denmark drill

Denmark's oil production and shifting environmental strategies threaten to cost the country its status as a green leader ahead of the COP21 United Nations climate conference in Paris

IN DECEMBER, world leaders will meet at the COP21 conference in Paris to draw up plans to combat global warming. Reducing carbon emissions is central to this ambition and in 2012 Denmark took the widely-celebrated step of pledging to reduce CO2 emissions by 40 percent by 2020, and become completely independent of fossil fuels by 2050.

But while Denmark is globally praised for its commitment to renewable energy, it's simultane-

Lena Rutkowski

ously a committed oil producer. So much oil is produced in Denmark's North Sea oil fields that the country is completely self-sufficient in the commodity. Last year, the oil industry generated 25 billion kroner in tax revenue.

Despite Denmark's status as a 'green pioneer', there are no plans to cease production in the near future. Instead the government has been taking active steps to amp up the profits from its oil fields.

In 2013 the former Social Dem-

ocrat (Socialdemokraterne) lead government harmonized tax rules for North Sea oil to generate an additional 28.5 billion kroner of revenue to invest in Denmark's rail infrastructure. In February, the government also earmarked one billion kroner to improve the efficiency of North Sea oil production.

"We are trying to get as much out of the North Sea as possible," former climate and energy minister Rasmus Helveg Petersen told Politiken newspaper.

SCIENTISTS WANT REDUCTIONS

Petersen's ambition to keep Danish oil production churning at full capacity is at stark odds with one of the most efficient ways to keep temperatures from rising – keeping most known reserves of oil, gas and coal in the ground.

According to research by the UCL Institute for Sustainable Resources, a third of oil reserves, half of gas reserves and over 80 percent of coal reserves must remain untouched. That's the drastic ap-

proach needed if the world is to stick to the carbon budget (see factbox) and avoid exceeding a two-degree increase in global temperatures.

"We wanted to demonstrate the contradiction between the declared political goal of remaining under two degrees of warming and the real world, where all politicians want to develop their own reserves and new resources," Christophe McGlade, one of the researchers behind the UCL report, told Politiken.

The research identified which oil-producing regions could continue production, and which must slow down. Cheap oil from the Middle East can keep flowing, but a fifth of North Sea oil must remain in the ground. Oil production in the Arctic is entirely out of the question.

COMBING FOR MORE OIL

The report's recommendations seem to have been completely ignored by the government. Not only does it plan to drain the North Sea oil reserves, but the government has also demonstrated a willingness to expand Denmark's fossil fuel production by handing out licenses for natural gas exploitation through fracking.

The Danish state oil and gas company Nordsøfonden has also indicated that it will continue exploring the North Sea fields for more oil.

"The Danish part of the North Sea is a so-called mature area with a well-developed infrastructure, but it still holds exploration potential [...] large quantities of oil and gas still remain to be discovered in the Danish areas," Nordsøfonden states on its website.

Nordsøfonden has also suggested that Danish oil production will continue beyond 2050, after Denmark's projected transition to a fossil fuel free economy.

"2050 is not an end date for the exploration and production of oil and gas in Denmark," Nordsøfonden's CEO Peter Helmer Steen said at the 7th Concession Round

in 2014, which considered applications for North Sea licences.

Utilising the remaining reserves won't be easy, however. According to trade organisation Oil Gas Danmark, the largely explored North Sea shelf has "no more easy pickings". They furthermore claim that unlocking new fields and getting the most out of existing ones will require strong technological and commercial innovation.

A DOSE OF REALISM

For now, Denmark needs its oil and natural gas. Danish electricity is already among the most expensive in Europe, and a total transition to renewable energy at this point would drastically increase the cost for consumers.

Professor Susan Svane Stipp, from the University of Copenhagen's Department of Chemistry, works with the oil industry to develop more environmentally-sound techniques for oil production from the North Sea reservoirs. She argues that relying on North Sea oil is the best energy solution for the next 10 to 20 years, while sustainable energy sources are developed to the point where they are financially viable.

"We can't turn off the tap tomorrow, but if we can find a way to squeeze a little more oil from the North Sea fields, then we avoid drilling in the Arctic where a spill could be disastrous. We would avoid using resources on new infrastructure. If we produce a little more from existing reservoirs in a responsible way, we would give ourselves another decade or two to get alternative, sustainable energy production going," she says.

Increased investment in renewable energy would only help this transition, but the current Liberal Party (Venstre) government has other plans. Since their June election win, they have massively increased the cost of electric cars, as well as cut the 2016 research budget from 20.6 billion kroner to 19.2 billion kroner. They also proposed 300 million kroner in cuts from the climate budget.

We can't turn off the tap tomorrow, but if we can find a way to squeeze a little more oil from the North Sea fields, then we avoid drilling in the Arctic where a spill could be disastrous.

PROFESSOR SUSAN SVANE STIPP

While those cuts were ultimately dropped in the final budget, the government's self-described "green realism", has nevertheless shaken Denmark's reputation as a green leader. Siemens' wind turbine production is headquartered in Denmark and employs over 10,000 people. But in an interview with Politiken, CEO of offshore wind at Siemens Wind Power, Michael Hannibal, warned the government that it needs to continue sending the right signals to investors if it wants to keep those jobs in the country.

"My challenge to politicians is to continue the ambitious green policies that have maintained a steady increase in wind energy both at sea and on land," Hannibal said.

LACKING CLIMATE LEADERSHIP

Hannibal isn't the only one concerned about the potential impact of weaker climate ambitions. Mads Nipper, CEO of multinational pump manufacturer Grundfos, and Troels Ranis, energy director at lobby group Dansk Industri, have both expressed concerns over recent developments.

The government's hesitation to pursue ambitious climate targets is understandable, given that they are enormously costly and would have a negligible impact on limiting

global climate change from a national standpoint. But the hope is that Denmark's ambitious targets could demonstrate much-needed leadership, especially ahead of the important COP21 climate conference in Paris.

But as long as the world keeps extracting and burning fossil fuel, no amount of solar panels and windmills can prevent serious climate change from happening.

"There's the argument that as long as we need oil and gas, it's better that we produce it ourselves than somebody else," says Tarjei Haaland, climate and energy expert with Greenpeace Nordic. "But if every country says that, then the world will go to hell."

He argues that with a deadline to create a global climate deal and avert dangerous increases in temperatures, it's time for countries like Denmark to step up to the plate.

"We're always talking about reducing CO2 emissions, but we don't talk about who is going to be the one to keep their reserves in the ground," he says. "The Danish government often talks about itself as a green pioneer, but then we should be a pioneer by letting our reserves stay in the ground and let poorer countries produce their share of fossil fuels." **M**

THE CARBON BUDGET AND BUBBLE

We must avoid dangerous climate change – this is the objective of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which has organized the annual COP climate conferences since 1995.

But what is dangerous? Over the past 20 years a consensus has emerged that global temperatures cannot rise more than two degrees of pre-industrial levels. To do so means stabilising CO2 levels in the atmosphere below 450 parts per million (ppm), which is steadily approaching. In March 2015, CO2 concentration broke the 400 ppm mark, a 24 percent rise since records began in 1958. If we are to stay below two degrees of warming, we cannot burn all our known reserves of fossil fuels. If we are to stay within our 'carbon budget', 82 percent of coal, 49 percent of gas and 33 percent of known oil reserves will have to stay in the ground, according to a 2015 analysis from University College London.

Keeping fossil fuel reserves in the ground could have a major impact on the economy. Energy companies are valued based on the assumption that they can extract their proven reserves. If they are forced to keep some of their reserves in the ground, their valuation will drop and wipe out large amounts of wealth from the economy. According to Citigroup, if the two-degree limit is enforced, the so-called 'carbon bubble' risks \$100 trillion of 'stranded assets'.

Eating disorders on the rise

Hospitals and health authorities are struggling to provide effective treatments for the surging numbers of Danes with eating disorders. Research suggests that time spent on social media can increase the risk of developing the disorder

EATING DISORDERS are on the rise. According to the latest figures from the social affairs authority, Socialstyrelsen, hospital admissions for severe cases of eating disorders have risen by as much as 25 percent since 2008, while outpatient treatments for patients with eating disorders have risen by 70 percent since 2007.

National Organization Against Eating Disorders and Self-harm (LMS), thinks too little is being done to help the 75,000 adults and children that – according to research centre for eating disorders and self-harm VIOSS – suffer from eating disorders.

Central to the issue is the division of public healthcare responsibilities. Hospitals are run by the five Danish health authorities, Danske Regioner, while outpatient care is provided by the 98 local government councils. The latest health agreement between the regions and councils was agreed in the autumn, but did not include specific strategies for improving care for patients with eating disorders.

LMS chairman Steen Andersen says the agreement was inadequate, given that only 20 percent of councils have programmes in place for the treatment and rehabilitation of patients after they have been discharged from hospital.

"The main reason why so many patients are readmitted to hospital, is that they did not receive sufficient support after being discharged," Andersen says.

Socialstyrelsen have drawn up guidelines for councils for their outpatient treatment of people with eating disorders, and have given councils a year to report back and outline what treatment options they have to offer. But Andersen doesn't think the guidelines will necessarily translate into new treatments.

"Some councils will undoubt-

The main reason why so many patients are readmitted to hospital, is that they did not receive sufficient support after being discharged.

STEEN ANDERSEN

Joshua Hollingdale



While the social media Instagram blocks certain hashtags related to sex, users can still search for images shared by users that glorify unhealthy body images.

edly say; 'Fine, at the moment we have no rehabilitation options' or even 'In our council we have no people with eating disorders' – which would be an outright lie."

PRESSURE ON RESOURCES

Ulla Astman, chairman of The Health Committee at the association of Danish regions, Danske Regioner, says everything possible is being done to improve care for people with eating disorders.

"However, it is a challenge for both the councils and the regions that more and more people are in need of treatment and hospitalisation and thereby rehabilitation. This is putting treatment capacity under pressure and therefore it is good that Socialstyrelsen has drawn up national guidelines with a series of recommendations from which the councils can be inspired, when designing care for people with eating disorders."

Astman added that it was not

feasible to alter the balance of responsibilities between the councils and regions, but added that Danske Regioner, the association of Danish councils, KL, and LMS were now collaborating to create better treatment systems so people with eating disorders experience a more coherent course of treatment.

SOCIAL MEDIA LINK

While there is no consensus on what is causing the increase in reported eating disorders, Dr Adrienne Key, from the UK's Royal College of Psychiatrists' Eating Disorders Section, says there is a growing body of research that suggests social media is playing a part in the development of eating disorder symptoms, particularly in adolescents and young people.

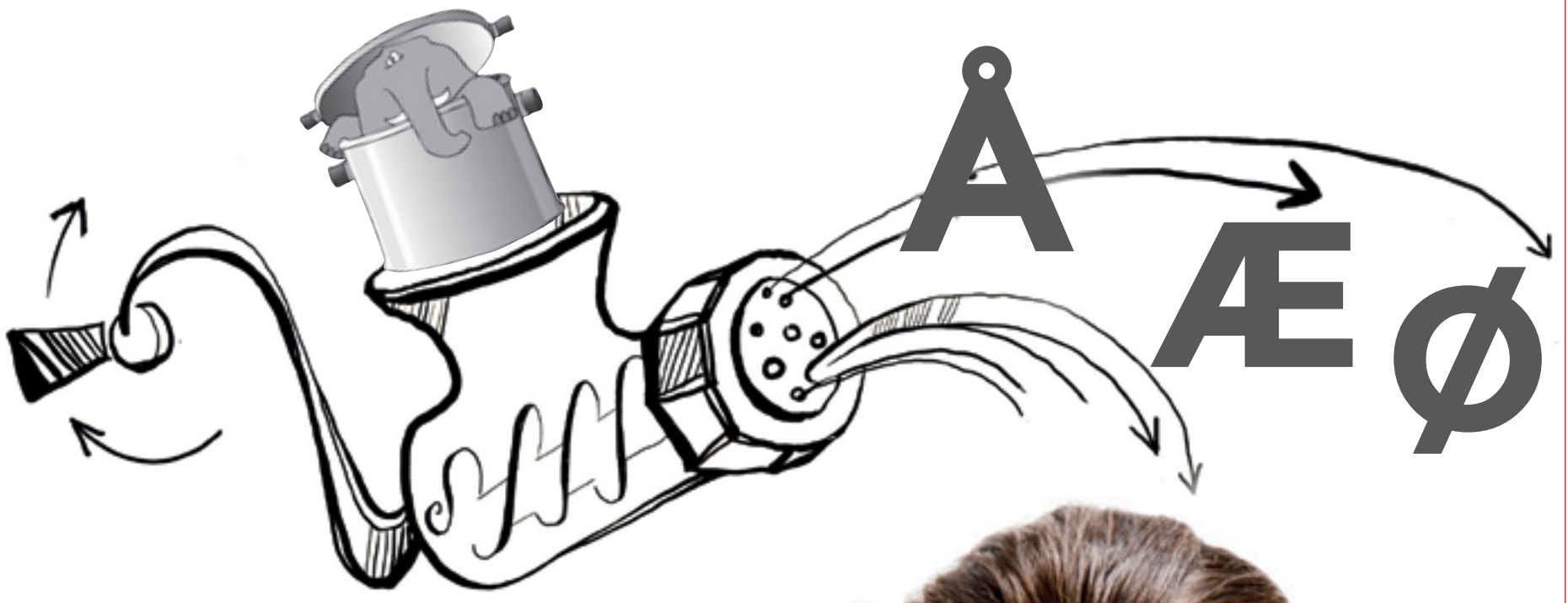
"Although biological and genetic factors play an important role in the development of these disorders, psychological and so-

cial factors are also significant," Key told the BBC. "That's why we are calling on the media to take greater responsibility for the messages it sends out."

A 2014 study from Florida State University (FSU) found that more frequent use of Facebook was associated with a greater risk of eating disorders among the study's 960 female participants.

"Now it's not the case that the only place you're seeing thin and idealized images of women in bathing suits is on magazine covers," professor of psychology Pamela Keel, who conducted the study, says in an interview on FSU's website.

"Now your friends are posting carefully curated photos of themselves on their Facebook page that you're being exposed to constantly. It represents a very unique merging of two things that we already knew could increase risk for eating disorders." **M**



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CAPTURED

Rasmus Degnbol

Two syrian children play football outside their block at Auderød Asylum Center in Denmark. They have been in the centre for 14 days after a 30 day trip from Turkey to Denmark. The center was closed in September 2014 but reopened in October 2015 and now hosts 950 asylum seekers. 41 new Centers have been opened or reopened all over Denmark, with more to follow due to the dramatic rise in the number of refugees and migrants entering Denmark in 2015.





How music TRANSCENDS identity

Great creative accomplishments are created by shutting out other people and their expectations says Soho Rezanejad, a rising talent in Copenhagen's underground music scene. Her debut EP is the sound of a restless and melancholic generation bent on challenging norms and the mainstream's fake-it-til-you-make-it path to success

It's a Sunday night, but young men are drinking beer in the corridor and techno echoes down the green-tiled stairwell from one of the floors above. We are in Musikværftet on Refshaleøen, the former industrial enclave a ten minute bicycle ride from the city centre. Dozens of musicians have their studios here, among them 26-year-old Soho Rezanejad.

She greets us at the door and, as we pass through the communal kitchen, we meet a tall man with turquoise hair. She stops and leans on the metal counter next to him. The contrast between the two makes her slight frame and monochrome palette even more stark – her dark hair, pulled into a tight ponytail and unfussy clothing is simple and unassuming.

"I was the only white girl who didn't try to booty shake," she says of her time in a high school in Atlanta, Georgia. "I think that's why the black girls liked me, they thought 'that girl knows where she's from'."

Soho's first EP *Idolatry* mixes 80s-inspired anthemic electro pop with sharp synths and melancholic melodies – at once forlorn, romantic and futuristic. It's a well-crafted debut from a musician embedded deep within Copenhagen's underground music scene, who until now was best known as the singer of electro pop outfit *Gold Lip*.

While both projects burst out of a restless and club-oriented youth culture, Soho's solo work has a more nuanced emotional range. This is partly because her voice is now deeper, echoing the trademark low voice of Velvet Underground legend Nico.

"I created the voice as a confrontation, to show that by making myself more male I become more of a woman. I often get called out for being pretty or beautiful so I thought it would be fun to show how ugly you can get by sonically letting go and getting really intense. The point is to challenge this vanity and demand that your audience looks at something as a whole, to see it as neither beautiful nor ugly."

KEEPING FOCUS

We settle in her room adjacent to the kitchen – narrow, high ceilinged, compact and clutter-free. There are clothes, keyboards and records, but few other personal adornments. Candles burn beside a typewriter on the heavy black desk beneath the tall windows. A bed is lifted

Your work stops being directed by the urge to create. So it's important for me to isolate myself and get so caught up in myself I completely forget about what other people might think.

Words: Peter Stanners

Photos: Kenneth Nguyen

above the working space and she sits on the steps against the wall that lead up to it.

Idolatry has the potential to launch Soho beyond the small Copenhagen community, although talent is no guarantee of fame in a music industry dominated by short attention spans and extreme competition. But Soho doesn't seem anxious.

"I'm not very good at promotion. I don't see the need for it. I think that if something's good enough people will appreciate and acknowledge it. Self-promotion just doesn't come naturally to me. Things can get so embarrassing when you have to fake it."

It's not that she can't be bothered. *Idolatry* is self-released, and she worked on almost all aspects of writing, producing and publishing the EP. She wanted to be able to understand the records as a collaborative process and the work that different people put into it, in case she did get signed.

"But it also means that you know if people are doing their job so you can drop them if they're doing badly, or just don't understand you."

Idolatry's success was probably helped by how seriously Soho takes her work. She details the habits and rituals embedded in her creative process – some were reinforced, some broken. Soho says she often found it hard to express why and how she creates music, but she makes it absolutely clear that she's not burning for recognition.

"I don't play instruments for the sake of entertaining. I use instruments to make music because I have to, though I really don't know why. I could analyse why, but I think it distracts from the creative process. Your work stops being directed by the urge to create. So it's important for me to isolate myself and get so caught up in myself that I completely forget about what other people might think. Because otherwise I can get totally thrown off. All of a sudden the material isn't worth anything anymore because it's not coming straight from you."

FLUID IDENTITY

Copenhagen wasn't necessarily going to be Soho's home. She was born to Iranian immigrants in New York, but as a child she and her mother moved to Copenhagen to be with her father, who was studying in the city. After completing primary school here, she moved to Atlanta for high school. Since graduating she split her time between Co- ►



I often get called out for being pretty or beautiful so I thought it would be fun to show how ugly you can get by sonically letting go and getting really intense. The point is to challenge this vanity and demand that your audience looks at something as a whole, to see it as neither beautiful nor ugly.

I've never really been able to explain why I don't want to speak Danish. For fuck's sake, why should I even have to explain?

penhagen and New York, and was thinking of relocating to Berlin a few years ago. That was until she was diagnosed with narcolepsy.

"I always knew there was something wrong with my sleep, but neurologists and psychologists couldn't find anything wrong with me. One even called me lazy and it hit me so hard. I was constantly tired and I felt deprived of being able to deliver what I wanted. When I was finally diagnosed with narcolepsy I took the diagnosis back to the guy who called me lazy and said, 'I just wanted to show you this and you should feel ashamed, it's the worst thing to call someone.'"

She now works antisocial hours at a nursing home to finance her music career. The irregular working patterns suit her, she says, but it also balances out her tendency to be self-absorbed.

"I either work really early or really late, which feels good because I feel like my own boss. I couldn't have a boss managing every step of my day. That would be humiliating. But there's no ego at the nursing home – I'm there to care for someone who needs a particular type of help. It's not about me, it's about doing what I can to help that other person get by. I need that because I ooze with ego. I have to if I am to take myself seriously."

Not all her friends understand her work ethic, she explains. Some have accused her of working too hard or neglecting their friendship. Other conflicts emerge about her identity that sits somewhere between Denmark, the US and Iran – she grew up speaking Danish, English and Farsi at home. A friend calls and she answers with accentless Danish, but when she puts the phone down she explains that English is actually her preferred language

"I've never really been able to explain why I don't want to speak Danish. Why should I even have to explain? So many people demand an explanation, it's like they inherently divide English and Danish, like they can't understand that it's possible to switch between the two."

She seems irritated that she is made to answer for being different because she doesn't quite fit into the Danish monoculture. There's no doubt it helps her get noticed – with dark hair, sharp features, and an alien name, Soho naturally stands out in Scandinavia. But that hasn't stopped other people from trying to push her into a mould.

"We live in an internet age where everything is so fast paced and accessible. People tap you on the shoulder and say, 'I can make you a pop star, you just have to do what I say'. It makes it real tough for the rest of us, who want to do it regardless of the money, because there are girls lining up for that sort of opportunity."

Like any emerging artist, Soho is at the mercy of the music industry and media to give her a chance and an audience. But she often chooses to ignore their advice anyway. Booking agents have pressured Soho to play her EP the way it would sound on music streaming sites like Spotify. But being told how to perform her work makes her feel uneasy, as if she's trading her integrity in for a chance at success.

WOMEN SHOULD DARE

Soho's bold choices – from adopting an unconventional voice to limiting her media exposure – hits back at a mainstream music industry where artists are under pressure to conform to audience expectations. Soho explains that she wants to build up an audience who appreciates her work for what it is, and she wants other women to dare to do the same.

"There are standards and expectations of being a woman, and when you don't live up to these expectations you lose the right to be womanly," she says.

"I want to show girls on the way to becoming women in my position that you have to be provocative, even though that's seen as masculine. But why is it? It doesn't need to be, that's just how it's been. So I try to fuck with the media, in my own way. It's so important because the media has built for us expectations which we blindly follow. You've got to stop and take a deep breath to realise that these expectations weren't really there in first place. Then you're free." **M**

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Can we really beat climate change?

Saving the planet might just be 'politically impossible', says Ross Jackson, chairman of the Gaia Trust and financier behind political party the Alternative. Our only hope is to fight our egotistical instincts and replace neoliberalism with ecological economics

"SEVERE, PERVASIVE and irreversible impacts for people and ecosystems."

The fifth assessment report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) makes for a sobering read ahead of the COP21 climate conference in Paris.

There, world leaders will discuss the best way to achieve major reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, enough to keep global warming from increasing by more

than two degrees and unleashing catastrophic and irreversible climate change. Idealists hope a substantial, global deal on carbon reduction will emerge from the UN conference.

But the IPCC report acknowledges the enormity of the challenge – that the cooperation necessary to scale back potential climate change impacts poses "substantial technological, economic, social and institutional challenges."

Peter Stanners

It's little wonder that few are optimistic that COP21 will produce a deal with any measurable impact. Especially considering that major players like the US and EU can't even agree on whether the agreed targets should be legally-binding – the EU is in favour, the US is not.

COOPERATION FAILURE

While global leaders fumble for solutions, there's an urgent need for immediate action. Even with adap-

tation the IPCC warns that warming by the end of the 21st century could still cause irreversible damage to the planet. So what could happen if we fail to act?

"The question is whether anyone will survive at all," says Ross Jackson, chairman of Gaia Trust in the glass annex to his farmhouse in Birkerød, outside Copenhagen.

Originally from Canada, Jackson moved to Denmark in 1964 and speaks Danish with a charm-

ing mid-Atlantic lilt. The 77-year-old earned his millions through software development and management consultancy and supports sustainable living projects such as the Eco Village movement.

His 2012 book *Occupy World Street* argues that a sustainable future can only be achieved if we fundamentally transform our economic system. It caught the eye of MP Uffe Elbæk when forming green-oriented political party The Alternative (Alternativet) in 2013. Jackson was invited to join the party's inner circle and donated a considerable sum to subsidise its successful election campaign during the parliamentary election last June.

For Ross, climate change is bigger than an engineering issue. Because while humanity can design its way out of fossil fuel consumption – with geo-engineering, renewable energy, nuclear technology – actually weaning our economies off cheap commodities demands the kind of global cooperation never before seen on the planet.

"Until now the major issue has been an inability for nation states to get together and agree on a strategy for tackling the problem," he says.

"Instead we have nationalistic and egotistical thinking. As long as the US and China see each other as economic opponents, it will be hard to get them to agree on anything."

Jackson believes the lack of collaboration is deeply routed in the human mentality, which assumes that the planet will continue to sustain us.

"We've always had space to expand into and new territories to discover. We still have this frontier attitude and think that endless growth is still possible. But we need to change the paradigm to 'spaceship Earth'."

NEOLIBERAL ENDGAME

Our economic system is a major factor holding us back from adopting more sustainable practices and changing the future of the planet, says Jackson.

Neoliberal and laissez-faire free markets generate enormous wealth for a tiny elite, who then use their power to influence politics. It's a particularly acute problem in the US, where lax campaign financing laws mean that corporate bodies can funnel vast sums of money towards candidates who defend their interests.

"There's a network of large com-

panies and shareholders that control multinational organisations and Congress. They in turn restrict what the President can do, which affects organisations such as the World Bank, which are in principle democratic, but ultimately controlled by the US."

But it's not just the US where the neoliberal power plays are stalling climate action. In the EU, the same kind of thinking suppresses welfare and environmental regulation in order to keep up with the US and Chinese markets.

"Every time there's a conflict between economic growth and the environment, the EU always goes for economic growth. In practice, little is happening to improve the environment."

Yet, despite urgent calls for action and enormous investment in green technology, Jackson points out that CO2 emissions have continued to rise over the past 20 years.

"It's as if politicians haven't got it into their heads that what they're doing is having no effect," Jackson says, adding that we need a radical solution to counter climate change.

"Let's remember Einstein, who said if you keep doing the same thing and getting the same results you're insane. You have to change to get different results."

ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS

One answer might be to stop looking to self-interested global superpowers to save us. Smaller nations, which are less driven by neoliberalism, should band together and start a grassroots movement, suggests Jackson.

He points to the Maldives, where former president Mohamed Nasheed made an enormous impact during the 2009 COP15 conference in Copenhagen. In a discussion dominated by economic push-and-pull talk, the leader humanised the issue by pointing out that his country would cease to exist if sea levels continued to rise.

"These countries could start a new organisation, which moves beyond neoliberal policies, and offers a sustainable political and economic system, putting the environment first. It would regard economics as a subset of the ecological system."

It might start small, but Jackson believes this kind of movement has the potential to shatter the current status quo.

"If the cultural creative class got together, went to the street and de-

We still have this frontier attitude and think that endless growth is still possible. But we need change the paradigm to 'spaceship Earth'.

manded a vote, you could circumvent the established system and the corrupt politicians working for them. The politicians couldn't ignore that, we could paralyse the whole society."

But while big problems call for big solutions, it's unlikely that COP21 will launch a new economic order in favour of the environment. The best possible solution the current system can come up with is an absolute cap on carbon emissions. The IPCC estimates that to keep warming below a two-degree increase, we can only emit 1000 gigatons of CO2 – ever.

"If we auctioned off CO2, it would force businesses that couldn't afford to buy CO2 to innovate better greener technologies. It would also create a tremendous income for whoever is responsible for selling the emissions rights that could be invested in developing this technology."

A 'cap and trade' market already exists in the EU, the ETS. But so far it's failed to leave any noticeable impact on emissions reduction. The main issue was an oversupply of emissions permits, which then drive down their price, the opposite of what is needed if the system actually wanted to scale back emissions.

Jackson argues that a global market is imperative. His proposed Carbon Board would sell emissions rights solely to companies that directly introduce carbon into the atmosphere, such as refineries and coal processors. The revenue would then be distributed equally to all citizens of the world, to reflect that the atmosphere is a common good. It also means transferring wealth

from richer to poorer countries. "It would be necessary to get China and developing countries on board, because if they can't afford to buy the carbon then they would at least still get compensated."

THE HUMAN FLAW

Jackson's isn't naïve, he understands that his radical ideas aren't likely to be adopted. But without action, climate change threatens to irreversibly transform the planet, and under the current system the outlook is bleak. Big ideas and high levels of cooperation are needed if we are to prevent catastrophic climate change. So what's stopping us?

"Perhaps our inability to cooperate is a flaw in our DNA – we are simply unable to think that long term," Jackson wonders aloud, adding that this mindset means COP21 will probably fail much like COP15 did.

"The general attitude among heads of delegation is that non-binding agreements will not secure a solution. The only thing they agree will work is cap and trade, but they also say that's politically impossible. That is the paradox. It's politically impossible for Obama to accept any kind of dictates on emissions coming from outside the US. As long as that's the case we are probably going to end up with runaway global warming."

He says that if nations continue to frame climate talks within their narrow political visions, the future of humanity is at stake:

"That's the logical conclusion of that attitude – it may be politically impossible to save the human race." **M**

ROSS JACKSON – FACT BOX

Ross Jackson was born in Canada in 1938 and has lived in Denmark since 1964, where he became a citizen in 1972. With a PhD in Operations Research, Jackson has worked as a businessman and management consultant, and later specialised in investment and international finance.

In 1987 Jackson and his wife Hildur founded the Gaia Trust, a charitable association whose main projects have been supporting the ecovillage movement, as well as supporting education for a sustainable future. The trust was financed using revenue generated through GaiaCorp, a company Jackson set up in 1988, which specialised in currency fund management, to finance the Gaia Trust. GaiaCorp was sold in 2000, but Jackson remains CEO of the Gaia Trust.

Jackson is the majority shareholder and director of Scandinavia's largest wholesale organic food company, Urtekram A/S. He is also the author of a number of books, including 2012's *Occupy World Street*, which argues that we must change our current economic system and international organisations, so that we ensure a sustainable future for our planet. The book inspired MP Uffe Elbæk and his new political party, the Alternative. Jackson is a financial backer of the party.

Crowds gather to hear BBC broadcasts outside Stjerne Radio during the German occupation of Denmark.



Museum of Danish Resistance

Vesterbro, the rebel

From World War II resistance fighters to renegade volunteers helping drug users, there's a forgotten history of rebellion embedded in the rapidly gentrifying neighbourhood

Moving to Copenhagen's trendy Vesterbro quarter feels like you've narrowly missed a wild party, and somebody's already cleared away the liquor and mopped up the floor.

Once it was a working-class neighbourhood with ramshackle apartments and rife with drug addiction. But gentrification marches on and today it's been transformed by organic burger joints and skyrocketing rents. Nostalgic for grittier days, locals can point to tangible losses – a tobacco-stained bodega here, a greengrocer there.

But few outwardly mourn the loss of Vesterbro's most important legacy – its history of civil disobedience. Luckily it's being unearthed. From resistance fighters in World War II to the modern-day locals who transformed a used ambulance into a safe injection facility, new museum initiatives are memorialising Vesterbro as a site of resistance.

By re-telling these stories, we have a better way of judging whether the neighbourhood's true spirit still remains.

BORN IN A RADIO SHOP

During the war you could tell how far down the road the Germans were by the racket of clattering bedpans on Istedgade, Vesterbro's central street.

And that's not the only thing locals threw out their windows when the Germans occupied Denmark during the war. They dropped leaflets declaring "You can take Rome and Paris – but Stalingrad and Istedgade will never surrender." This powerful slogan of defiance became firmly cemented in neighbourhood lore and is unfurled on a banner every liberation day.

Vesterbro's disdain for the Germans was no secret, but the spirit of resistance throbbed far more deeply through the district's streets than many ever realised.

It's 1942 and a crowd is gathered around a small radio shop on Istedgade 31, straining to hear a BBC broadcast in Danish. Europe is in the throes of World War II and the Germans have already occupied Denmark for two years. While it's not technically illegal to play the broadcasts, the German and Danish Police don't like it and disperse the crowds by invoking traffic laws.



"Istedgade has surrendered." Some feel the street has lost its spirit.

The authorities knew that it represented anti-German sentiment, but nobody knew it was a hotbed of resistance fighters.

PETER BIRKELUND,
THE NATIONAL
ARCHIVES

Lena Rutkowski

But they don't close the shop, Stjerne Radio. By the following year, it has become a meeting point for freedom fighters planning sabotage attacks against their German occupiers.

Carl Munck bought the shop in 1942 and hired Josef Søndergaard as manager. The two were old friends from the Royal Life Guards and both opposed the Danish government's 'co-operation' policy with the Nazis. They quickly gathered a small group and started making an illegal newspaper in Stjerne Radio's back room. 'De Frie Danske' (The Free Danes), which was circulated in secret. They also attached a loudspeaker to the outer wall of the shop to blast the BBC broadcasts.

MAJOR SABOTAGE

By early 1943, Søndergaard had helped establish the beginnings of the resistance group Holger Danske, which over time would grow to 700 members. Lacking ammunition and supplies, they had to learn how to make bombs from the Communist resistance group BOPA, but completely failed at their first attempt.



Peter Stanners

Stjerne Radio's reconstructed façade in 2015. It's now a tiny museum dedicated to the resistance.



Carl Munck (centre) flanked by the legendary resistance fighter 'Flamme' (left) and sergeant Olaf B. Bertelsen (right) who would go on to lead Holger Danske.



Gitte Sofie Hansen

Michael Lodberg Olsen, founder of 'Fixelancen' turned an old van into a makeshift safe injection clinic

By the summer, Holger Danske had already performed around 30 sabotage acts, concentrating on small factories in Vesterbro. It was the neighbourhood they knew best and where they could easily glean which manufacturers were collaborating with the Germans.

That same year Søndergaard was arrested and accused of sabotage, but was freed when two resistance fighters impersonated plainclothes policemen and demanded him back for interrogation.

The group's major act was the destruction of Frederiksberg's exhibition building, Forum Copenhagen, which the Germans had planned to convert into a barracks for 2000 soldiers. In August 1943, the group demolished the building by planting bombs in a beer crate. It remained a ruin for the rest of the occupation, a testament to Danish defiance.

LEGACY

The group was left exposed after the attack and the core members fled to Sweden, leaving Stjerne Radio behind. Holger Danske was adopted by another freedom fighter and it

swelled to the largest resistance group in the country. Søndergaard died in 1946, likely from injuries he sustained when blowing up Forum Copenhagen.

Despite their suspicions, the Germans never shut down Stjerne Radio, says Peter Birkelund from the National Archives.

"The authorities knew that it represented anti-German sentiment, but nobody knew that it was a hotbed of resistance fighters, which is how it could keep surviving."

The shop actually survived until 1962, when it was sold by Munck's daughter and became a kiosk. According to Birkelund, the shop's history remained buried until a schoolgirl learned the story from old locals and wrote a project about it.

The shop's vintage façade was recently reconstructed and is now a mini-museum dedicated to Stjerne Radio's activities. Now, Vesterbro's story of resistance is on full display.

REBELS TRANSFORMED DRUG POLICY

Vesterbro's history of civil disobedience doesn't stop with World War II. Almost 70

The story of Fixelancen, the story of Stjerne Radio, is the real story of how we created the welfare system in Denmark.

MICHAEL LODBERG OLSEN, FOUNDER OF FIXELANCEN

years after Stjerne Radio's days of resistance, locals defied the authorities again, this time to help the area's drug users.

Michael Lodberg Olsen is the founder of Fixelancen, an old ambulance that was converted into Denmark's first safe injection facility. Brimming with good humour, he's almost like a bearded, fairy godmother to Vesterbro. As we walk around the small pocket of Vesterbro still frequented by sex workers and drug addicts, he never manages more than a few minutes before someone stops to chat.

"We used to collect between 8,000 to 12,000 used needles from the ground every week, people were injecting in the open and dying on the street," Olsen says.

He knew something had to be done, but for 20 years the state and the city council maintained that a safe injection room wasn't legal. Instead, he took matters into his own hands. In 2008 he opened a café with healthy food for drug users and allowed them to safely inject in the toilets. While the police were happy because it kept drugs off the streets, the author-



Frank helped open Vesterbro's new anarchist bookstore-café.



ities weren't. It was shut down after 18 months. Undeterred, Olsen rallied together a group and created Fixelancen. In 2011, they transformed a used ambulance into a safe place to inject, and parked it in downtown Vesterbro. Staffed by volunteer doctors and nurses, no one knew what would happen. He recounts a story where a doctor began to panic at the mention of arrest. "Oh my god, arrested? I can't get arrested, I have to pick up my kids!" Olsen imitates the doctor's reaction with a laugh. "He had totally forgotten that what we were doing was possibly illegal." "We had put it to the test and to find out if a safe injection facility would be allowed or not," says Olsen. "Our defence strategy was to say that we were there to save lives – because

who could possibly be against that?" Luckily, they never ended up having to plead their case. "The politicians shouted at us in the beginning, but we soon won them over and they made a law permitting councils to set up safe injection facilities. It turns out that it wasn't illegal, but for two decades, the politicians wrongly informed us that it was."

ADDICT FACTORY

The group ended up cooperating with the government to create two mobile injection vans, and closing the original project. But Olsen isn't happy with how it's been co-opted. After the creation of permanent injection rooms on Istedgade and Halmtorvet, the mobile drug rooms have been standing still,

We hope to give Vesterbro back some lost character.

FRANK, FROM THE ANARCHIST BOOK-SHOP BOGCAFÉEN HALMTORVET



Museum of Danish Resistance

Above: Josef Søndergaard, a key resistance fighter and founder of Holger Danske, who planned actions in Stjerne Radio.

Left: Two granite public seats on Sundevedsgade carry plaques that read, "Here rests Vesterbro", "Rest in Peace."

parked in the same Vesterbro spots. Olsen thinks they're needed all over the city. Soon, they'll be completely replaced by a giant injection facility, currently being constructed on Vesterbro's Halmtorvet. He calls it a 'factory' that will only attract more drug dealers to the neighbourhood. "They're creating the largest safe injection facility in perhaps the smallest open drug scene in the world, and focusing all that drug use in one big space." Olsen wishes that civil society were more involved in the community efforts, and worries about the impact of letting the state take over yet another welfare programme. "200 years of welfare was actually created by civil society taking a stand. The story of Fixelancen, the story of Stjerne Radio, is the real

story of how we created the welfare system in Denmark," he says.

"Now, we are too fat and rich and think that democracy means dropping bombs in foreign countries and voting every four years. We have to reimagine how to create a relevant society."

ISTEDGADE'S SURRENDER

He's not the only one worried. "Istedgade has surrendered," reads a bright-yellow sticker plastered on a bin – a cynical subversion of the World War II resistance slogan.

Søndergaard probably wouldn't recognise Istedgade today, bedecked with upscale wine bars and 'hipster' hostels designed with Instagram in mind.

However, there are still signs of diversity and the old rebellious spirit. The anarchist organisation behind the bookshop Bogcaféen Halmtorvet was surprised to find an affordable site for its bookstore-cum-café amidst Vesterbro's rising rents.

It's the gentrification story reversed – a boutique wine shop closed down, and an anarchist group took over. Anti-establishment books fill former wine shelves, visitors can sip filter coffee on sleek design tables, and they've merely

flipped the old sign over, until they can afford a new one. Frank and Ronni, two members of the organisation behind the shop, like its hybrid aesthetic.

"All kinds of people should feel welcome, that's why we didn't paint it all black," says Ronni with a laugh.

"We hope to give Vesterbro back some lost character," says Frank. They acknowledge the problems posed by gentrification – middle-class neighbours, for example, who complain about the space taken up by the soup kitchen's garbage bins.

But nor are they sounding the death knell for the neighbourhood's spirit. "It's always had a mix of expensive and cheap. And all kinds of people are really embracing the store," says Frank.

The aim was to reinstate a space for people to discuss anarchist themes in Vesterbro, which hasn't had an official anarchist presence for over a decade. While the bookstore is not officially involved in projects, they've been involved in helping refugees in the face of increasingly tighter asylum restrictions. Just a block away, the central station was where many Danes recently committed another act of re-

sistance, by illegally helping arriving refugees onward on their journey to Sweden.

STILL DEFIANT

Olsen is still helping the community on his own terms. He recently customised bins with appendages to hold empty bottles and cans so that they can be picked up for their deposit, so collectors don't have to rummage through the rubbish. The council liked the idea and is rolling out the redesign across the city.

He also started ILLEGAL magazine, which is sold by drug addicts to help them buy more drugs. "We know they're going to buy drugs, so they may as well raise the money in a way that doesn't involve robbing someone," says Olsen. The magazine was recently tried out in London, with success.

The original Fixelancen is now immortalised in the National History Museum and remains an important reminder of the power of local resistance. Olsen hopes its message will not be lost on us.

"It's on display to ask an important question," he says. "Why was it up to locals to create the first injection room, when Denmark has one of the biggest welfare systems in the world?" **M**

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The booming Benidorm of the North

Iceland has made an astonishing rebound following its devastating economic crash in 2008. The unstoppable tourism boom has played a major role, but has left the local culture in the capital fighting for its soul

Words: Elias Thorsson

Photos: Grimur Jon Sigurdsson

So you want to talk about the fleece district?" asks Geoffrey Dór Huntington Williams, manager of the cafe-by-day, hip-hop-club-by-night Prikið located on Reykjavík's main strip.

The title is a dig at the changing face of retail on the Icelandic capital's only shopping street Laugavegur. Before the country exploded as a tourist destination in recent years, city-centre shops were an eclectic mix. But as the local economy rushes to accommodate and profit from an escalating tourist boom, stores selling outdoor equipment and cheap souvenirs have started to dominate the landscape.

"Can you guys just keep on talking while



Top left: "It's ridiculous that three times our population arrives as tourists each year", Geoffrey Þór Huntington Williams, manager of Prikið (top right)

Bottom left: One of the last remaining corner shops in Reykjavík Visir celebrates its 100 anniversary in December, but will soon have to close shop to make way for a souvenir shop.

Bottom right: One of many bulldozed lots being prepared for redevelopment.

I take your picture?" asks a tourist wearing a puffy jacket and carrying a large camera. "No, no way", Williams replies, rather annoyed.

THE TOURIST BOOM

The tourism industry has seen an unparalleled boom in recent years. Just under a million tourists visited Iceland last year, which is more than three times the native population of 330,000. By October this year the number had already passed the million mark, making 2015 the fifth consecutive year that a new record in the number of tourists had been set.

The boon to the economy has provided an invaluable lifeline to a country that was one of the worst hit by the Great Recession of 2008. By the end of that year the stock market had been wiped out and most of Iceland's financial services had gone bankrupt. This was particularly severe due to the fact that Iceland's three largest banks at the time – Kaupþing, Landsbankinn and Glitnir – had assets worth 11 times the size of the national GDP when they went under.

"The recession had a serious impact on the standard of living. GDP contracted by 9 percent, the currency fell by 50 percent and wages dropped, while goods became more expensive," explains Iceland Chamber of Commerce's chief economist Björn Brynjúlfur Björnsson.

"Many of the country's biggest companies went under, thousands of families couldn't afford their mortgage payments and unemployment shot up. The impact was such that most people felt the effects of the crash in a very real way."

The economy has since made a remarkable recovery, however. In 2014 per capita GDP growth was the tenth highest in Europe and

unemployment was down to 4.3 percent from a 2011 high of 7.9 percent.

Much of the credit can be given to the tourism industry which has eclipsed the nation's traditional main industries, including its historical lifeline fishing.

"Before the crisis we had three main export industries: the fisheries, aluminium and international businesses. Today, however, the tourism industry has become bigger than those three and currently accounts for about 30 percent of exports," Björnson says. "There is no doubt that tourism has played a vital part in the economic recovery and we can see proof of that in the thousands of jobs the industry has generated."

It is hard to say precisely what has caused the recent surge in tourism to the small North Atlantic island nation, but according to Björnsson a likely contributing factor was the devaluation of the currency that made the country a cheaper destination for tourists.

"Economics tells us that when a currency devalues, export industries grow, so when the krona dropped that should have helped the tourism industry. But we can't be sure of how big a part that played, and how much was due to global growth in tourism, or even the 2010 volcanic eruption in Eyjafjallajökull, we just can't really know what the main cause has been."

CHANGING THE FACE OF SOCIETY

The impact of the tourism industry is abundantly clear in Reykjavík's old city centre. Construction on empty plots of land advertise new hotels, contributing to the 800 new hotel rooms that will be built in the city this year alone. But it is probably in retail where the effects are most visible. On almost every corner is

It's starting to feel like I'm living in a shopping centre or a theme park for tourists.

GRÍMUR 'GIMMI' SIGURÐSSON.

a shop catering specifically for tourists. Most prominent are the "lundasjoppur" or 'puffin shops', a derogatory term the locals use for cheap souvenir shops that have adopted puffin dolls as their signature icon – Iceland's version of the Little Mermaid. According to state broadcaster RUV, there is a tourism shop every 43 metres along the 1300 metre shopping strip Laugavegur.

"It's starting to feel like I'm living in a shopping centre or a theme park for tourists, I hardly have any neighbours anymore," says local musician and homeowner at Laugavegur Grímur 'Gimmi' Sigurðsson.

"Last summer I was cleaning my kitchen window when I noticed a group of tourists had gathered below snapping pictures of me. Probably because they were so interested in seeing somebody actually living here."

Many of the apartments around his no longer house local residents, but instead are being rented out through sites such as Airbnb. Between early 2014 and January 2015 the number of Airbnb listings in Reykjavík increased 137 percent, with an estimated total of around 2,500 listings.

"You wonder if the only thing left will be tourists looking at each other," he says, exasperated.

TOURISM VS CULTURE

Starri Hauksson is busy setting up for a Friday night drag show at the 32-year-old venue Gaukurinn. The bar is located on one of Reykjavík's busiest nightlife corners, where it shares a building with six other bars.

"This place has a pretty remarkable history, and it was the first place to sell beer after it was legalised in 1989," Hauksson explains. "You will be hard pressed to find an Icelan-



'Lundasjoppur' or 'puffin shops' that sell souvenirs to tourists have started to dominate the retail landscape of Reyjavik's city centre.



die musician who hasn't played here at some point."

Throughout its years 30-odd years Gaukurinn's main call to fame has been as a venue for up-and coming-bands – internationally-recognised bands Sigur Rós and Of Monsters and Men played here during their early years. But despite its status and role in the local culture, Gaukurinn could soon make way for more tourist-related activities.

"The company that owns all the buildings and the neighbouring bars on the block except for us has made it clear that it wants to close down all the bars to make way for souvenir shops and a hotel. But thankfully we have a very good relationship to the owners of our space, so as long as we have a lease and pay rent, we won't go anywhere."

This is not the first time that conflict has emerged between the local music scene and the tourism industry. A few years ago another renowned music venue NASA was only saved from being turned into a hotel after protests from residents and musicians.

Hauksson is also doubtful that this development will be beneficial to the tourism industry in the long run. Both Gaukurinn and NASA are important venues during the Iceland Airwaves music festival, which each year brings in thousands of music-hungry tourists – tourists visiting the festival spent 800 million Danish kroner last year, according to Iceland Music Export. Ultimately, Hauksson is worried that Reykjavik's image as a hip, cultured city might be at stake.

"I have lived abroad and travelled extensively and I've never chosen a city for its hotels and souvenir shops. This is a very short-sighted approach. I think about cities like Benidorm that were excellent places in the eighties, but are now ghost towns for tourists who go there just to get piss drunk. Tourists come to cities to see life, not hotels, so this development is both harmful for the locals and the tourists."

THE ECONOMIC DOWNSIDE

The tourism boom has undoubtedly proved hugely beneficial to the economy, but the development has a downside. Around four

I have lived abroad and travelled extensively and I've never chosen a city for its hotels and souvenir shops.

STARRI HAUSSON

percent of all apartments in the capital are currently rented out for tourists, which is undoubtedly a factor in the 7.5 percent rise in rental costs last year. Bank Landsbankinn has also estimated that housing prices will rise 24 percent over the next three years. According to figures from Statistics Iceland, 40 percent of people aged 20 to 29 live with their parents, compared to just 10 percent in Denmark.

"Tourism has put much more upwards pressure on house prices downtown than in the suburbs, and I would assume that is due to tourists preferring to stay downtown. Housing prices have increased rapidly in recent years and tourism most likely plays a large part in that."

Many cities have old central areas that have retained a special status and charm. But in Reykjavik, where buses stop running at midnight and almost all restaurants and bars are in the city centre, rising housing prices that push residents toward the suburbs can be seen as a serious risk for its cultural wellbeing.

But according to Björnsson, the main problem with the increasing reliance on tourism in the Icelandic economy is that jobs in the industry don't generate enough wealth. He points out that Western nations that are economically reliant on tourism have relatively unstable and uncompetitive economies.

"The challenge facing the industry now is that it has grown and kept unemployment low, but the value added per worker is lower than in other sectors. If all employed Icelanders switched to tourism we would actually be worse off than we are today," Björnsson explains.

"The tourism industry is not primarily based on technology and specialisation, but instead on services like transport, accommodations and restaurants. The sector is full of small companies in fierce competition which are therefore are unable to pay high wages or generate high profits. For living standards to rise, we also need to grow globally competitive businesses that utilise knowledge and technology to generate greater value."

Another part of the issue is that tourists aren't spending enough money, spending on average only around 60 thousand Danish kro-

ner each, according to figures from the Icelandic Central Bank.

"This is a large part of the challenge. Each tourist isn't spending enough, therefore each tourism job isn't creating enough value. Therefore it is important that both the industry and the authorities figure out ways to meet this challenge."

ONLY TIME WILL TELL

Back at Prikið, Williams is drinking coffee while watching people pass by in the November rain. Most are noticeably dressed-for-winter tourists, which are also the only customers inside.

"I've thought a lot about how it has changed. The increase has happened so fast and been so visible that it raises a lot of questions about how things will go in the future. The changes have been immense and we have had to adapt with them. People have also become very aware of the increase in tourism. Before Dunkin Donuts opened up somebody sprayed 'Ibiza du Nord' on the façade."

The newly opened Dunkin Donuts in the heart of downtown was seen by some locals as being a symbol of Reykjavik losing it soul and a sign that the city has become sterile. While Williams says that only catering to tourists "sucks", he claims it's better than the alternative.

"It's always better to have some shops rather than none, you follow? And the money that goes into those puffin shops might help create something else. I think a lot of the complaints people have are just based around nostalgia and good old fashioned Icelandic alcoholism," he says.

"The terrible thing, however, is like what is happening to Gaukurinn and the places around there. They will end up leaving, but that is just because you have rich idiots who don't give a shit about the local culture and want to make money the wrong way. That's not because of the tourists, there are just a couple of guys out there making silly money. But all in all I think that this development is positive. It's of course ridiculous that three times our population arrives as tourists each year, but that just means we need to step up our game. The ball is in our court." **M**



Birgitta Jónsdóttir, co-founder and captain of Iceland's Pirate Party, in her office in Reykjavik.

The Pirate Party pillaging parliament

Standing at 36 percent in the polls, Iceland's Pirate Party is shaking up the political establishment and could transform the country for good

On the walls of the office is a poster of Bradley Manning with hair drawn on to turn him into Chelsea Manning. Next to the portrait is a large V for Vendetta poster and blocking most of the window is a huge Jolly Roger, the skull-and-crossbones symbolising piracy.

In Iceland's 2013 election the Pirate Party received just five percent of the vote, enough for three of the 63 seats in the Icelandic parliament, Althingi. But in early 2015, the party's popularity started to climb. In late November, they polled at 36.3 percent, which makes them the single most popular party. The coalition government – the centre-right government of the Progressive Party (Framsóknarflokkurinn) and the Independence Party (Sjálfstæðisflokkurinn) – together only poll at around 40 percent.

The Pirate Party is a strange political organisation and its cofounder and Captain Birgitta Jónsdóttir is an odd politician. Her job title doesn't read politician, but rather 'poetician.'

"I was raised by a radical mother, a musician who performed at rallies against the US garrison in Iceland. I was in a way a born activist as I was never able to remain silent when I saw something wrong. I've been involved in environmental protests, fought against the Iraq War and for nine months I protested weekly outside the Chinese embassy against their human rights violations. There is something special and fun about being at a protest, the unity makes me feel the same way some people feel about football matches."

Jónsdóttir got heavily involved in the weekly post 2008-crisis protests in Reykjavik and, in 2009, was elected to parliament for a new party

called The Citizen's Council (Borgarhreyfingin). The party disbanded soon after due to infighting. Not long after Jónsdóttir – who was among the first female computer programmers in Iceland – attended a conference where she met Wikileaks founder Julian Assange and Daniel Domscheit-Berg. Their discussion led to the creation of the Icelandic Modern Media Initiative (IMMI), which sought to turn Iceland into a leader in the fields of freedom of expression and information. IMMI was unanimously passed by parliament in 2010 and would later provide the foundation for the Pirate Party.

ONLY IN ICELAND

IT entrepreneur Rick Falkvinge founded the original Pirate Party in Sweden in 2006 to combat and challenge copyright laws. It spread to other parts of Europe, but aside from one German MEP in the European Parliament, it has failed to gain significant traction outside Iceland.

"I think we have succeeded in Iceland because we started dealing with bigger things and looking at the systems in society. I think what also hurt the original pirates was that they focused too technically on issues of copyright laws and were unable to convey their message in a language that people could relate to."

Stefanía Óskarsdóttir, an associate professor of political science at the University of Iceland, admits to being just as surprised and stumped as everyone else.

"Nobody knows the answer, even them. But it seems that politics changed drastically after the 2008 financial crisis," she explains. "Party allegiances have weakened, while the general trust in parliament has dropped. The four traditional parties have all suffered and there is an

We have this Robin Hood attitude by taking power and giving it to the people through a more direct democracy.

Elias Thorsson

air of suspicion against the system. The Pirate Party ticks the anti-establishment box, they represent something different. At first I didn't think they could maintain momentum, but now it is impossible to say."

CHALLENGING THE NORMS

Jónsdóttir wears the badge of unorthodoxy proudly and laughs as she talks about breaking Althingi's inner laws, by disregarding the strict dress code, taking a computer to the floor, and inappropriately addressing the president of Iceland.

"I think people are responding to the fact that we don't know how to be politicians. We don't talk or look like other politicians and we have this Robin Hood attitude by taking power and giving it to the people through a more direct democracy. What we have also been doing is what all good hackers do, looking at the systems in society and finding the cracks."

The party's high-profile bills have been both popular, like the creation a new constitution, and radical, such as the proposal for a basic income for everyone. Óskarsdóttir says the party must tread more carefully in the lead up to the 2017 election, when they have to find candidates.

"We have explained our positions a billion times, but people try to spread nonsense, like the allegation that we are against all forms of copyright laws," says Jónsdóttir, before, turning on the finance minister Bjarni Benediktsson, who has criticised the Pirate Party for being "flaky and lacking structure."

"I find it hilarious when Benediktsson says things like that about us," says Jónsdóttir. "He is somebody who routinely makes promises but then goes back on his words." **M**

COLUMN

Why are we still filling the royal coffers?

LAST MONTH Stephen Fry gave an interview with Australian state broadcaster ABC where he discussed everything from his cocaine addiction to how it felt to hand over the reins of his popular panel show QI.

Fry is among a handful of famous people I respect and empathise with. His work on mental health has been some of the most admirable and effective of any celebrity. Through QI I learned baffling facts, like only eating rabbit will kill you and that the Earth has several moons. I still haven't accepted the latter. Ultimately, he comes across as a really intelligent, witty, and well-read individual.

But Fry also revealed something almost as baffling as our many moons – he is a staunch monarchist. He recalled an anecdote about the British Queen Elizabeth when she was giving her royal assent to gay marriage in England. According to Fry, the Queen was eager to sign the bill into law, and even added that it was "wonderful."

Fry giggled while recalling the anecdote, seemingly excited that his monarch was not a total bigot. I found it remarkable – how can such an ardent supporter of rationality be so irrational about something as unjust, useless and archaic as the monarchy?

OUTDATED

If an alien were to land on planet earth, knowing nothing about us humans, it might come to several conclusions about royal families.

Firstly, it would determine that despite their status, they are in fact humans who are born, eat, shit and die like the rest of us. Secondly, it would find it incomprehensible that people who do nothing from birth should be awarded with instant and unearned re-

We're subsidising an outdated, undemocratic institution while we slice into social support.

Elias Thorsson



Not all welfare recipients were unfortunate enough to have their benefits cut in the recent budget.

spect as well as financial rewards beyond measure. Lastly, it would find that all of their privileges are built on a history of wars, slavery, oppression and unfairly-achieved opulence.

In 2012, the Danish royal family spent 114,000 kroner a day. This does not include rent, as they live in the most luxurious, free social housing available. It also does not include any sort of 'work' related expenses, such as visits abroad, private security, extravagant dinners, and so on.

And then there's the outdated displays of reverence demanded by protocol. Who doesn't remember the young journalist who dared to address the queen informally, as though she were a mortal rather than a delicate relic of a bygone era? Then there were the left-wing politicians who didn't stand to attention when a member of the royal family attended parliament.

NO GOOD REASONS

Fry's support of Royalty did not

come as a total shock, as I have Danish friends on both sides of the political spectrum who share his opinion. When I raise my republican stance I'm usually met with the same arguments for maintaining the status quo.

The first is that the royal family is a tourist attraction. This implies that having a family of aristocratic welfare recipients is something that makes Chinese tourists giddy with excitement. The claim is doubtful at best. First of all, it's the fancy buildings people come to see. It's not like you actually get to hang out with the Queen. If people do want to keep the royal family as a tourist attraction, I suggest we establish some sort of zoo where tourists can come and gawk at the royals going about their day-to-day business behind a glass wall – perhaps even feed them for an extra sum.

The second argument I often hear is that the royals have an incredible ability to bring the coun-

try together. For me, that conjures up the image of a loose fabric straining at the ends to hold together a crumbling society. Except that Denmark routinely ranks among the highest in the world in regards to social cohesion. Even if the royal family played a role, small, wealthy republics such as Finland, Iceland and Switzerland manage just fine without one. It would seem that any connection between the two is simply coincidental.

What's most jarring is the fact that we're subsidising an outdated, undemocratic institution while we slice into social support. The new government budget includes a 700,000 kroner raise for the royal family, which brings their annual taxpayer cost to 106.5 million. That same budget introduced cuts to unemployment benefits and housing allowance for the elderly.

We are begging our poor to give handouts to a family that have it all. God bless them. **M**

OPE-ED

If we over-invest in the social media bubble, what happens when it bursts?

IT'S AN INVESTMENT billions of us make every day – not a financial one, but an investment of time and effort into expressing our opinions on things we are sympathetic to, and those we detest. We pay respect, and expect a return – in terms of "likes" on a recently posted selfie.

We are investors in social media, trading likes for likes all the time, and without much market research. Of course social media is awash with what the finance world would call liquidity – there is no shortage of likes, upvotes, posts and retweets. But too much liquidity can poison a financial market, leading prices to far inflate beyond their fundamental value – what we call a bubble. And perhaps it can also poison a market in which we invest opinions and expressions rather than money.

REAL LIFE PRECEDENTS

The notorious Dutch tulip bubble in the 17th century saw flowers that would be worth only a few cents or pennies today cost ten times the annual income of a skilled craftsman in March 1637. Adjusted for inflation, that's close to US\$1m today – for a single tulip bulb. Other textbook examples include the 18th-century South Sea bubble, the Wall Street Crash of 1929, and in more recent times the dotcom bubble boom and bust of tech stocks in 1999, and the speculative mania throughout the Western world that led to the global market crash of 2007-8 – from which we are still picking up the pieces.

But bubbles may appear in other areas of life than finance, if we define a bubble as an often irrational way of collectively aggregating beliefs, preferences or actions based on social proof

The danger of the social media bubble is that what is true may not go viral, and what goes viral may not be true.

Vincent F
Hendricks

that happens in an environment that is conducive to allowing a bubble to form – such as the internet.

Trading assets requires investment. In finance, this is typically cash or some other sort of liquid, readily available and easily transferable, form of value. The way we use social media follows a similar pattern, creating perceived value through "likes", upvotes, comments, tweets and retweets, making posts and images. These are social investments that are traded daily, with the expectation of a return – in the form of visibility, sympathy, understanding, status, influence, power, or respect.

When a great proportion of these are invested in just a few assets, their traded value can balloon out of proportion. In social media terms, this creates fame or notoriety, or flame wars and panic, or power and influence. For example, consider how twitterstorms develop and hashtags like #mynypd about a New York police campaign that backfired, or #marius about a giraffe killed in a zoo, or #vote-man which tried to persuade the youth to vote in the recent EU election.

Sometimes the liquidity chases the wrong assets and overheats their value – we might speak of opinion bubbles, political bubbles, bullying bubbles (such as when Twitter followers attack), status bubbles, fashion bubbles, art bubbles, even science bubbles. For one young Dane, just looking like Justin Bieber was enough to overheat one's social status.

WHERE BUBBLES TAKE ROOT

Bubbles don't just appear out of the blue. They are cultivated in

environments that are hospitable to them, and we should learn to recognise them, because with our current understanding of how financial markets work, assets are not required to have a fundamental value themselves. All that's required is that everyone believes that everyone else believes it has value.

This way of thinking is called pluralistic ignorance, and refers to conditions under which it's legitimate for everybody to remain ignorant. It's generally a terrible situation, but is widely practised while day trading – nobody really cares whether the stock has fundamental value, only that it can rise if people believe that everybody else believes it has value and fall if they believe that everybody else believes it doesn't – and that both situations can be used to turn a profit. In our social media model, this means exchanging likes for respect, status, recognition, influence or some similar notion of social capital.

HOW TO SPOT 'LIKE' TRADERS

It's easy to spot these online, now that the monetisation of social media has taken off. Political or commercial initiatives that invite an exuberant input from investors are easy to spot. The "like-farms" – posts that demand liking, ask easily answered questions, play on our sense of curiosity ("You'll never believe what happens next!"), or schadenfreude ("Click here to see her wardrobe malfunction!"), or to play on our emotions, whether that's with children in distress or cute cats. Scores of websites and companies such as Buzzfeed or Upworthy are based on this behaviour.

Beware of expectations of

a fast return on investment in terms of social capital, fame, respect, influence, reputation, sympathy or money, and also the noise makers – trolls and other forms of market derailing behaviour. Consider also the way online platforms are configured, with social marketplaces that facilitate like-farming. Watch for the bandwagons upon which bystanders jump, and the surge of "likes" or retweets that can build particular posts, pages, images or causes into a viral phenomenon that could be the beginning of a bubble.

Don't take what you like every day so lightly. Just because a single investment of opinion costs little, when aggregated together the social signal sent by so many likes is significant, and can lead people to change their behaviour and opinions. Such waves of opinion, bandwagon-jumping, media exposure and association with the social proof of so many likes have enormous power – and as in financial markets, that power exists regardless of whether there's any fundamental value underneath.

The danger of the social media bubble is that what is true may not go viral, and what goes viral may not be true. If popularity is the only currency that matters, then online bubbles have the power to wreak damage on more than just financial markets, but also on the direction that society and democracy may take. Let's not be in the middle of the bubble when it bursts. **M**

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WHAT'S ON • DECEMBER



H.C. ANDERSEN MARKET
In the oldest part of Odense you can experience old fashioned market atmosphere with Christmas decorations, booths, a vegetable market and lots of entertainment inspired by the fairy tale poet.

Odense
visitdenmark.dk
All month

1

24 DAYS OF CULTURE
If you are looking for Christmas with a twist, Nørrebro is the place to go. For the first 24 days the Culture House '2200 Kultur' collaborates with a vast selection of cultural events.

Nørrebro
visitcopenhagen.dk
Ends December 24



DANISH ART RETROSPECTIVE
Last chance to see Aros' exhibition "From Abildgaard to Kirkeby" that tells the story of how Danish art developed through 200 years.

Aros
Aros Allé 2, 8000
Aros.dk
Ends December 30

5

P6 BEAT ROCKS
This December radio station P6 Beat will host a live music show packed with top Danish and international live acts.

DR Koncerthuset
Ørestads Blvd 13, KBH
billetlugen.dk

5

CHRISTMAS AT KRONBORG
For the ninth time the renaissance castle, Kronborg, opens its gates for a Christmas fair in its beautiful historical surroundings.

Kronborg
Kronborg 2c, 3000
kongeligeslotte.dk
Ends December 8



HANDBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS
The 2015 IHF World Women's Handball Championship will be held in Denmark. Sure it's a kinda weird sport, but Danes love it, so get integrated already.

Næstved Hallerne
Rolighedsvej 20, 4700
naestved-hallen.dk
December 5-20

6

SECOND HAND BAZAAR
If you don't feel like your winter wardrobe is up to scratch, stop by and shop high quality second hand from more than 30 stalls.

Absalon
Sønder Boulevard 73, KBH
absaloncph.dk



CHRISTMAS WORKSHOP
Stop by the Design Studio at Designmuseum Danmark to work with the Danish designer Kasper Friis Kjelgaard in creating your very own Christmas decorations.

Design Museum Denmark
Bredgade 68, KBH
designmuseum.dk
December 6 & 13



CHRISTIANIA MARKET
Stop by Denmark's most diverse Christmas Market when Christiania opens the doors of its Grey Hall to Christmas shoppers of all shapes and sizes.

Den Grå Hal
Mælkevejen 63, KBH
christiania.org
December 9-20

10

MUSIC FOR DIGNITY
To mark the International United Nations' Human Rights day, Dignity (Danish Institute against Torture) will be hosting Music for Dignity together with a number of prominent Danish Artists.

Vega
Enghavevej 40, KBH
vega.dk



BRILLIANT TECHNO
Hamburg/Berlin duo Kollektiv Turmstrasse are one of those rare acts whose music caters for both body and soul. This December they will be behind the turntables at Culturebox.

Culturebox
Kronprinsessegade 54, KBH
culturebox.dk
December 11

Joshua Hollingdale

12

FREE OPERA AT CITY HALL
Copenhagen City Hall invites you to enjoy a free Christmas Concert when opera singer Helle Thun sings Christmas Carols in the historic building.

Copenhagen City Hall
Rådhuspladsen 1, KBH
kk.dk

WHAT'S ON • DECEMBER

17

BRIGHT ELECTRO POP

London-based singer Shura has recently released her first EP which shows enormous promise. Catch her in an intimate show before your friends hear about her.

Ideal bar
Enghavevej 40, KBH
vega.dk



Jon Bunting

SOLSTICE PARTY

Join the celebration of the return of daylight at Solstice Party at Danish Architecture Centre.

Danish Architecture Center
Strandgade 27b, KBH
dac.dk
December 18

ALL MONTH

XMAS TOURS AT CITY HALL

Listen to wonderful stories and experience the Copenhagen City Hall in both daylight and moonshine.

Copenhagen City Hall
Rådhuspladsen 1, KBH
kk.dk
Ends December 23



Jon Bunting

THE NUTCRACKER

The ballet will be performed for the first time in choreographer George Balanchine's world-famous version, which has helped establish this ballet as THE Christmas ballet of them all.

December 29-30
Musikhuset Aarhus
musikhusetaarhus.dk

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attractions

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bus and Metro in
the entire metropolitan
area

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along 2 children
under the age of
10 for free

WONDERFUL
COPENHAGEN

A woman with dark hair in a ponytail, wearing a pink and white plaid shirt, is looking towards a whiteboard. The whiteboard has the Danish words "Stumt d" and "Hund" written on it. The word "Hund" has a double underline under the 'd'.

DANISH. CONCENTRATED.

INTENSIVE DANISH COURSES
IN HELLERUP AND LYNGBY



SPROGCENTER
HELLERUP

sprogcenterhellerup.dk