

APRIL 2017 VOL. 4 ISSUE 4

COPENHAGEN
EDITION

Bæst's sus-
tainable
ambitions
thwarted
by bureau-
cracy

Citizens
organise to
save a
precious
piece of
nature

Tim Hinman
is a Brit
who makes
the best
podcasts in
Denmark



The police versus the press

Photojournalist Martin Lehmann is awaiting trial for doing his job when the refugees arrived

THE MURMUR is a Danish newspaper, which just happens to use the English language. Through original reporting and photography, we tell stories about what it's like to live in Denmark.

THE MURMUR



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SOMETIMES you wonder, what's the point of speaking up? When politicians or leaders say deplorable things, the urge is to challenge them head-on and call them out. But often it feels like doing

so just gives them the platform they seek.

Take this month's behaviour by immigration minister Inger Støjberg. First she posted a photo of herself on Facebook holding a cake celebrating the 50th new immigration law that she has passed since her appointment almost two years ago.

On the one hand, she has a mandate to pursue these policies. An argument can absolutely be made that there is an upper limit to the number of refugees Denmark can help effectively, and that the job of helping the refugees is a global one.

And yet, it's tasteless and undignified to celebrate the restriction of asylum for people in need of help. The UNHCR estimates that almost 5 million Syrians have become refugees, out of a population of 17 million. Nothing about this situation calls for a party.

But when a chorus of voices condemned her, she still seemed to win, since the reach of her message exploded from the 114,000 people who follow her on Facebook to an international audience. "In Denmark, Passage of Rules on Immigration Called for Cake" declared the headline in the New York Times.

Two weeks later, she made headlines again. TV2 News released a documentary on the increasing number of immigrants charged with being in Denmark illegally. Her response:

"I want ordinary Danes to contact the authorities if, for example, they are in a pizzeria and think something strange is happening in the back room because there are too many people walking around and not speaking Danish. It's utopian to believe that police can visit every back room in Denmark."

Again, outrage ensued. And with good reason, because what she's calling for is a society reminiscent of East Germany before the fall of the Berlin Wall. Getting citizens to report on citizens created the

generalised atmosphere of fear and mistrust that helped maintain the DDR's control over its people.

Taking the two episodes together, she appears to be promoting the message that the ends justify the means. Any tools may be employed to achieve a democratic mandate to restrict immigration, even if it means we regard all low-wage service workers speaking a foreign language as worthy of blanket suspicion.

Members of her party, Venstre, tried to row back her statements. First, Prime Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen said the offense caused by her cake photo was "unfortunate, because I don't think it was the intention". Then immigration spokesperson MP Marcus Knuth said we shouldn't misinterpret her statements on foreign workers in pizza restaurants.

"If you see someone breaking into a house, you don't necessarily know if they've forgotten a key or if it's an Eastern European gang," he told Politiken.

There is an obvious qualitative difference between observing someone try to break into a house and someone hanging out in a pizza restaurant speaking a foreign language. And the suggestion that the latter is a matter for the authorities is frankly disturbing. Støjberg suggests it would be "utopian" if the police could check every pizza restaurant for illegal immigrants – I think it utopian that we don't live in a police state where they can.

So does the outrage matter, given that Støjberg's job looks as safe as it ever was? I would argue yes. Because we don't know how much further the government would go if there weren't push-back. That Rasmussen and Knuth were dispatched to defend her suggests that the party knows they're right at the limit of what's acceptable.

It's shocking that they don't seem to realise that these sorts of statements ultimately undermine the society they think they are protecting with immigration limits. They are normalising an uncaring view of people seeking shelter and encouraging a society where someone's socioeconomic class and language makes them justifiable subjects of suspicion. As Puk Damsgård, veteran Middle East correspondent for DR, wrote on Twitter, "This type of civil informant society, based on feelings rather than facts, reminds me of Arab dictatorships". **M**

Danish is a really tough language, and it's very hard to articulate. It's a nightmare. And when you have to work with a microphone, it's like a magnifying glass. Stick a microphone in your hand and you feel naked and sound like an idiot. You sound a bit dim.

TIM HINMAN, P28



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Natacha Z. Petersen Contributor. A student at Danish School of Media and Journalism, she reported on the challenges faced by minority LGBT+ Danes, together with Joshua Hollingdale.



Uffe Elbæk Contributor. Leader of political party The Alternative, Elbæk pens an op-ed on the importance of the EU and the ways in which the cooperation needs to change to stay relevant.



Sausan Berg Contributor. Sausan has worked with community development and theatre. She wrote a column about the need to nuance the debate about minority Danes.

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[vov]

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SPROG

MONTH IN REVIEW

Tragic road death

A 22-year-old died in a car accident outside of Næstved last month. Reportedly, the man pulled over because of engine trouble and jumped into the road to avoid steam from his engine, when he was struck by a passing vehicle.

Millions saved from lower asylum numbers

Following an overestimation of costs associated with asylum seekers coming to Denmark, the state has saved approximately 400 million kroner. Despite the windfall, government officials have insisted that the money will not be redirected to foreign aid, attracting criticism from opposition parties. Martin Lidegaard from Radikale Venstre described the situation "deeply embarrassing" for the Danish government.



Cop forgets pistol

An experience policeman in his 60s accidentally left a 9mm pistol loaded with 12 bullets in a publicly accessible toilet in Parliament in February last year. He has now been fined 10,000 kroner.

SYRIA SPIES ON DANES

Around 200 Danish nationals appear on a secret Syrian list of people who are forbidden to enter the country. Berlingske managed to gain access to the confidential documents, comprising over two million files, through the Syrian news website Zaman Al Wasl. Many of the Danes featured on the list were unaware that they were targeted. Most are students, academics and aid workers with Arabic names, while only 40 are ethnic Danes. Nikolaj Vilumsen of the Red-Green Alliance plans to take action to ensure the safety of those on the list.

Gabriele Dellisanti

New wind energy artificial island under development

A new partnership between Denmark, the Netherlands and Germany will see the development of an artificial wind energy island in the North Sea. The wind energy companies TenneT and Energinet are working closely to achieve the 2050 climate goals set out at the COP21 Paris Agreement. The new island will support thousands of wind turbines and will be able to transmit clean, renewable energy to North Sea countries.



ISIS FIGHTER LOSES DANISH PASSPORT

Enes Ciftci, 25, was born in Denmark and lives in the Copenhagen suburb of Ishøj. But on March 31, he became the first Dane to lose his citizenship for traveling to Syria to join the Islamist group ISIS.

According to Ritau, Ciftci spent four months in Syria with ISIS in 2013 and was planning to return when he was arrested in March 2015. He had taken out a 20,000 kroner loan that he planned to give to ISIS upon his arrival. Ciftci is only the second Dane to lose his passport on terror charges.



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Øresund travel chaos
Sales of monthly train passes over the Øresund has dropped 18.6 percent in the year since temporary border checks between Denmark and Sweden were introduced, significantly increasing travel times.

BUSINESSMAN 'DON Ø' JAILED FOR STOCK MANIPULATION
The former boss of the top Danish football club FC København, Flemming Østergaard, was found guilty of manipulating the stock price of Parken Sport & Entertainment and sentenced to 18 months in prison and fined nine million Danish kroner.

The total fine corresponds to the amount Østergaard obtained from his operations over the years. The businessman successfully presided over FC København from 1997 to 2010, and was re-named 'Don Ø' following the publication of his autobiography.

Addicts lives saved
So far, no addicts have died while using legal injection facilities in Denmark. Since opening in 2013, Copenhagen's facilities have been used around 820,000 times, and staff used antidote to reverse around 600 overdoses.

POOR ARTISTS
People who have earned a degree in actuarial science are currently Denmark's top earners, with an average salary of around 1.3 million kroner per year. At the bottom of the list are graduates in the visual arts, African studies and tourism.

The list of degrees that lead to a lucrative job is of keen interest to those enrolling in higher education programmes, especially following the government's decision to prevent students from pursuing more than one undergraduate degree.



DANISH CAPITAL AMONG WORLD'S MOST EXPENSIVE CITIES
Copenhagen was ranked the world's ninth most expensive city – tied with New York – in The Economist's Worldwide Cost of Living report. Relatively high transport and personal care costs are responsible for the Danish capital's placement in the top ten. Singapore was ranked most expensive, while Zürich in third place was the most expensive city in Europe, followed by Geneva and Paris that were tied 7th.

No vaccine, no daycare
Measles is considered to be the most contagious childhood disease, and the vaccine has been provided in Denmark for a long time.

However, not all parents agree to vaccinate their children. MP Laura Lindahl from Liberal Alliance spoke out on the topic, threatening to ban unvaccinated children from public institutions.

She defined the issue as a 'lack of solidarity' from parents who choose not to safeguard children's health.

"It is crucial is that we ensure that other people's children are not affected by these parents' choice," she told Politiken.

Three people were infected with measles in Denmark in 2016. In September last year in Romania, 16 died from a measles outbreak.



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CITY



The Panda House at Copenhagen Zoo, designed by BIG.

Copenhagen Zoo unveils plans for contemporary yin and yang-shaped Panda house

At the end of 2018, Copenhagen Zoo will welcome its newest residents: a pair of giant pandas on loan from the Chinese government. The zoo commissioned architect Bjarke Ingels to design their home, and in March, his firm BIG presented its design – a 2,500 square metre habitat reminiscent of the yin-yang symbol.

Finding a suitable enclosure for the animals meant understanding their complex behaviour, says Steffen Stræde, Director of the Copenhagen Zoo. He explains how the circular configuration not only ensures optimum mating conditions, but also makes the humans feel like the visi-

tors in the pandas' environment.

"It's part of our DNA to let everyone from zookeepers to gardeners and vets influence the design and function of the facilities to secure the well-being of our animals. The team understood our approach and successfully integrated it into their design process to create a world-class home for these beloved pandas," Stræde stated.

Male and female pandas should be kept apart except during their brief mating season, which means that the enclosure must be separated into two areas. This necessary closeness suggested the yin and yang formation that could keep the two sections of the enclosure adjacent, but separate.

"It is funny, what with the masculine and the feminine belonging to-

gether and yet being separate. It was just obvious that the enclosure should form the yin-yang duality," Ingels stated.

The curved edges of the enclosure not only divide the male and female pandas, but also create the necessary lines of separation between the viewers and the animals. Yet the fluidity of these dividing lines creates a sense of closeness – walkways rise and fall within the enclosure, and an adjoining café at a lower level allows even children to come eye to eye with the pandas.

For the pandas, the upper part of the habitat includes a rocky slope lined with native Nordic plants, a dense bamboo forest, and even a "mist forest".

The enclosure has been designed for flexibility and seasonal change,

BIG and combines exciting contemporary design with a sensitivity to the animals that will make it their home.

Fundraising commitments of between 125 and 150 million kroner have been secured for the construction of BIG's panda enclosure, which is expected to begin in November and open in late 2018.

Better road conditions for Copenhagen's cyclists

In 2015, 41 percent of all journeys in Copenhagen were made by bicycle. While this is an impressive figure compared to other cities, the high volume of cyclists is placing pressure on the city's infrastructure – pressure that will only increase as the city welcomes an additional 100,000 residents by 2025.

In March, Copenhagen City Hall launched a Bicycle Path Prioritisation Plan 2017-2025 to ensure that the city's cyclists continue moving swiftly through the city. The plan includes 15 kilometres of new and wider bike paths, as well as adding 62 kilometres to the existing 57-kilometre network of Bicycle Super Highways that improve conditions for commuters covering longer distances. Cyclists will also be allowed to travel against the flow of traffic on 20 additional one-way streets in the city.

Morten Kabell, Copenhagen's mayor for technical and environmental affairs, expressed his satisfaction on Facebook.

"When we decided to rebuild Nørrebro a few years ago, it was to accommodate the 36,000 cyclists that biked down it every day. Today, that number has grown by 25 percent, while there are 30 percent more bus passengers and 10 percent fewer car passengers. In all, the green approach has meant increased mobility through Nørrebro!" he writes.

"I am really thankful for all the input we have received from almost 10,000 Copenhageners. It provided us with a solid foundation for developing the Bicycle Path Prioritisation Plan. We just need to get it financed, which will happen in the coming eight-year budget that will help us achieve our target of 50 percent of journeys by bike by 2025." M

Emily Tait &
Peter Stanners

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there is a windy half-bodied
pelican outside?**



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NOMA'S LEGACY LEAVES FOODIES MAD ABOUT COPENHAGEN

NO MORE NOMA, then. Copenhagen's ground-breaking restaurant served its final meal a few weeks ago in anticipation of its planned relocation to a former military building on the reedy fringes of Christiansia later this year. Like a beloved band on its farewell tour treating dewy-eyed fans to its greatest hits, the kitchen shuffled out celebrated dishes like cloudberry broth, fresh sliced scallop, sea urchin, steamed king crab and egg yolk sauce, and roasted bone marrow. The last dish it served – and a future pub-quizz answer, surely – was moss cooked in white chocolate.

It felt like the end of an era, as friends and fans joined current and former staff to bring down the curtain on 14 years at Strandgade 93. Noma's closure provided another opportunity to consider its remarkable influence. For many, René Redzepi changed the face of gastronomy, especially in the Nordic region. A generation of chefs absorbed the tenets of the *Manifesto for a New Nordic cuisine* that Redzepi helped launch in 2004. Local and seasonal became their watchwords, foraging and fermentation the jokers in their pack. Redzepi's influence extended beyond chefs – countless bars, breweries, and bakeries now blather on about terroir – and even beyond food, as evidenced by the sea-buckthorn-scented shower gel for sale at Matas these days.

Say what you want about New Nordic cuisine, but Noma helped turn Denmark – and Copenhagen, in particular – into a world-class dining destination. By all accounts, the capital was a culinary wasteland until Noma came along. No longer. It's hard to imagine a city with a similar population size (Toledo, Ohio, say) boasting such a vibrant food scene. And this year has seen a slew of exciting new spots open.



Hans Baerholm



Hans Baerholm

Top: Some of the ingredients used at Slurp. Above: Ramen from Slurp.



Niklas Hechmann

A dish from Ancestrale – burnt cod with celeriac puree and parsley stems.

At the top end, there's **Brace** in the Latin Quarter, helmed by Nicola Fannetti, who won Michelin stars at Christianhavn's longstanding Italian gem Era Ora. Expect a menu that changes seasonally and showcases organic ingredients. Think rye bread with broccoli and anchovies, risotto with cauliflower and pine, or mascarpone with aquavit. A stone's throw away, on Jarmers Plads, is **Mes**. Its decor may be eye-catching – one wall is covered in moss and an old German refrigerator displaying wine – but it's the food that promises to be memorable. Head chef Mads Rye Magnusson, who has worked at the likes of Geranium and Falsted Kro, has gotten rave reviews. Current dishes include braised ox with wild herbs and roe; apple, caramel and buttermilk. At 335 kroner for a five-course menu, Mes is good value, too.

Another recent highlight is **Ancestrale**, a wine and snack bar on Oe-

hlenschlægersgade in Vesterbro, whose founders racked up hours at the likes of Radio, Studio, and Ved Stranden 10. Don't bother asking for a wine list, just tell one of the sommeliers what you fancy and they'll find something fun, and perhaps funky, from their jam-packed collection. And though its name is a nod to tradition – referencing the oldest method of producing sparkling wine – Ancestrale is anything but stuffy. Co-founder Andreas Waechter says the aim is to serve "quality products without fuss or pretension in an atmosphere more reminiscent of 'Cheers' than dinner with the queen". There's good food too, with a seasonal menu – a mushroom broth with egg yolk was an especially nourishing way to see off winter. Be sure to order some green gyokuro tea at the end of your meal. You'll get more than one brew, plus an umami-rich plate of used tea leaves served with soy sauce and hay oil.

You'll also find Japanese "soul food" at **Slurp**, the latest in a raft of ramen joints to open in Copenhagen. It describes its broths as "humble, cheap and cheerful" and doesn't disappoint. There are three regular options (starting at 130 kroner): a salt-based Shio ramen topped with pork, egg, blue mussel, basil, arugula, samphire, and lemon thyme; a soy-based Shoyu ramen topped with pork, egg, porcini puree, spring onions and bamboo; and a mushroom-based vegetarian ramen.

Co-founder Niklas Hansen says he was inspired by the Asian concept of "one chef, one dish", with the focus squarely on quality and sourcing good ingredients. "The Japanese are obviously the champions of that," Hansen says, referring to their traditional dedication to sushi, say, or ramen.

Hansen and co-founder Philipp Inreiter – a former chef de partie at Noma – hope to make everything from

James Clasper



Nicolai Mark



Lars Gundersen

Top: Enghave Smørrebrød creates authentic and delicious open-faced sandwiches. (bottom)

Above: At jazz club Montmartrea you can now tuck into a tasty meal (top) in the early evening, seated at long tables.

scratch and, where "absolutely crucial", import ingredients from Japan. Their noodles, for instance, are made with a blend of flours from Japan and Bornholm. The only downside is the restaurant's size and growing popularity. Slurp occupies a tiny space on Nansensgade, and seats fill fast. But it's well worth the trip and the chance of glimpsing a guest chef in the kitchen.

For something somewhat different – dinner and a show – make a beeline to one of the city's most famous music venues. The Bojesen culinary group, which runs the restaurant Tårnet at Christiansborg Palace, has opened an eponymous kitchen at Jazzhus Montmartre. The club once drew the likes of Miles Davis and Dexter Gordon, and was described by the New York Times as "one of the high temples of the European jazz scene" in the 1960s and early 1970s. **Bojesen at Montmartre** is doing "Nordic soul food served family style," meaning small plates of sa-

voury dishes dominated by greens and other seasonal and organic ingredients. Imagine cabbage with lemon and almonds; smoked mackerel with buttermilk, apple and sorrel; and carrots with sesame, lime, lemongrass and curry. Montmartre offers lunch and dinner all week, but from Thursday to Saturday you can eat before the show – a delightfully old-fashioned concept brought up to date with a decent modern menu.

Still, everything old is new again, which goes for traditional Danish sandwiches, too. As we've pointed out before, second-rate smørrebrød is no longer the dirty secret of Danish cuisine. Copenhagen in particular has enjoyed a smørrebrød renaissance, with a string of restaurants reviving Denmark's open sandwich by focusing on fresh, seasonal ingredients.

February saw the arrival of the latest spot offering a new take on the old dish, **Enghave Smørrebrød**, on the

southeast corner of Vesterbro's Enghave Plads. Owners Nina and Esben Pagh have designed it as a takeaway joint with just 16 seats, though diners can take their lunch to Enghave Kaffe, the married couple's coffee shop next door.

"We wanted to make a local hangout where you could have a nice piece of smørrebrød," Nina says. "Smørrebrød is one of the things that Denmark is known for and it can be so delicious. A few years ago, restaurants started to re-invent it, which was great. We felt like making it closer to the traditional smørrebrød, but with high-quality and homemade ingredients."

Their rye bread comes from Brødflo, the Frederiksberg bakery. And besides classic toppings such as chicken salad, you'll find imaginative ones too, like blood sausage with beetroot, buckwheat, raw onion and pickled apples – ingredients that wouldn't look all that out of place at, well, Noma. **M**

Brace

Teglgårdstræde 8A, 1452 Copenhagen C
restaurant brace.dk

Mes

Jarmers Plads 1, 1551 Copenhagen V
restaurant-mes.dk

Ancestrale

Oehlenschlägersgade 12 st. tv., 1663 Copenhagen V
ancestrale.dk

Slurp

Nansensgade 90, 1366 Copenhagen C
slurpramen.dk

Bojesen at Montmartre

Store Regnegade 19A, 1110 Copenhagen C
bojesen.dk/montmartre

Enghave Smørrebrød

Enghave Plads 3, stuen th., 1670 Copenhagen V
enghavesmorrebrød.dk

POLITICS

Taxi laws force out Uber

Taxi service Uber has decided to close in Denmark following new taxi regulations that were passed in Parliament.

"For us to operate in Denmark again, the proposed regulations need to change," the company stated. "We will continue to work with the government in the hope that they will update their proposed regulations and enable Danes to enjoy the benefits of modern technologies like Uber."

The new taxi regulations were drawn up in February with broad bipartisan agreement. While the bill abolished the limit on the number of taxis on the road, it also required Uber drivers to install taximeters and seat sensors. This technology isn't currently found in Uber vehicles. Drivers use their own cars and are connected directly to passengers through an app that guides the drivers to their destination. Payment is taken automatically, with a portion of the fare going directly to Uber.

The company has faced stiff resistance since it first arrived in Denmark in November 2014, and was immediately reported to the police by the Danish Transport Authority (Trafikstyrelsen) for operating as an illegal taxi service. A number of Uber drivers have been convicted of operating illegal taxis.

Despite its illegal status, Uber had around 2000 drivers and has served 300,000 passengers in Denmark. In September, authorities in the Netherlands – where Uber has its European headquarters – handed over the employment details of Uber drivers, who are thought to have earned a total of 56 million kroner in 2016. The Danish tax authorities estimate that at least 500 have avoided paying tax on this income.

Transport minister Ole Birk Olesen from Liberal Alliance is in favour of services such as Uber, and expressed disappointment that he couldn't introduce legislation that would allow Uber to continue operating in Denmark.

"It is a shame that there wasn't a majority for the government's proposal for a marked liberalisation of taxi law, which would have made it easier for Uber and similar driving services to operate legally in Denmark," Olesen wrote in a mail to Berlingske.

Uber will officially close on April 18, 2017, but the company continues to run its development centre in Aarhus, which employs 40 engineers. (PS)

CAKES AND PIZZAS MASK BITTER-TASTING IMMIGRATION POLICIES

Immigration minister Inger Støjberg has been condemned for asking Danes to report pizza restaurant workers who don't speak Danish

VOTERS knew what they were getting when they handed the parliamentary majority to the right-wing 'blue' bloc of parties in June 2015. With the flow of migrants and refugees from the Middle East and North Africa steadily increasing, the Liberal Party (Venstre) promised to tighten immigration significantly if they defeated the left-wing 'red' bloc.

And so they did. In March, immigration minister Inger Støjberg announced on Facebook that she had just passed the 50th new immigration law.

"That calls for a celebration!" she wrote to caption a photo in which she held a cake decorated with the number 50 and Danish flag.

The post was condemned for the apparent pleasure it took in thwarting refugees trying to find safety in Denmark. While Støjberg is known for being provocative on social media – writing in Politiken newspaper, Amalie Kestler argues it's what makes her Denmark's most popular minister – the backlash to this stunt was particu-

larly acute, and forced Prime Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen to defend her in the press.

"There's nothing wrong with a government succeeding with its politics. What we are celebrating are the results, not the methods," he told Ritzau.

A few weeks later, TV2 released a documentary showing that the number of illegal immigrants in Denmark had increased rapidly in recent years. In 2015, 877 people were charged with being in the country illegally, but by 2016 the number had risen to 1,348.

Asked to comment on the data, Støjberg urged Danes to be vigilant.

"I want ordinary Danes to contact the authorities if they are, for example, in a pizzeria and think something strange is happening in the back room because there are too many people walking around and not speaking Danish. It's utopian to believe that police can visit every back room in Denmark," she told TV2.

This too was strongly criticised for fostering an attitude of suspicion and mistrust toward non-Danish speakers.

"The question is what comes next," Uffe Elbæk, leader of the Alternative, told Politiken newspaper. "Some of us remember East Germany and the Stasi and the entire phenomenon of a society that reports on each other."

Danes protested Støjberg on social media by subverting the newspaper headlines that stated, "Støjberg encourages citizens to report on pizza restaurants". In Danish, the same word is used for 'to report'

and 'to review' – so Danes promptly started recommending their favourite pizzerias.

The chorus of disapproval did not go unanswered, though this time it was Venstre's immigration spokesperson, MP Marcus Knuth, who addressed the media in her defence.

"I think the average, sensible Dane can tell the difference between an Italian who is legally working in an Italian restaurant and what looks like five African men walking around in a back room and communicating in a foreign language – or a rapidly changing cast of characters who appear to be behaving suspiciously or covertly," Knuth said.

He added that the government simply didn't want Denmark to experience the same issues as countries in Southern Europe that have a large population of refugees and migrants living without papers, often on the street.

"That's why I am saying that if you see what you often see in Southern Europe – a large group of Africans walking around selling fake sunglasses – alarm bells will start ringing for most Danes. And you'll think: I ought to report it."

While the debate raged, Støjberg's job never seemed to be at risk. Quite the opposite – and the day after her comments to TV2 News, she appeared to be working so hard that she hardly had time to stop.

"Dinner on the way to the last meeting of the day," she wrote on Facebook, accompanied by a photo of her sitting in a car, eating a pizza. (PS)



Inger Støjberg / Facebook



Inger Støjberg / Facebook



Bakkefrost

OPPOSITION TO FISH FARMING

Fears of sea lice and oxygen dead zones spur resistance to the government's fish farming strategy

FISH FARMING could easily become a lucrative industry for Denmark, which has plenty of sea and coastline to raise pens of trout and salmon.

But government plans to promote the industry are receiving pushback from the opposition as well as from environmental and recreational fishing groups that warn of impacts on oxygen levels and wild stocks of fish.

The government is investing around 3.5 million kroner in the search for suitable locations for fish farming in the Kattegat, between Jutland and Sweden, with the aim of creating an industry that produces 160,000 tons of fish a year.

Fish farms produce waste in the form of phosphorus and nitrogen, which promote the growth of algae that, in turn, consume oxygen. Given that the Kattegat is already susceptible to oxygen shortages, the government has proposed pollution compensation schemes, such as the farming of mussels and seaweed that can consume excess phosphorus and nitrogen from the fish farms.

Not everyone is convinced by the project, however, including MP Maria Reumert Gjerding of the Red-Green Alliance.

"An experiment of this character should be restricted to a research level until there is enough evidence of this fantastic effect, in-

stead of heading out into the real world and finding out 'oh actually it doesn't'," she told Politiken newspaper.

Recreational fishing organisation Danmarks Sportsfiskerforbund and the Danish Society for Nature Conservation (DN) are also critical of the pollution compensation measures. They point out that the law would not require the mussel or seaweed farms to be established in close proximity to the fish farms, but only in the general region, resulting in localised pollution.

"Neither mussels nor seaweed can compensate for the pollution that the new fish farms would produce, which means it is not a viable option," stated Verner W. Hansen, chairman of Danmarks Sportsfiskerforbund.

He adds that fish farming is associated with the growth of parasites, such as sea lice, which can transfer to wild stocks of fish – a problem that has severely affected wild fish in Norway, Scotland, Ireland and the Faroe Islands.

Ivan Bundgård Sørensen, chairman of the aquaculture lobby group Dansk Akvakultur, is not impressed by the pushback from opposition parties, which also includes the Social Liberal Party (Radikale), Socialist People's Party (SF) and the Alternative (Alternativet).

"They have issued an automatic reaction to the proposed law even though it affords the option of farming at sea without producing extra pollution. They also completely ignore the potential jobs in Denmark's rural areas that would be associated with extra business activity," he wrote to Dansk Akvakultur's mailing list. (PS)

Feminist research centre has funding cut

Right-wing feminism was just a strategy to engage female voters ahead of the 2011 election. So alleged Elisabeth Møller Jensen in 2013 when she retired after 24 years as director of the feminist research organisation Kvinfo.

"Their most important tool for addressing gender inequality was lowering the rate of the top tax bracket. That's got nothing to do with inequality," Jensen told Information at the time.

The animosity between Kvinfo and the political right wing has simmered for years. Established in 1964 as a self-owned institution within the Ministry of Culture, Kvinfo carries out a range of activities and research related to gender, equality and ethnicity.

The right wing has long argued that its perspective has been ignored by the organisation, and its members not invited to participate in Kvinfo's management.

So it didn't come as a huge surprise in March when Liberal Alliance MP and culture minister Mette Bock decided to withdraw funding for Kvinfo's independent library, and hand the task over to the Royal Library.

A few days after Bock's announcement, fellow Liberal Alliance MP Laura Lindahl told DR that Kvinfo ought not to receive any state funding at all. The current grants end in 2020.

"Kvinfo's work has some clear political undertones in their interpretation of research. Kvinfo is entitled to that. But tax payers shouldn't be funding it, and that's my issue," Lindahl said.

"Kvinfo has made no secret of the fact that they think quotas for women are positive. They have made no secret of the fact that they think earmarked paternity leave is something that will help promote equality. These are political questions that a majority in Parliament does not agree with, and therefore I do not think that you can call yourself a information centre and a research library if you occupy a political position in that way."

Immigration minister Inger Støjberg agreed with Lindahl, and within days withdrew her ministry's two million kroner, which funded Kvinfo's mentor network for immigrant women.

"From my point of view, I don't think that they have a very good understanding of the ghetto areas. I am quite sure

that having a mentor network is a good idea. But I don't think it's best run by Kvinfo," Støjberg told Berlingske.

Kvinfo director Suzanne Moll responded that she couldn't understand the reasoning.

"We have had no signs that the ministry was unhappy with our efforts, not in terms of the results we have achieved or looking at planned activities," she told DR, adding that they have documentation that shows that their mentor program helps immigrant women get back into the workplace.

"We cannot see how this conflicts in any way with the government's policies."

Liberal Alliance's call to end Kvinfo's government funding is the result of the organisation's failure to include the views of the right wing and liberals, argued historian Nina Søndergaard in a 2011 interview with Information newspaper.

"Since Kvinfo gets money from the state, one might think that their job was to select a range of feminists to work with them, but it seems they choose not to do that. Prosex- or right-wing feminism is hard to find there. I think Kvinfo should call themselves radical feminists. They will probably not agree, but they produce very specific women's and gender research based on the assumption that women are always oppressed and in an inferior position of power relative to men. This is true in many places, but it's not true everywhere. This little spark of nuance does not exist within radical feminism."

In the same article, then-director of Kvinfo Elisabeth Møller Jensen maintained that political neutrality is an all but impossible endeavour when it comes to feminism.

"Equality is political. Period. You cannot operate in these waters without also touching upon political agendas. Pure research does not exist. We take great care to be balanced, but I support what little one can glimpse of equality policies with the parties."

Although Støjberg is not persuaded of the success of Kvinfo's mentor network, many others are. Last December, McKinsey Global Institute highlighted Kvinfo's mentor program in its report *Europe's new refugees: A road map for better integration outcomes*, where it was characterised as a "Good Practice". According to Kvinfo, this is at least the tenth time that its mentor network has received international accolades. (JS)

North Sea gas thrown a lifeline

Oil producers were given a 3.5 billion kroner tax break to invest in the Tyra oil and gas field. But opposition parties argue that Denmark shouldn't be propping up its fossil fuel industry with government investment

OIL AND GAS EXTRACTION provide a healthy income for the Danish state – 16.1 billion kroner in 2015, to be exact. So in December, when Maersk Oil threatened to close a lucrative field in the North Sea, it got the government's attention.

90 percent of Danish oil and gas has come from the Tyra field in the North Sea since it was opened in 1984 by Dansk Undergrunds Consortium (DUC), a group of oil companies that now includes Maersk, Chevron, Shell and the state-owned Nordsøfonden.

But as the gas was extracted and the sea bed sank, so too did the platforms, which are now five meters closer to sea level. Vulnerable to rogue waves and bad weather, Maersk Oil, negotiating on behalf of the DUC, argued that the platforms would have to cease production in October 2018 unless they could find an "economically viable solution for full recovery of the remaining resources in the Tyra field".

TAX BREAKS OR ELSE

It wasn't hard to read between the lines – the needed economic incentive was tax breaks, and if the government wouldn't grant them, it risked missing out on even larger amount of taxable income if the fields were decommissioned.

Three months of negotiations were conducted before a settlement was reached in late March. In exchange for lower taxation between 2017 and 2025, Maersk Oil promised to invest in the Tyra field and increase output by the equivalent of 129 million barrels of oil. If the price of oil rises above \$75 a barrel, the government is allowed to increase the taxation and recoup the tax break.

So while the government expects to forgo 3.5 billion kroner of revenue in the short term, they hope to make at least an additional 26 billion before 2042.

"There need to be substantial investments, such as the redevelopment of the Tyra field, which is why we've decided to lower the taxes so that it be-

Climate change is deathly serious, and Denmark has a responsibility to respect global goals to stop it before it gets fatal. We need to live up to that responsibility by investing in the future, not the past.

MP RASMUS NORDQVIST, THE ALTERNATIVE

Peter Stanners



A rig at the Tyra East field in the North Sea. The sinking sea bed is dragging the rigs down with them, making them more vulnerable.

comes attractive for private companies to continue to develop gas and oil fully over the coming years," stated finance minister Kristian Jensen of the Liberal Party (Venstre) in a press release.

"The alternative is that the state will miss out on billions in potential income, and that the industry would lose jobs."

Maersk Oil's Chief Operating Officer, Martin Rune Pedersen, echoed the sentiment and said that the agreement makes the Danish North Sea a more competitive area for oil and gas companies to invest and develop new opportunities in.

"A redevelopment of Tyra can be a catalyst for prolonging the life of the Danish North Sea. It can protect valuable revenues to the Danish state and Danish jobs – especially in the Esbjerg area."

Esbjerg, the industrial harbour town on the east coast of Jutland, is expected to gain around 4,000 jobs thanks to the deal.

BAD DEAL

The arrangement was also supported by parties on the left wing, including the Social Democrats (Socialdemokraterne). Finance spokesperson Benny Engelbrecht

said he was pleased the deal would bring in much more revenue over the longer term.

"This deal will ultimately make the state money that can be used to strengthen welfare," he told Ritzau.

The Socialist People's Party (SF) also supported the plan, and argued that they ensured that it wasn't too expensive in the short term.

"It's far too important to just leave up to the government," SF leader Pia Olsen Dyhr told Ritzau. "We didn't just have the fight on Facebook. We took the fight to the negotiating table. We have made sure that the bill didn't land up with you or me, but will be paid by the business world and the oil companies."

Dyhr's social media reference pointed to the debate on the left about whether Denmark should be investing in extracting more fossil fuels at all. This was one of the reasons why Alternativet (the Alternative) and the Red-Green Alliance (Enhedslisten) opposed the deal.

Rasmus Nordqvist, political spokesperson for Alternativet, expressed disappointment.

"It's never been warmer, the sea ice at the poles is melting at a record pace, and we are experiencing more and more extreme weather and cli-

mate catastrophes," he wrote in a column for TV2 News.

"So what should we do? The Alternative is not in any doubt – the answer is not the North Sea deal."

He concedes that the government made an effort to consider the environment in the deal by setting aside 100 million kroner to research more environmentally-friendly and energy-efficient means of producing oil and gas. But it's too little too late, he argues.

"The climate crisis is going to cost a lot of money – socially, economically, but also environmentally. That bill is one we will all pay, in large part with human lives. Climate change is deathly serious, and Denmark has a responsibility to respect global goals to stop it before it gets fatal. We need to live up to that responsibility by investing in the future, not the past."

Speaking to Ritzau, Enhedslisten's political spokesperson Pernille Skipper argued that the deal is just another example of the oil industry short-changing the public.

"It's completely unreasonable that Maersk, once again, is given millions from the state that we could use to develop our society, welfare or invest in green jobs," she said. **M**

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Fahad Saeed, chairperson of Sabaah.

"Homophobia is a cultural challenge – we need an attitude change"

Societal and community pressures can make it a challenge for many LGBT+ people to accept their identity. But those with a minority background are especially vulnerable to social isolation and loneliness. Organisation Sabaah wants more resources committed to helping this group

IT'S NOT EASY being an LGBTQ person with an ethnic minority background: 20 percent of ethnic minority homosexuals have experienced social exclusion from their families, 13 percent have suffered violence at the hands of family members as a consequence of their sexuality, and 33 percent have considered suicide in the last year.

The numbers come from a 2015 report compiled by the Ministry for Children, Learning and Equality in cooperation with Sabaah, an organisation for ethnic minority LGBT+ persons.

Sabaah, which is run by volunteers, operates three support cafés

in Copenhagen and Aarhus, where primarily young LGBT+ persons from minority backgrounds can meet likeminded individuals. In addition to being a safe space, Sabaah also runs support programmes out of the cafés.

Sabaah spokesperson Fahad Saeed says he is worried about the results of the report, calling the numbers "scary".

"The results really show how much of a problem homophobia is among ethnic minority groups and in Danish society in general today," he says, adding that he is especially concerned by the number considering suicide.

Joshua Hollingdale
& Natacha Z.
Petersen

"That statistic demonstrates that the number of LGBT+ people who are in a bad way is very high," he says, adding that one of the biggest challenges that minority LGBT+ people face is that they are fearful of how members of their community will react when they come out.

According to the study, the majority of ethnic minority Danes are tolerant of homosexuality, but around 39 percent consider it a religious sin, while 22 percent believe it is an illness. The authors write that these attitudes could explain why LGBT+ persons from ethnic minority communities face

higher levels of discrimination, and suffer lower levels of psychological wellbeing, than the average LGBT+ person.

"Our users experience homophobia threefold: in society, sometimes within their families, and in the end, as internal homophobia where they carry homophobia as self-hatred," says Saeed.

A COMPLEX ISSUE

According to gender researcher Michael Nebeling Petersen from the Institute of Cultural Sciences at the University of Southern Denmark, educational levels play a larger role than religious or eth-

nic backgrounds in explaining the prevalence of anti-LGBT+ sentiment in the minority community.

While this may be, it doesn't lessen the psychological impact of the sanctions they experience from their family and community when they come out.

"If the resistance from the community is very strong, that will undoubtedly have negative consequences for the person coming out," he says.

This external pressure only adds to the emotional and psychological challenges that people experience when they open up about their sexuality. Petersen explains that the process often requires leaving behind an old identity and embracing a new one.

"When choosing to begin the process of coming out, you face a vast number of challenges. You need to find new role models and become comfortable in a minority identity. When you decide to come out as a young LGBT+ person, you need to change your orientation to a different range of lifestyles," he says, adding that the change often comes in altering the vision of one's future life from a 'normal' one to one defined by the minority identity.

MORE VISIBILITY, MORE INITIATIVES

Sabaah currently receives 600,000 kroner a year from the Copenhagen City Council, which it uses to run the cafés and political activities and to coordinate collaborations such as the recent government report.

But Saeed says more initiatives are needed to help break the taboo that people with a minority background experience when they come out. Just as important is providing safe spaces and counselling for minority LGBT+ people, so they can obtain support and advice about how to navigate the challenges they face.

"Our users face issues of loneliness. Thinking that they are the only trans, gay or bisexual person in their particular situation. When they come in they find that they are not 'wrong' and certainly not alone with their challenges, and we see them blossom," he says.

"There need to be more places that provide counsel, and really more counselling in general. We need more spaces in crisis centres, and we do need more financial support."

NOT A JOB FOR THE MPS

While Sabaah has often called on politicians for support, Søren Laursen, head of LGBT Denmark, argues that politicians in Parliament are not fully equipped to address the challenges that minority LG-BT+ people face.

"I really can't see that they have a part to play, except for allocating more funds when negotiating the state budget," he says, adding that municipal politicians have more tools available to them through integration initiatives.

"Here I would like to see more being done to have greater focus on LGBT+

elements in the rest of the integration system, in order to make it more visible," he says.

A JOB FOR ALL OF US

Anna Mee Allerslev (RV), Copenhagen City Council Mayor for Employment and Integration, strongly disagrees with Søren Laursen. She argues that Parliament could give municipalities much more autonomy to combat discrimination, and that MPs ought to create a public discourse to shine even more light on this specific issue.

"We should not underestimate the allocation of funds from Parliament. If I were an MP, I would view it as essential that all of our citizens be treated equally. This needs to be something the municipalities can afford, and they only can if more funds are allocated," Allerslev says.

She also stresses that initiatives addressing LGBT+ issues are competing for budget resources.

"It is a job for all of us. The efforts in Copenhagen are extraordinary, really, and they are in no way cheap. We spend an awful lot on anti-discrimination campaigns and inclusive action. It is not a given that the councils do this, and it is a constant battle getting the funds allocated to LGBT+ groups."

INFORMATION NOT ENOUGH

But ending the discrimination that all LGBT+ people face is not simply a job for politicians, says Saeed – mainstream society needs to move on from regarding heterosexuality as the norm.

"Homophobia is a cultural challenge – we need an attitude change throughout society," he says.

Gender expert Michael Nebeling Petersen agrees that information campaigns could help shift attitudes on homosexuality and limit the negative consequences of coming out for all LG-BT+ people.

But he thinks a broader discussion of gender roles is also needed, and that educators at all levels of the educational system need to be better trained in the relationships between gender roles and identity.

"If we look at some of the ways we as a society traditionally view masculinity, we need to look at that critically as well as the way we have traditionally viewed gender roles in Denmark," he says.

The report did not paint a completely negative picture, however. Among the more positive findings was the fact that around 70 percent of ethnic minority LG-BT+ people said they felt free to express their gender or sexual identity all or most of the time.

But while only six percent of all LG-BT+ people responded that they don't feel free to express their gender or sexual identity, the same was true for 18 percent of ethnic minority LGBTQ people – demonstrating the work that needs to be done to improve the lives of this minority within the minority. **M**

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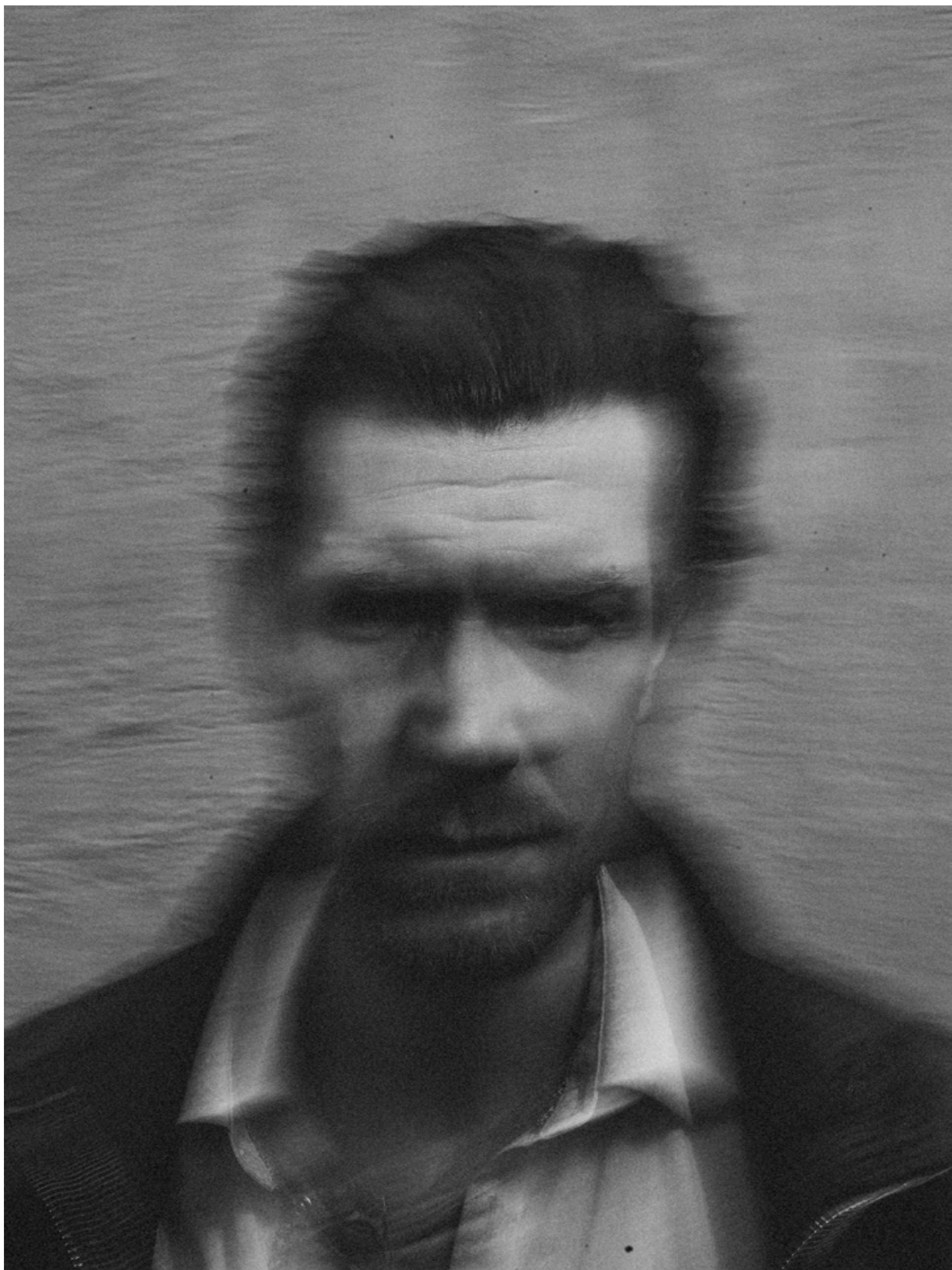
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Martin Lehmann, a photographer at Politiken newspaper, was arrested for refusing to leave a group of refugees and migrants as they walked along a motorway.

When journalism and justice collide

In recent years the Danish police have failed to identify officers involved in a number of controversial actions. The arrest of photojournalist Martin Lehmann is one example where the police's unwillingness to cooperate threatens the freedom of the press

ON SEPTEMBER 9, 2015, hundreds of refugees arrived in Denmark from Germany and started walking along the E45 motorway toward Sweden. Photojournalist Martin Lehmann was covering the event for Politiken newspaper, and decided to join them as they trudged north.

After a few hours, the police closed the motorway and asked the press to leave for the sake of public order. But after seeing the police attempt to prevent the refugees from continuing on their journey, Lehmann was worried that conflict might erupt. Wanting to document the events, he ignored the order to leave the motorway and was ultimately arrested.

Charged with "disturbing the public order", he must now convince the courts that he was right to stay.

"It is a very simple matter: we are going to find out why I was arrested and why I believe I should not have been arrested. If the motorway had been open to traffic that day, I would of course have evaluated the situation accordingly. But the motorway was closed to traffic, so safety was not an issue," Lehmann explains.

The case against him could potentially set a precedent regarding the ability of the press to cover events of public interest. But while its conclusion has been anxiously awaited, the planned court date on March 22 was deferred because no prosecutor was available.

Martin Lehmann is weary of the long wait.

"I had been looking forward to going to court," he says. "It is really disappointing. This is now the second time I have been subjected to the case being postponed, and I am just getting very tired of it."

SLOW AND HAMPERED PROCEEDINGS

The deferral is not the only problem facing Lehmann and his lawyer, Hanne Rahbæk, at the moment. On the day Lehmann was arrested, two police officers were pictured using force to separate a man from his

A hundred years from now, we will talk about the day crowds of refugees started to arrive on foot, marching up Denmark's motorways. It is vital that we are allowed to document historic events like these.

MARTIN LEHMANN

Johanna Sveinsdottir



A photo taken the evening before Martin Lehmann was arrested, showing refugees and migrants exiting the motorway to walk along a road toward a train station on the island of Lolland.

daughter. Their testimony could reinforce the argument that Lehmann had a professional duty to stay and document the events as a member of the free press in a public place.

"It is important for us to get them to testify, because it is crucial that we get a clear picture of what the scene was like that day," says Lehmann.

In February, South Jutland Police refused to identify the officers to Sønderborg City Court, saying that "further evidence is superfluous" and "it is not possible to identify some of the officers."

The police later clarified their position in a press release, stating that the identities of the police officers were known, but that they would not disclose them unless the court deemed it relevant to the case.

UNIDENTIFIED POLICE OFFICERS

This is not the first time Danish police have been reluctant to identify officers involved in controversial activities. During the COP15 climate conference in 2009, five people were arrested when the police mistook one of them for an internationally-wanted terrorist.

Although all five were released the same day when the police realised their error, some of those detained complained that they were

mistreated in custody. Two-and-a-half years later, despite the existence of a photograph of the officers conducting the arrest, the attorney general has had to concede that the officers could not be identified.

In 2012, two officers were pictured stopping an activist carrying the Tibetan flag during a state visit by then-Chinese President Hu Jintao. Police held the demonstrator for an hour, which the Eastern High Court (Østre Landsret) subsequently ruled an illegal detention. The police claimed they could not find the officers responsible, and were chastised for ineptitude in the court's summary of the case.

These high-profile cases are symptomatic of a wider problem, according to Kirsten Dyrman, director of the Danish Independent Police Complaints Authority, who told Politiken that many cases become stranded when it proves impossible to find the officers in question.

In 2016, in response to these controversies, Danish police were made to wear visible numbers on their uniforms. Prior to the implementation of these rules, Denmark was one of the few European countries where police lacked visible ID numbers.

DOCUMENTING HISTORY

It remains to be seen whether the

ID numbers will reduce the number of cases in which officers are unidentifiable. But while Lehmann's case drags on, he hopes the focus can return to the more important issue at hand: the right of the press to document events. "A few days after my arrest, I said that this issue was not about police but about politics. This is a case that is fundamentally about freedom of the press, which is a very, very important issue that is undergoing an enormous attack at the moment. So it's not about me – it concerns everyone working in the field – because it is fundamentally about our ability to do our work properly."

He says Politiken is completely supportive of him and his case, and that he has received a lot of support from other journalists and media. They all appreciate that events such as the large migrant movement on September 9, 2015, need to be documented and reported as thoroughly and accurately as possible, as they can have lasting impact.

"This is Denmark's history. Europe's history. A hundred years from now, we will talk about the day crowds of refugees started to arrive on foot, marching up Denmark's motorways. It is vital that we are allowed to document historic events like these." **M**

Foreigners who guide foreigners

Udlændinge Vejleder Udlændinge (UVU) helps immigrants, refugees and minority Danes navigate the Danish educational system – and integrate into society along the way. Mary Consolata Namagambe explains that her own difficulty getting into law school motivated her to help others

I'm from Østerbro – if you couldn't see the colour of my skin, you wouldn't know I am black when I speak Danish."

Originally from Uganda, Mary Consolata Namagambe moved to Denmark with her family in 1997 and now feels fully Danish. It's not been an easy journey, however, and she struggled to obtain a place in a law programme after finishing high school. But then she met a Ugandan acquaintance who understood Denmark's university system and explained that admittance to university did not only depend on grades, but could also depend on work experience.

Namagambe decided to spend a year working at a law firm in Copenhagen and volunteering in New York City. She also founded and volunteered at the Dandelion House (Mælkebøttehuset) in Greve. It was a free space for disadvantaged young people, especially ethnic minorities, where they could get help with their homework.

She was finally rewarded with a place at the University of Southern Denmark. Without her friend's help, she isn't sure she would have been accepted.

"After this experience, I thought, why don't we have a forum where other students can help each other in areas where their family could not? Because of your background, sometimes you are not fully

Every time someone speaks English to me, it means they see me as a visitor and not from this country.

MARY CONSOLATA NAMAGAMBE

Gabriele Dellisanti

familiar with the Danish system."

HELP FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Three years ago, she founded the Udlændinge Vejleder Udlændinge (UVU), which literally means 'Foreigners guiding foreigners'. Based in the World Culture Centre in Nørrebro, it provides counselling to immigrants, refugees and minority Danes who want to enrol in higher education programmes.

The organisation currently relies on 67 counsellors from 216 countries, speaking 35 languages and boasting a broad range of educational backgrounds. Their contact details are available on UVU's website, enabling anyone to get in touch directly with whichever counsellor suits them best.

Afrak Al-Lami, UVU's chairperson, was born in Iraq and relocated to Denmark in 1995 after leaving a refugee camp in Saudi Arabia. She explains that the website was designed to make it easy for people to find counsellors with language and educational backgrounds that matched their own.

"We want to help newcomers, refugees and minority Danes understand that even though you're not 'Danish by the book', you can still be like the Danes, have an education and life," Al-Lami emphasised.

Both Al-Lami and Namagambe understand what it's like to not be accepted as fully Danish. The link between immigration and crime is a constant topic in Danish news, as is the negative focus on Denmark's foreign-born population.

In the 19 years since she moved to Denmark, Namagambe has found that Danish society doesn't always offer sufficient support to foreigners who want to integrate. She re-

members feeling lost amongst the myriad social rules that bind the homogeneous society together – a feeling shared by many immigrants not raised in families who have been accustomed to the system for generations.

"I believe integration can only work in a country where people want you to be there," she said.

Not that she's only had negative experiences – on the contrary. Namagambe remembers feeling welcomed by her classmates and teachers when she moved to Denmark, and was offered help and extra hours of Danish language classes to catch up with her peers.

But she thinks times have changed for the worse, with acceptance of immigrants dropping, especially after 9/11. And while the topic of authentic 'Danishness' has long been an issue of debate in Denmark, its increasing prominence is legitimising the tendency among a subset of Danes to glorify their culture at the cost of others.

"I remember people were more open when I arrived," says Namagambe.

"The rhetoric today has poisoned people into other ways of thinking, not considering newcomers as people who need help, but rather as people who want to ruin their system and steal their benefits. When people have this kind of a mindset, they won't welcome you because you'll be an enemy of their lifestyle. When we came, it was exotic. Now we are a burden".

'TO THEM I AM A VISITOR'

Danes often address Namagambe

in English, and she believes that many non-white Danes probably have the same experience.

"Danish is white, Denmark is white. Many still do not relate my skin colour with Danishness," says Namagambe.

"Every time someone speaks English to me, it means they see me as a visitor and not from this country. It is deeper than just speaking English to me. It is as if I'm not a citizen here – that I'm not a part of this society. Can you just imagine that? I have been here for nineteen years."

Thankfully, Namagambe's sense of marginalisation by mainstream society hasn't stopped her from taking action, and now she uses her insights to help others make the most of their lives in Denmark. For while UVU is officially designed to provide counselling on education, Namagambe and Afrak both believe it also functions as an arena where both Danes and non-Danes can be open about all of their issues and get help from people with similar cultural backgrounds.

"We are receiving an increasing number of emails in Arabic nowadays, mostly Syrians resettling in Denmark who wish to start university or continue the studies they interrupted. I think it is beautiful to come to a new country and still use your own language to get access to integration and education." **M**

**UDLÆNDINGE VEJLEDER
UDLÆNDINGE**

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Mary Consolata Namagambe.



Steffen Rasmussen with his daughter, out on the section of Amager Fælled that is slated for redevelopment. He is a leading figure in the campaign to prevent the redevelopment.

PUTTING A PRICE ON

An unassuming corner of land is home to the greatest concentration of animal and plant life in all of Copenhagen, but it risks being destroyed by a housing development that has been in the works for 20 years. As activists organise protests to protect the land, the choice between collecting a billion kroner in potential revenue and protecting a unique ecosystem is shaping up to be a central issue in the upcoming municipal elections



ut on Amager Fælled it doesn't feel much like spring. The long grass and tall shrubs are interspersed with low trees and ponds, and on this overcast mid-

March day, there are few colours beyond a muted mix of greens, yellows and browns. But despite its drab appearance, the common is one of Copenhagen's last remaining wilderness areas.

I'm here on the western flank of Amager to meet Steffen Rasmussen, who is showing me a pocket of land in the southeast corner of the common. As we push through the undergrowth, he explains that we are walking on an ancient salt marsh that used to be adjacent to the sea – the rest of the common is landfill and reclaimed from the sea over the past 150 years.

Peter Stanners

This area on the fringes of the old city was used as a military training ground, which prevented it from being farmed and having the soil turned over.

"There have been no pesticides or ways of enriching the earth so a special habitat has been allowed to thrive here, with a great diversity of plants and insects that we don't see anywhere else – not even in the rest of Amager Fælled."

Rasmussen, a systems administrator, is a leading activist in the organisation Amager Fælleds Venner (Friends of Amager Common) that is campaigning to stop the planned construction of around 2,500 new apartments in this corner of the common.

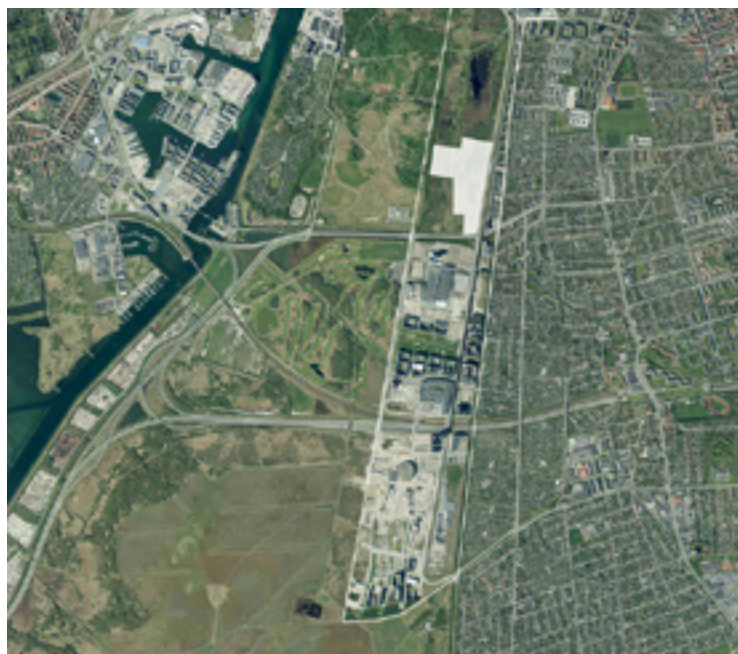
"The paradox is that this is the only part of Amager Fælled that biologists say is a signif-

icant area. We could build anywhere else, but they would not want to hurt this area."

BUILDING ON THE COMMON

Amager Fælled covers around 320 hectares square metres, of which around 18.7 hectares will be used in the new development, called Ørestad Fælled Kvarter. In October, the landowner By & Havn presented the winning design for a development that seamlessly merges the urban environment with the wild area and houses up to 5,500 new residents.

"With this ambitious winning project, we will see a modern, sustainable residential district that relates humbly to Ørestad's green context and integrates the common into the urban structure," stated Jens Kramer Mikelsen, administrative director of By & Havn.



The image on the left shows the western edge of Amager in 1934. Landfill and reclamation from the sea has increased the volume of the island considerably, as you can see compared to the aerial photo on the right.

On both images, the area designated for redevelopment is highlighted (in red on the left and in white on the right). Opponents of the redevelopment argue that it lies on the old salt marsh that has retained a unique soil composition that has been unchanged in 5000 years. Developers By & Havn contend, on the other hand, that the land has been ravaged by more than 300 years of military exercises.



A view looking east of the winning design for the new development, Ørestad Fælled Kvarter, that was submitted by Vandkunsten, Marianne Levinsen Landskab, Dansk Energi Management & Esbensen and Norconsult-Wessberg.

Housing 5,500 residents, the buildings are designed to seamlessly integrate with the wild area. The designers were commended by the judges for choosing not to develop the western edge of the site to preserve a water habitat.

BIODIVERSITY

The design was approved by the Copenhagen City Council in February, and is now being turned into an official district plan. But the proposed development was only narrowly approved, with three out of eight political parties voting against it.

"There are few places in Denmark where we have such ancient nature and rich biodiversity," said MP Maria Reumert Gjerding, environment spokesperson for the Red-Green Alliance (Enhedslisten), to Politiken newspaper.

"If we had come up with the plan to build there today, people would think we were completely crazy."

VULNERABLE WILDLIFE

The plan to build on this land is indeed rather old. While most of Amager Fælled was given protected status in 1994, a sliver on the eastern edge was set aside for developing the Ørestad district. The Ørestad Fælled Kvarter is the only development from the original master plan that has yet to be built.

But, Rasmussen argues, given the time that has elapsed since the original plan was conceived, it's worth reconsidering whether it is still the right move.

"Over the past 20 years, our perspective has changed, and we are much more con-

cerned with preserving biodiversity," Rasmussen says, referring to the measure of the richness of plant and animal life found in different habitats.

"We are the country in Europe with the least biodiversity, because we have quite a lot of agriculture. We have used 95 percent of the available land, and that's what's made us rich, but we should spare this last five percent."

By & Havn admits that a number of rare and protected animal species have been found in and around the land that is slated to be developed. These include a number of amphibians such as the moor frog, edible frog, northern crested newt, and the smooth newt.

In January, the firm initiated a project to improve the quality of the existing ponds on the common and to establish new ponds, expanding the habitat for amphibians. It also pointed out that the developers have chosen not to build on the western section of the common, where most of the wetland habitat is.

Rasmussen argues, however, that despite its apparent commitment to protecting animal life, By & Havn is actively trying to downplay the unique biodiversity found on the common.

For example, on its website concerning the development, the firm uses a photo from 2001 showing the land cleared of plant life. Beneath

The paradox is that this is the only part of Amager Fælled that biologists say is a significant area. We could build anywhere else, but they would not want to hurt this area.

STEFFEN RASMUSSEN, ACTIVIST

is a link that states, "Read about how the area was used as a dump and for artillery". It also released a video on Facebook that focussed on the vegetation clearances over the past 20 years.

While the military has cleared the land of vegetation to search for unexploded ordnance, Rasmussen argues that the soil remained largely unaffected. Its unique biodiversity was confirmed in a 2014 report commissioned by Copenhagen municipality, which found that the redevelopment site was especially rich in wildlife that was either rare or in need of protection.

According to Rasmussen, the biodiversity persisted despite the clearances because the military used methods that didn't kill the microorganisms in the soil that are the foundation of the food chain for all the plants and animals in the habitat. This allowed the land to return to its original state.

"All in all, the military's clearance of the area is far more gentle on nature than agriculture, road building and construction. This is why the biodiversity survived."

NO OTHER OPTION

There is widespread public opposition to the development, with almost 3,000 people stat-



An aerial view looking south east over Amager Fælled in the foreground and the much larger Kalvebod Fælled further in the distance – they are separated by Vejlands Allé. The development site is outlined in white.

ing their intention to attend a protest on May 7. Celebrity chef Nikolaj Kirk has thrown his weight behind the campaign too, publishing videos on his Facebook profile about the need to protect the common, which get hundreds of likes and shares. More than 40,000 people have signed a petition against the development.

But the landowner By & Havn doesn't appear to be backing down in the face of public pressure. The company is co-owned by Copenhagen Municipality and the national government – holding 95 percent and 5 percent, respectively – and was established to develop the port and the Ørestad district.

The primary obstacle is that by not developing Ørestad Fælled Kvarter, the finances of By & Havn would sustain a massive blow. The company is currently 15 billion kroner in debt due to loans it took to finance the development of the city's infrastructure, especially the expansion of the Metro.

The idea is that these debts would be repaid as the company developed land throughout the city, such as in the former industrial district of Nordhavn, which is in the process of being transformed into a cutting-edge and sustainable commercial and residential district.

Ørestad Fælled Kvarter is By & Havn's last plot of land in the Ørestad project to be devel-

It's a bad idea to eliminate some of the city's remaining natural areas by building out there. We think there should be other ways to finance the Metro construction.

**MORTEN KABELL,
MAYOR FOR TECHNICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

oped, and is expected to raise around 1.5 billion kroner for the company.

Opponents of the project counter that By & Havn could still earn money if politicians chose to develop a different plot of land in or near Amager Fælled. The architecture firm BCVA argues that there are a number of areas in the Ørestad district that could be more densely built, including the space beneath the elevated Metro line or above the E20 motorway that cuts through the district.

But By & Havn dismisses these proposals, arguing that the residents of Ørestad bought their homes with certain expectations, so moving the development's location could negatively affect house prices and residents' ability to sell property in the future. The firm adds that it would also take a long time to get the protection order on other sections of the common lifted, which would delay the construction of the new housing upon which its budget depends.

ELECTORAL ISSUE

Not everyone is convinced by By & Havn's arguments, least of all Morten Kabell, Copenhagen's mayor for technical and environmental affairs. His party, Enhedslisten, is among the three that voted against the development

and in favour of finding a new location for By & Havn to build housing.

"It's a bad idea to eliminate some of the city's remaining natural areas by building out there. We think there should be other ways to finance the Metro construction, for example by looking to Nordhavn," Kabell said.

He points out that By & Havn is ultimately owned by the state and city, so it's simply a matter of summoning the political will to make changes to which land is developed and when.

"There are alternatives, such as the land in the northern section of Amager Fælled, which used to be landfill and would be much more suitable. Or we could change the sequence and speed of the development in Nordhavn to include some areas that were not supposed to be built up for another 20 years," he says.

While Enhedslisten, the Social Liberal Party (Radikale) and the Socialist People's Party (SF) are in the minority in opposing the development, Kabell hopes that this might change if municipal elections go their way this autumn.

"I think there is no doubt that Enhedslisten will make this a big part of the municipal election. So will the local forces in Amager and the green movements – they will make it an election topic."

Out on Amager Fælled, Rasmussen points



Ørestad Fælled Kvarter is designed to merge with the natural area. But activists are worried that the development will be devastating for rare and threatened plants and animals.

out that the Ørestad Fælled Kvarter is just one of a number of developments that will eat into the common, including a planned 88,000 square meter expansion of the camping ground on the southern edge of the common. There is also the possibility that the common will be the site of an exit junction from a harbour tunnel that has been proposed to connect the city's major road systems in the north and south of the city.

"I am privileged to be able to walk one of my daughters to school through the common. She got an assignment for school about climate change and started asking a lot of questions about the common: about building the harbour tunnel and the camping ground. And she wanted to know why we are doing it. So when I started hearing politicians say that we needed to do something about this, I said, 'why not?' Now I'm one of the head figures," he says.

Amager Fælleds Venner will hold a demonstration on May 7, at which they hope to form a human chain around the entire common. They will need 8,000 people to do so, more than double the number who have said they plan to attend. But Rasmussen is optimistic.

"I have a little hope – it's why I continue fighting." **M**



The smooth newt is one of the animal species lives in the wetlands adjacent to the development.

"THE PRESS REMAINS THE FOURTH BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT AND NEEDS TO ACT ACCORDINGLY"



He's the antithesis of a populist, with a love of facts, the EU, and calling people out on their bullshit. But MP Jan E. Jørgensen still worries that the truth is a currency whose value is rapidly depreciating



an E. Jørgensen wants more nuance in Danish political debate. An MP for the Liberal Party (Venstre) and the party's spokesperson on the EU and human rights, he's made a name for himself through strong performances in TV debates and an active social media profile – a profile committed to telling it like it is.

"Liberal VVD in Holland. Huge victory. The greatest. Much greater than bad Wilders. Anti-EU-populism. Losers. Mark Rutte. Winner," Jørgensen wrote on Twitter after the election in the Netherlands, mimicking a certain populist president.

We meet in his office in the Yellow Hall of the Danish Parliament, Folketinget. Maybe it's just the vibrant colours, but I sense a warm collegial atmosphere throughout the entire floor. There seems to be an open-door policy, and several colleagues drop by to say hello during the interview.

"People always say hello, and it's a nice place to be. And it's necessary, considering how much time we spend fighting over this and that – we need to be extra nice to each other after those fights," he says.

Jørgensen has been in politics for over three decades, but he's trained as a barrister – a background that has been especially useful in his political career.

I can fight with someone and still be friendly with them afterwards. I'm used to fighting verbally with my opponent with the aim of winning.

Words: Hana Hasanbegovic

Photos: Rasmus Degnbol

"It's easier for me to separate professional opinions from personal ones. That's why I can fight with someone and still be friendly with them afterwards. I'm used to fighting verbally with my opponent with the aim of winning – and we both know it's not personal. It's like a tennis match," he explains.

Disagreement is the very goal of politics, he adds, so you're in the wrong place if you can't handle a debate. But that doesn't justify harsh or personal attacks.

"I have great respect for people who disagree with me, and I don't have any ambition to agree with things the Red-Green Alliance [Enhedslisten] believes, for instance. We're just on two separate planets in that regard. But that doesn't mean that we shouldn't debate and discuss properly with one another and recognise each other's arguments," he says.

"What upsets me is when someone is a jackass or rude."

TASTELESS GESTURES

He is referring to a recent radio debate between himself, MP Kenneth Kristensen Berth from the Danish People's Party (DF) and Pernille Vermund from the New Conservatives (Nye Borgerlige). Berth and Vermund accused Jørgensen of being out of step with the public and not caring about Danish workers – Vermund even went so far as to call Jørgensen a totalitarian. In the now-viral recording, Jørgensen loses his temper.

"I reacted that way because some personal things were drawn into the debate, like my education and previous job. And by Kenneth of all people, who himself is an academic and who, unlike me, has never worked a single day in the private sector. The man's lived off taxpayer money like some party tycoon. And then he pretends to be some representative of the people – some working class hero – who knows what's up. And I'm this elitist, highly-educated, well-paid lawyer, who doesn't understand shit? That upsets me, because I find it to be completely unreasonable," Jørgensen says.

But what about when his own party behaves provocatively? The Liberals are divided between pragmatists like Jørgensen and finance minister Kristian Jensen on the one side, and populists like immigration minister Inger Støjberg on the other.

Støjberg is also known for her active social media presence, though she takes a more divisive approach. After passing her 50th new law restricting immigration, Støjberg posed for a photo on Facebook with a celebratory cake. It was widely condemned as a taste-

less gesture.

"A picture is worth a thousand words, and it can be a very powerful tool in communication. But it can also offend a lot of people if taken out of context, so you have to be careful. She's apologised for upsetting anyone, and I can only concur," he says.

POST-FACTUAL ECONOMY

Jørgensen is worried that facts are becoming less important in the Danish political debate. While he accuses Vermund and Berth of being especially fond of using so-called "alternative facts", he doesn't limit his criticism to the right wing. He calls out the green and pro-entrepreneurism party The Alternative (Alternativet) for proposing unrealistic and impossible bills, too.

"You have the right to your own opinions, but you do not have the right to your own facts," he says coolly, adding that Danish debate culture has shifted over the years. Instead of focusing on cold, hard facts and rationality, the debate has become more fluid and relative.

He points to the debates ahead of the referendum on Europol membership in 2015, which he believes left voters confused. Danes decided to vote no on the referendum for lack of better reasons to vote yes.

"At one point during all these Europol debates, I remember calling it 'brainstorming live on air'. I mean, it's fine to debate possible results and solutions, but once you're on live television, it's frustrating to deal with politicians who don't have clear solutions. Perhaps my frustration is boosted by my background as a lawyer, where you'd have to do all the math before you got into the courtroom," he says.

"This, to me, is dangerous for democracy. I mean, you can become President of the United States and still debate this way. Unfortunately it's a sign that there is a market for these types of politicians. And if you really want to be a pessimist, you might even fear that this could pave the way for despots and put an end to democracy. So we need to fight this."

Jørgensen thinks that it is every politician's duty to convey and communicate his or her viewpoints in a broadly appealing manner, which is why he attempts to keep his language precise and concise when writing op-eds or letters to the editor.

"There is no need to alienate a lot of people by using technical terms and expressions that not everyone understands. You can say clever and well-thought-out things without using a thesaurus.

On the other hand, there is no need to dumb anything down either. It's a balance."

But conveying ideas and beliefs can be tricky when the media reduces policies to headlines or tweets. He thinks this is what makes some politicians wary of taking a stand in an environment where – alluding to his judicial past – anything you say can and will be used against you.

"Politicians in general are now afraid of being blamed for something that they may have said but didn't mean, or something that has been taken out of context," he says.

He points to Parliament's opening debate in 2013 when the Social Democrats were in power, led by Helle Thorning-Schmidt. Venstre leader Lars Løkke (Liberal Party) was discussing a tax reform that would give Danes 2,000 kroner extra per month if they moved off benefits and into a job. He said he didn't think it was a substantial amount of money – perhaps only enough for a pair of shoes.

"The sarcastic remark was aimed at Helle Thorning, who was also known as Gucci-Helle due to her expensive taste in shoes and handbags. But the Social Democrats spun it to make it out like Lars didn't know that ordinary people couldn't afford spending 2000 kroner on a pair of shoes," laments Jørgensen.

He also feels the bias of the press in smaller, everyday situations. For example, in February, Parliament convened a "mini-Denmark" debate, to which it invited 200 Danes representing a fair cross-section of society to discuss their views on the EU. The event went mostly unnoticed by the major outlets, which Jørgensen thinks is a shame.

"The same goes for other day-to-day achievements. For instance, my 17-year-old daughter knows that she can now apply for a driver's licence earlier, because that is realpolitik and it's relevant to her. But the press is failing its responsibility to cover more broadly. There are too many articles out there with click bait potential and entertainment value. But the press remains the fourth branch of government and needs to act accordingly," he argues.

ANTI POLITICAL CORRECTNESS

Social media has undermined the established media to some extent by allowing politicians like Jørgensen to communicate directly with the public. And Jørgensen is good at it, using a mix of humour and bite to convey his message in 140 characters or less.



Media monitoring site Infomedia measured the ten most popular tweets using the Danish politics hashtag #dkpol in 2016 – Jørgensen was featured three times.

"Twitter I've figured out – but Snapchat I don't understand. I only use that with my daughter," he laughs.

"It's important to communicate according to my age. I'm a fifty-something man who's married and lives in Frederiksberg. It wouldn't make sense if I tried to act like some 20-year-old blogger. It wouldn't be real. I try to use humour because I find it natural. But the thing about humour is that you either have it or you don't – either it works or it doesn't. You can't really force it."

While Jørgensen enjoys the direct interaction with the voters that social media offers him, he also sees the risks in trying to reduce complex ideas to 140 characters. So he chooses carefully

Twitter I've figured out – but Snapchat I don't understand. I only use that with my daughter.

which debates to take on in social media – and which to avoid.

"There is a very harsh tone on the social platforms, and that drives a lot of regular, calm people away because nobody wants to be trashed online. My theory is that a lot of people remain silent in the debate because of this. So what you end up with is a lot of unkind comments by a few very angry people with too much time on their hands. These people are not representative of the entire population," he argues.

He still doesn't consider himself politically correct – doesn't even like the term. He regards the expression as suggesting that some opinions are more valid than others, a view to which he does not subscribe.

"I'm not very diplomatic either, and I don't necessarily think you should be. I think you should stick to facts and only facts. Take for instance some of the things Trump has said, like this absurd

claim that Obama wiretapped him. I mean, if there had been a movie about this ten years ago, we'd all have said that it's stupid and totally unrealistic. If he were some crazy conspiracy theorist, then maybe that would have been okay – but not when you are the leader of the most powerful nation on earth. On the other hand he probably, and hopefully, acts differently behind closed doors," he says.

He's worried about this apparent trend toward untruths, and doesn't believe lying in politics can ever be justified, as it undermines the very democracy that we cherish.

"I would like my voice to be one of nuance in Danish politics. At the moment there is too much black and white debate going on. Martin Henriksen's [Danish People's Party] worldview is too dark and Zenia Stampe's [Social Liberal Party] is too bright – I'd like to be somewhere in the middle." **M**

Jan Ejnar Jørgensen

Member of the Danish Parliament for the Liberal Party in Copenhagen greater constituency from September 15th 2011.

Spokesman on European affairs from 2016, on human rights from 2014, and on naturalisation from 2011.

Master's degree (law), University of Copenhagen 1989-1995.

High Court Barrister (L), DLA Nordic and Horten 2005-2011. Environmental Consultant, trainee solicitor, High Court Barrister (L), 'De Samvirkende Købmænd' 1997-2005.

A series of posts with the Liberal Party 1983-1998, including vicechair of the Liberal Party in Frederiksberg, member of Frederiksberg Municipal Council from 1998, acting deputy mayor 1999 and 2001.



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Deadline for applying: 28 April

Interviews to be held on Wednesday the 10th of May

The British man who won over Danish ears

Tim Hinman is one half of the duo behind Denmark's most popular podcast, Third Ear. We had a chat about what it's like to be a British man in Denmark who marches to his own drum – and lives in constant fear of missing a beat

Tim Hinman is a tall man with a very deep voice. This deep voice is partly what has made him a household name in Denmark over the past few years. Together with Krister Moltzen, he produces riveting, unsettling and beautifully-crafted stories that have won the pair a handful of international awards.

Hinman moved to Copenhagen from England over two decades ago, but it's only recently that his kind of storytelling has hit a nerve with Danish audiences. We meet in a trendy café of Hinman's choosing, where the acoustics are bad and the space is limited. He immediately jokes about me recording the interview on my iPhone, saying that as a sound person, this is forbidden. Even off duty, he's aware of the soundscape.

"But I don't even know why I suggested this place to begin with – it's too loud," he laughs.

"I fell into making radio backwards, really," he says, explaining how he started in London in music, then film, and eventually theatre, before failing at all of the above. But he kept coming back to sound.

"I never meant to do radio. It was never something I was trained for. I kind of went to school to learn audio engineering, but I never finished. I did have some weird internships, though, like working on the musical *Cats*. It was terrible. It's just the worst musical in the world, you know? I hate musicals anyway. I did that and *Phantom of the Opera* as well. Terrible."

Still, after moving to Denmark, his haphazard experience with sound and postproduction helped him land a job at the Danish Broadcasting Corporation (DR) doing freelance production and editing.

"I was doing weird, bizarre, far-out sound stuff, largely by necessity, because I couldn't speak Danish. It was different days back then, kind of an open door place. They actually paid you – you could just wander in and do stuff. Today that's unthinkable."

That's another odd thing about Denmark. If you get really successful, it doesn't really mean anything.

Words:
Hana Hasanbegovic

Photos:
Rasmus Degnbol



He thinks he might be the only person in the world to ever learn Danish by listening and editing. He finds that the constant process of spooling backwards and forwards helped him pick up the intonation of the language faster.

"I could say things without knowing what they meant. You get a very good ear because you listen very carefully. I've always had a good ear for Danish. I've never made a mistake in terms of editing. Still can't speak it. I mean, I can speak very well, but I don't speak perfectly and I don't write very well at all. But I hear very well."

DANISH FEELS LIKE WEARING A STRAITJACKET

Back in 2009, when Hinman started the now-famous Third Ear podcast with Krister Moltzen, they had a humbling 100 listeners per episode. Recently, nearly 60 episodes later, they drew more than 100,000 for their serialised true crime story, *The Woman with the Heavy Suitcase*, which was produced for Politiken newspaper.

"Podcasting really took off big time two or three years ago, but there's not much of it around in Danish. We basically stole the idea of making serialised stories in podcast form. And that really works for us and we really enjoy it. We wanted to make stories that people talk about in bars," Hinman explains.

The podcast has developed over the years, and the stories are now completely in Danish, but the difficulties of the Danish language are a sore spot for Hinman – especially now that his own characteristic pronunciation has become one of the podcast's trademarks.

"There's apparently a guy who's taking the piss out of my voice on Radio24Syv. Apparently people *do* my accent. That's a compliment, I suppose," he says, laughing.

"But I do find that Danish is a very difficult language for me to express myself in. It feels like wearing a straitjacket – I can't jump around like I want to. Even natural speakers, when they find fluidity in Danish, it's a very flat expression. It's very subtle. And that's something that's impossible to learn."

"Danish is a really tough language, and it's very hard to articulate. It's a nightmare. And when you have to work with a microphone, it's like a magnifying glass. Stick a microphone in your hand and you feel naked and sound like an idiot. You sound a bit dim."

PERMANENT FEAR OF FAILURE

One explanation for Third Ear's appeal lies undoubtedly in its free-spirited approach to storytelling – the result of working without an editor or an overly-rigid framework.

"We're obsessed with constructing narrative. We write our stories like we write movies or books – scene by scene. We leave cliffhangers everywhere. The cool thing about this new media is that you don't have the standard roles that you'd have in newspapers or television. We mix it up. I do a little of everything. But we also have permanent fear of failure."



We're always sure we're going to fail next time. The next series we're going to do we're definitely going to fail, we've already agreed on that," he says, laughing.

"You go through the typical creative curve, thinking, 'this is a terrible idea, this is the worst idea I've ever had', and then hopefully crawl back up to 'this is actually quite good', to 'this is brilliant!'"

Hinman is used to hearing his Third Ear project compared to *This American Life* and to *Serial*, the tonal tsunami that washed over listeners in 2014. But meeting the producers behind that popular podcast made Hinman realise that there isn't a formula to making quality radio – you just have to do your best and play it by ear (pun intended).

"I saw Julie Snyder from *Serial* give a talk in Chicago, and she said they had 230 million downloads. It's the most downloaded podcast in the history in podcasts. But it's wonderful to see that even the people at *Serial* work in a similar way, with the same shitty set of post-its and a Google Doc saying 'Remember to make each episode really exciting!' It's just as shitty a working method as we have, so that was nice to learn."

THE UNBEARABLE RELIABILITY OF DANISH BEING

Tim Hinman is well aware that his success in Denmark is due to equal parts luck and opportunity. But he also understands that his own lack of conformity or knowledge of the established Danish system played a significant role in his success.

We're obsessed with constructing narrative. We write our stories like we write movies or books – scene by scene. We leave cliffhangers everywhere.

"I said 'yes' to everything in the beginning, which I think is a kind of survival strategy, because I don't fit into the Danish system. If you haven't been to the right schools here, have the right education, or have the right network, you tend to find yourself in a situation where you don't know what the rules are. That could be an advantage of course, because sometimes you can just walk to the front of the queue instead of standing in the back, because you didn't realise that there was a queue. Which is how I think I got in to Danish Radio. I just walked in. I didn't realise you were supposed to be really nervous about walking in there. Probably pissed quite a few people off without even realising it just by saying 'oh I can do that'," he says.

"I needed to bend the rules in order to make it fit. And when you're not Danish, you tend to think a bit differently. Danish people are quite nicely reliable. They tend to think the same ways. I'm generalising rather a lot, but they are. There's a tendency towards homogeneity in many aspects, which can also be very positive. On the other hand, if you step outside the line, suddenly jump the queue some times, you can get a hit."

Hinman also admits that he's benefited from being a specific type of foreigner. Had he stayed in England, he probably would not have been able to work with radio in the same way – he would have been one among many. But after

moving to Denmark, his career was propelled forward thanks to a bizarre combination of fetishism and anglophilia.

"A Turkish taxi driver in Copenhagen once told me that British people are on the top-three list of foreigners in Denmark," he laughs.

THE BANALITY OF SUCCESS

Hinman now has his hands – and ears – full. One of the Third Ear episodes is being adapted for cinema, a third season is almost ready for release, and he's also working on his own English-language podcast, *Sound Matters*, in collaboration with Bang & Olufsen.

"It's sound stories, nerdy stuff, geeky stuff, science-y stuff, any kind of stuff, really. Last episode was about sounds from outer space. The next one's about sounds from the ancient past. We tell stories about people who could never hear before being given back their hearing. It's stories about silence, about acoustic ecology," he explains.

So, from failing at music and working in terrible musicals, Hinman's managed to make a success of himself in Denmark. But that's not saying much.

"That's another odd thing about Denmark. If you get really successful, it doesn't really mean anything. If you get really successful in a bigger country you might get famous or rich or something. Here you just get to carry on with the same as before. Which to me is just fine." **M**



Tasty local food for weekend warriors

The food market Kødbyens Mad og Marked returns this April with delicious and locally-sourced foods. Now in its second season, the weekend market has plans to spread its wings beyond its home in Vesterbro

After the dark winter months, Danes are clearly eager to heed the call of the lengthening days and warmer sunlight. Even in a decidedly grey March, Sønder Boulevard in Vesterbro was often populated late into the evening with people chatting, drinking and hanging out.

It's a sign of things to come, as the spring slowly turns to summer and the city once again comes alive. And Vesterbro residents are lucky to have one of the city's best food markets, Kødbyens Mad & Marked, right on their doorstep beginning this April.

Located in the meatpacking district known as Kødbyen, and sandwiched between the train tracks and Istedgade, the market showcases local produce from around

50 vendors. From tacos to burgers, and from moules frites to fish and chips, the food can be eaten at long, sociable tables in the middle of the action.

REVIVAL

Established in the late 1800s as Copenhagen's epicentre for meat sales and processing, Kødbyen used to be a bustling marketplace and thriving hub of activity. It witnessed a steady decline in fortunes in the late 20th century until the municipality decided in 2005 to transform the area into a creative district.

It has since become home to a cluster of nightclubs, exhibition spaces and exciting restaurants, but it continued to lack a daytime atmosphere. But Kødbyens Mad and Marked put the market back at the centre of the action, taking in-

spiration from Spitalfields in London and the meatpacking district in Manhattan, which re-established the hustle and bustle of social trade and have capitalised on the modern desire for local produce and human interaction around food.

While the market responds to Copenhageners' appetite for socialisation and novel experiences, it also taps into the growing awareness of the value of local foods. This movement was perhaps most aggressively championed by New Nordic cuisine and its emphasis on supporting sustainable and locally-sourced produce.

Kødbyens Mad og Marked likewise focuses on supporting small and local producers, with the majority of the stall holders coming from Zealand. It takes the local, fresh, made-in-front-of-you aspects of New Nordic cuisine, and puts

it in food trucks rather than fancy restaurants. But while street food vendors used to choose a mobile existence to avoid paying unaffordable rents, food trucks are now home to some of the most innovative and high-quality foods in the city.

BREAKFAST AND CREAM

Two particularly exciting innovations are coming to the market this year. The first is breakfast day, to be held on the last Sunday of each month, that will tap into the success of the 'build your own breakfasts' available at Vesterbro spots Mad og Kaffe and Wulff & Konstali. Buy five breakfast tokens and gather items from stalls around the market – a broad and constantly-changing selection will make return trips worthwhile.

The other new venture is the in-

Emily Tait

roduction of themed days. In previous years, there have been days devoted to wine and smørrebrød, and this year will see some new additions, including beer, bread, and berries. On May 7, cream day, expect to find a focus on flødebolles, cheese, ice cream and toffees, for example.

This is also the first year that Købbyens Mad og Marked will expand its reach through that most Danish method of transportation: the bike. The market was originally intended as a destination for fresh ingredients, in line with the British concept of the farmer's market. But rather than limit its reach to Vesterbro, five specially-designed bikes have been commissioned to take fresh food and vegetables to squares in five Copenhagen neighbourhoods: Østerbro, Nørrebro, Vesterbro, Sydhavn and Amager.

The idea behind the bikes is to fill a gap in the distribution chain, so that small producers can get their food to consumers without buying into the regulations enforced by supermarkets. Food can be purchased in small batches, and can vary from day to day. Furthermore, the bikes will be staffed by people who understand what they are selling, putting knowledge and care back into the way we buy food and the way we eat. Customers can be assured that the food they buy hasn't been covered in plastic and transported thousands of miles – in fact, it's most likely to have been in the ground just days before.

This project has grown out of a popular and political movement advocating a more eco-friendly food market, recognising the need to shorten food supply chains, and encouraging local biodynamic pro-

duction. They bikes are supposed to enable people to easily maintain a healthy diet by making affordable, local and organic ingredients an everyday essential, not a luxury.

Købbyens Mad og Marked is, ultimately, a very human and personal project to create and sustain the vibe that makes Vesterbro such a dynamic social hub. It will be a place for good food and great conversations, where tasty, sustainable food is part of a daily habit of "eating out, eating together, and eating better". **M**

CONTACT INFORMATION

koedbyensmadogmarked.dk

[facebook.com/
koedbyensmadogmarked](https://facebook.com/koedbyensmadogmarked)



Andreas Raun Arneberg



The new market includes seven specially designed bikes selling a variety of fruit, greens, bread, fish, meat and dairy products. The bikes will visit public squares in each of Copenhagen's five boroughs during the week, so locals can get used to buying the fresh and local produce.



THE STRICT DIETS OF DANISH CHICKENS

While Copenhagen restaurateurs and small local farmers are trying to find new and inventive ways to create sustainable gastronomy, they are thwarted by strict EU regulations designed to keep animal diseases at bay



Johanne Schminning

Chickens at Hegnsholt Hønseri used to eat discarded food from the restaurants that bought their eggs. This circular economy has now been shut down as it violates animal feed regulations.

Last December, two employees from the Ministry of Environment and Food (Fødevarestyrelsen) walked into renowned restaurant BÆST in Nørrebro and summarily accused them and the Mirabelle bakery next door of running an illegal feed operation.

Their crime? Providing organic bread and vegetable scraps to the chickens that lay the eggs they serve.

Fødevarestyrelsen was tipped off by an interview two days earlier on the radio station P1 during a programme about successful circular economies in the Copenhagen area. One interviewee was Johanne Schimming, owner of the chicken farm Hegnsholt Hønseri, who proudly shared the details of her business model.

"It all started when I began delivering eggs to Puglisi's restaurant. It was then we decided that when I delivered the eggs, I would take back bread and vegetable scraps back to the chickens. From then on I would inform other restaurants that wanted to buy my eggs that this would be a part of the deal," she explains.

It was a good example a self-sustaining circular economy, which saved half a ton of food waste every week while raising healthier chickens that laid better-tasting eggs.

The very same day that Fødevarestyrelsen knocked on BÆST's door and shut down the operation the Danish government launched a marketing campaign called Fødevarefortællingen (The Food Story). Under the slogan "Finding a better way - the Danish way", the government claims that its ambition is to "point the development of agriculture and the world in a better direction by producing food and food solutions with a focus on sustainability and resource efficiency".

It also boasts of the Copenhagen restaurant scene and new Nordic celebrity chefs "who have a nearly political ambition to use gastronomy as a way to get the world to eat more sustainably".

Christian Puglisi is one of these celebrity chefs. Two-time winner of the world's most sustainable restaurant, he also happens to be the founder of BÆST and Mirabelle. Baffled, Puglisi wrote an open letter to Esben Lunde Larsen, Minister for Environment and Food, in which he pointed out the apparent contradiction.

"We agree that there is an urgent need for an industry-wide shift in focus. Both, as you write in 'The Food Story', in order to work for a better world, but also in a more practical way to remove obstacles so we can move into the future. Real change, however, happens via a new mindset, not by spending our time and resources on wishful thinking. And it is clear that when you get a skilled storyteller to create your narrative, there is a risk that the words are more palatable than the substance."

Copenhagen's Lord Mayor Frank Jensen agreed that the move seemed absurd and criticised the minister in an open letter of his own.

"It is just more proof that when the government claims it has 'green intentions', it has no basis in reality. These are empty words. It

There is currently just too much waste in our society so we need to become smarter about how we use our resources.

**JOHANNE SCHIMMING,
FARMER**

Johanna Sveinsdóttir

just doesn't add up when a minister launches strategies with catchy names in order to create growth in agricultural districts while at the same time, on an everyday logistical level, preventing the countryside and city from cooperating to create sublime, locally produced food," writes Jensen.

"It is absurd. All in all, we consume over 9,000 tons of organic produce a year in the kitchens of Copenhagen municipality. And it is crazy if we can't – of course under 100 percent appropriate kitchen conditions – recycle vegetables and bread scraps as animal feed and create direct links between producers and kitchens."

TOUGH RULES FOR SMALL OPERATIONS

BÆST's cooperation with Hegnsholt Hønseri is only the latest in a row of setbacks Puglisi has faced in his ambition to run a sustainable restaurant. Last summer, he decided to keep a small herd of jersey cows at the farm in Lejre where they grow vegetables for their kitchens in Copenhagen. The plan was to use the milk to make their own fresh cheeses at BÆST, a decision he feels was decisive for their nomination as one of the best pizzerias in the world last February.

But Puglisi says it was a difficult ambition to fulfil, as the laws are designed with large-scale farms in mind, rather than local, small-scale and circular economies.

"The problem is that everything is based on the assumption that things need to be bigger, faster and more economical, as well as readily exportable," Puglisi told The Murmur.

"This development in agriculture means that food security becomes much riskier, so more control and more regulation is needed. For smaller, local systems this is not an issue. If you have a circular approach, you cannot cheat, you cannot compromise on safety and quality, because you only end up cheating yourself. For others, the only issue is to

maximise profits."

After Puglisi published his open letter, food minister Esben Lunde Larsen visited him at his restaurant. They agreed that, for the moment, the only solution would be to register BÆST as an animal feed operation, which involves strictly separating the production of food in the restaurant – for example meat, dairy and vegetables

While Puglisi acknowledges this approach could work for BÆST, which already separates production, smaller restaurants might not have the resources to do the same.

"We can do this, separate the handling of meat from the handling of dairy and vegetables, because we are very well equipped. It is strange that this strict separation is not necessary when preparing food for human consumption, but it is absolute when it comes to preparing feed for chickens. "

NO SCRAPS ALLOWED

Even if the government wanted to change the law to allow restaurant waste in animal feed, it is prevented from doing so by an EU ban from 2002. The law was put in place after several outbreaks of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (commonly known as mad cow disease) and a costly bout of foot-and-mouth disease in the UK in 2001 that was traced back to contaminated kitchen scraps of animal remains being used as feed.

Anders Dalsgaard, professor of veterinary public health at Copenhagen University, explains that there are good reasons for the ban on using waste as animal feed.

"The reasons for the EU rules are very understandable. Organic waste can potentially be a huge risk to our agricultural industry if there is a chance that any animal tissue at all could be present. Even when using it as compost or fertilizer, as we do now, there are many rules and regulations that have to be followed. The waste must be treated in order to minimise the potential for disease.



The kitchens of Bæst restaurant, which used to supply its food waste for the chickens at Hegnsholt Hønseri.

Christian Puglisi

Christian Francesco Puglisi was born in Messina in Italy in 1982. Arriving in Denmark as an immigrant in 1990 he later attended the Danish Hospitality College and graduated with honours in 2004. Owner of Relæ, Manfreds, Bæst and Mirabelle.

Farm of Ideas – a small-scale farm site producing numerous vegetables and herbs for Puglisi's restaurants – was initiated in 2016, including a small herd of Jersey cows delivering the raw milk for the cheese production in the micro dairy at Bæst. All the land and the cows are being converted to hold the organic certification by early 2018.



P. A. Jorgensen

To use it as animal feed is an entirely different story, where the risks are much greater."

So before a restaurant can even think about using its vegetable waste as animal feed, it needs to take a number of precautions. According to Dalsgaard, this would at a minimum require restaurants to prepare its meat and vegetables in completely separate areas. There must be also regulations in place that require documentation of the origin of the products used in the kitchen.

"The outbreak of foot and mouth disease in the UK likely came from imported meat. If there is going to be any chance of using waste from kitchens, it must be from a restaurant that is very particular about its produce and uses locally sourced meat. Otherwise, there is too great a risk that we could introduce new disease strains into the Danish agricultural industry. If just one case of a serious disease crops up in our pigs, for example, it could bring our pork export industry to its knees in an instant and would cost Denmark a fortune."

Despite these requirements, Dalsgaard argues that it would be possible to establish a safe and practical solution.

"Organic waste has a lot of value, and if the right treatment processes can be established, there is a lot of potential use for it. This is also an issue of corporate social responsibility."

Johanne Schimming acknowledges that current regulations were implemented for

good reason, but that there could be some scope for more flexible enforcement.

"There is also the question of how the Danish authorities choose to interpret the EU law. They choose to interpret the law in a way that is much harsher than is strictly necessary, and this makes it that much harder for us to contend with," she says.

"I think that while there is a lot of political support, there is a strong industry lobby that is very anxious to maintain food safety when it comes to industrial farming and exports. Loosening up the rules for someone like me is a risk they don't want to take. Therefore, they choose to be stricter than is necessary. But, for us, these rules are often too much. While there might be theoretical risks when these rules are not followed on a large scale, with a circular system like ours there is no real risk in practice," she says, adding that the rules are often unreasonable.

"For example, private people who happen to have a chickens in their back yard are also not allowed to give it food from their kitchens. I just don't think this makes any sense in practice. I think in those instances there must be a lot of people unwittingly breaking the law."

WHERE THERE'S SWILL, THERE'S A WAY

Food waste has been used as animal feed throughout the ages, especially as pig feed, known as swill. While it was banned by the EU in 1997, countries such as Japan, Taiwan



and South Korea doubled down on swill as animal feed in order to reduce the environmental impact of meat production.

These countries faced similar disease outbreaks caused by the practice, but instead of simply banning swill, they introduced a tightly-regulated, centralised system to safely collect food waste. The swill is collected, inspected and pasteurised (heated to kill microbes) before use by registered 'ecofeed' manufacturers. The pork from pigs fed with this swill is labelled and sold at a premium, as the public has a favourable view of this production method.

A 2015 study from the University of Cambridge reported that if the EU implemented a similar system, it would save almost 1.8 million hectares of soy and grain production used to feed pigs. The study also suggests that farmers would end up spending less on animal feed.

But despite the benefits that could accrue from lifting the EU ban on kitchen scraps as animal feed, there is simply not enough support from farmers, the public and policy makers.

LACK OF POLITICAL SUPPORT

Although EU laws are responsible for disrupting his sustainability ambitions, Puglisi argues that the EU itself doesn't shoulder all the blame.

"I think that the problem in this context arises when farming and innovation are focused solely on exports. This means the focus is on technology and efficiency, faster production, reducing costs, and how to keep large facilities clean. Innovation on a smaller level is rarely considered."

The result is that smaller farmers and producers are not only neglected by policy makers, they are suffocated by regulations designed for large-scale agriculture.

"The regulations are forced upon us because of this. If we look at the recent example of the threat of bird flu, all fowl had to be kept indoors. This applied to both private individuals and huge farms, and is still the rule in Denmark, even though the rest of Europe has eased up on this precaution. The problem is that this restriction is supposed to protect huge and potentially vulnerable chicken farms, but it absolutely crushes small organic and free-range chicken farming since they are not allowed to have their chickens outside. The only interest is in keeping the big industry afloat."

As long as these regulations exist, it will be hard to introduce the type of sustainable and circular economy that Puglisi and Schimming aspire to – but Schimming is hopeful that change is not far off.

"There is currently just too much waste in our society so we need to become smarter about how we use our resources. We might have been too premature this time, but me and Christian [Puglisi] are going to continue pushing for change, and I am certain that we are going to get there eventually," she says.

But for now, Schimming's chickens must be content to eat the feed the EU allows them – nothing but dry grain. **M**



[kykkelikyy]

English: *Cock-a-doodle-doo*

Spanish: *Kikiriki*

French: *Cocorico*

Korean: *Ko-ki-oh*

Japanese: *Kok-e-kok-ko*

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OP-ED

Other stories matter

Politicians and the media continue to focus on the parenting failures of immigrants who arrived many years ago. This narrative overshadows the incredible success stories of many young parents with immigrant backgrounds who are thriving in Danish society

IT IS FRIDAY MORNING, and I am listening to yet another debate on the radio about the immigrant generation that arrived in Denmark 30 to 40 years ago. They were primarily from the Middle East, with some arriving as guest workers and others as refugees. This debate keeps returning to their failures as parents and their inability to help their children navigate the challenges they would face in their new host country.

The perpetually negative narrative about this generation of immigrant parents is a source of irritation to me and to many other young parents. I feel that these debates are projecting the failures of the past on us. We are collectively presented as one group of people and as just one entity, namely a product of the ghettos and their attendant social problems. Even though many of us never grew up in a ghetto or experienced the social problems being debated, we are all grouped together by our ethnicity and dark features.

Many of us identify with a different story than the one the media chooses to tell over and over again. It is a story about a shift in identity, perception and sense of belonging that has occurred among the descendants of first-generation parents. I think that we need to talk about this 'other story' in order to achieve a balance in how we are represented in Danish society.

I do recognise that many children born to this constantly-debated generation suffered emotional and cultural neglect at the hands of their parents, who were themselves at a loss in their new host country. Denmark was clearly very different from the villages in Turkey and the refugee camps in Lebanon, Iraq and Palestine that these parents arrived from. Some of them never entered the labour market or learned to speak Danish. They were placed in social housing that became densely populated with guest workers and refugees from the Middle East. This contributed to their isolation from Danish society.

The first wave of migrants were certainly abandoned by a system

I refuse to be kept in the shadow of the past generation's mistakes and history. We have created our own history and our own present. We have actually moved on.

Sausan Berg



The author with her two sons Julian (left) and Milan.

that was unprepared to help them adapt to their new home or assist them with their personal problems. The system failed them, and they, in turn, failed their children. Many of these parents never attended school events or parent teacher meetings. They failed to support their children with their homework or encourage them to develop a hobby.

But years later, despite their childhood scars, many of these children have become successful university graduates. They are doctors, teachers, authors, politicians and public speakers. They make up the new generation of parents who are dedicated to their children's well-being, activities and development. They spend time attending school events, meetings and outings. They drive their children around during the week, organise play dates and help them with their homework, strengthening their sense of identity and belonging in Denmark. Why is no one pointing this out as well?

I crave debates about the young parents that represent me and my success story as a parent. Not that I have been perfect in any sense – like everyone else, I am just learn-

ing and growing as I go – but I wish I could see and hear programs about these modern-day parents who have made different choices and created a new path for themselves. How they successfully turned their childhood struggles into their strengths. How their personal histories gave them the determination to rise above their disturbing social inheritance.

I refuse to be kept in the shadow of the past generation's mistakes and history. We have created our own history and our own present. We have actually moved on. But it seems that there isn't the political will to talk about that other side of the coin. The Danish media seem to be interested only in telling a single, one-sided story about the descendants of the migrant generation, and in keeping all of us in the shadow of that past. Some politicians also have an interest in constantly focussing on negative stories of Danes with immigrant ancestry in order to sow division that they can harvest at election time.

The media's constant focus on the shortcomings of the first parent generation fails to give us an authentic picture of Denmark in 2017.

It also projects negatively upon the young generation of parents, who are stereotyped as coming from a group suffering from cultural ignorance, fanaticism and social ills.

How long are we planning to talk about this past generation and their failures? Denmark must also see and hear about the resourceful, well-integrated new generation. Yes, we are here, and we take pride in being part of Denmark and in bringing up the next new resourceful generation.

I would like to conclude with a quote by the Nigerian author Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, in which she describes "the danger of a single story". I think that the kind of danger she addresses applies to us in Denmark:

"The single story creates stereotypes, and the problem with stereotypes is not that they are untrue, but that they are incomplete. They make one story become the only story."

It is my wish in 2017 that we recognise the other, untold stories about the descendants of the troubled first parent generation, because these stories matter, and because they are worth telling. **M**

OP-ED

The cursed and fantastic duality of Europe

Historically, Europe has given us both some of the best and some of the worst of what the world has seen. Now, as the EU trembles and our approach to the world is under pressure from all sides, we need a new European renaissance

IT HAS BEEN 60 YEARS since the foundation for what we now know as the EU was laid. I was born three years earlier in post-war Denmark. My parents and my grandparents were active in the resistance against the German occupation during the war and housed both refugees and the persecuted until they could escape to the security of Sweden. This means that the long shadow of the world war reached all the way into my childhood bedroom, even though I am too young to have experienced the last great collapse of Europe first hand.

The EU was one of the responses of my parent's generation to the tragedy of the Second World War. By means of trade and cooperation, former enemies were reconciled. Border posts were packed away, and we kissed each other on Interrail trips crisscrossing the continent. Some of us went even further, to study, live or work in the very same countries that we had fought during the war.

So while it might be easy more than 70 years later to forget the bombed out and lost Europe, the war-torn and divided continent that European cooperation grew out of, it is hard to underestimate what the EU has meant in terms of positive change for Denmark and for the European peoples. The close and binding cooperation has secured peace, prosperity and economic growth almost without historic precedent. Thank you for that, Europe.

SUM OF ITS PARTS

This is all worth remembering, especially in the current political climate. Way too often, the EU is blamed when something goes badly, whereas the nation-state is celebrated when something goes well.

This isn't just simplistic, it's outright wrong. And for one reason alone: the EU is nothing more than the sum of all of us. We are the EU; no one else. It is ourselves that we reflect upon, all of our victories and defeats, our wise decisions and grave mistakes, as this cooperation turns 60.



Ed Everett / flickr

A PROGRESSIVE FUTURE

When I look at Europe now, at our European cooperation, it is clear we are under pressure from ourselves and from others. Some even say that the EU is in crisis and in danger of collapsing, which we must take very seriously.

As Trump comes to power in the US, as Putin rattles his sabre from a more self-confident Russia, and as Erdogan hastens towards dictatorship, there is a very real need for a united Europe that sets the pace on the international scene. A Europe that lays out a progressive agenda and models civic involvement in the 21st century.

For these reasons, I hope that we use the 60th anniversary of European cooperation - and the fragile situation in which we find the EU - to strengthen the conversation about how the future of Europe should look. The EU must make more sense for more people, and contribute more effectively to the world around us. As I like to say, the alternative to the EU is a better EU. We must not give up on our cooperation, but we should and must invest far more in improving the way we work together.

As we have seen since the economic crisis hit Europe hard a decade ago, it is completely clear that the EU conceived solely as an economic relationship will not be enough. Not if we wish to secure solidarity across borders, be rooted in communities, and be relevant in both Denmark and Greece, so we can more directly and meaningfully address the challenges Europeans meet in their everyday lives.

SOCIAL NEGLECT

My vision for the EU is to focus on creating a balance on the triple bottom line: the economic bottom line, the social bottom line, and the environmental bottom line. Economics isn't everything - far from it. For that reason, the EU should craft initiatives that secure these three bottom lines in a balanced way.

It is about time that we acknowledge our neglect of the so-

cial dimension in European cooperation thus far. Look no further than what happened in Athens - and what happens at home - when salaries fall or jobs disappear. Going forward, we must change this.

At the same time, we must strengthen democracy and transparency in our European cooperation, so that we can all follow its decision-making processes. For that to happen, we propose a number of initiatives, including live streams of the meetings of important EU institutions, public access to many more key documents, as well as greater involvement and influence by national parliaments on European decision making.

Europe must also reclaim its international leadership role in fighting climate change - a position we have lost as the rest of the world increases its efforts and ambitions. Europe must once again be the world's green beacon of hope.

This is how we Europeans can be our best. As an inspiration to the rest of the world. As those who, when standing at a crossroads, choose the hopeful and progressive direction rather than the reactionary and regressive path. As those who believe in cooperation over conflict. Those who believe we are better together than apart. Those who know that we can only solve trans-boundary and global challenges when we unite.

In recent years, we have seen a wide variety of exciting new movements form and thrive across Europe. People dissatisfied with the status quo have been taking back their democratic authority with a willingness and courage to rethink the way we have organised our society and our way of working together.

I hope like crazy that all these citizen initiatives, all these new forms of cooperation, all these new bridges connecting people with wild ideas represent the beginning of a new European renaissance that will revitalise not only our cooperation, but the way we work, live, think and love. We Europeans have done it before. I think we can do it again. **M**

My vision for the EU is to focus on creating a balance on the triple bottom line: the economic bottom line, the social bottom line, and the environmental bottom line.

Uffe Elbæk

WHAT'S ON • APRIL



9X9X9 SMK
This is the last month to catch SMK's series of events combining literary, visual and performance art. Director Hans-Peter Kellner presents 9 mini performances built around 9 selected paintings.
Statens Museum for Kunst
Sølvgade 48-50, CPH
smk.dk
April 3, 23, 30

ALL MONTH

THE GARDEN – THE PAST
ARoS presents the first part of the exhibition THE GARDEN – End of Times; Beginning of Times.

ARoS
Aros Allé 2, 8000 Aarhus
Aros.dk
Opens on the 8th



WAR AND STORM
The Spring Special Exhibition at the Glyptotek presents archaeological finds from shipwrecks around Sicily – from vases to weapons, reflecting the many facets of Antiquity.
Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek
Dantes Plads 7
glyptoteket.com
Opens April 6

ALL MONTH

MUSIKFILM FESTIVAL
For just over a week at the end of the month, head to Cinemateket for a festival that focusses on the use of music in film.

Cinemateket
Gothersgade 55, CPH
dfi.dk
22-30 April

2

VERAS MARKET
On the first Sunday of every month, Veras Market takes over Paper Island. A clothing market of carefully curated items, stop by for a bite to eat and a chance to browse the varied collection.

PapirØen
Trangravsvej 14, CPH
verascopenhagen.dk



INTL IMPROV FESTIVAL
Combining performances and improv workshops, the Copenhagen International Improv Festival returns for its fourth year.

Improv Comedy Copenhagen
Theatre and Cafe
Frederiksholms Kanal 2, CPH
cphimprofestival.com
April 10-16

15

SIMPLE MINDS
The Glaswegian rock band found enormous success in the 1980s, selling over 30,000,000 records, and are probably best known for the hit 'Don't You (Forget About Me)'.

DR Koncerthuset
Ørestads Boulevard 13, CPH
drkoncerthuset.dk



FILM, TAPAS & COCKTAILS
Enter the world of Wes Anderson whimsy with another one of Cinemateket's events combining screenings with specially selected food and drink.

Cinemateket
Gothersgade 55, CPH
dfi.dk
April 19



SCIENCE IN FORUM
Denmark's largest science and technology fair aims to inspire, challenge and entertain through a varied programme of science activities for children and adults alike.

Forum
Julius Thomsen's Plads 1, 1925
scienceiforum.dk
April 23-25

25

PROMENADE-CONCERT
To mark the end of the season at the Black Diamond, the programme comprises a mix of light classical pieces with solo performances and special arrangements.

Black Diamond
Søren Kierkegaards Plads 1
kb.dk



SAKURA FESTIVAL
This weekend will provide a mix of cultural events: from a traditional Japanese tea ceremony to concerts and lectures.

Langelinie Park
Nordre Toldbod, CPH
sakurafestival.dk
April 29-30

30

SNEAKER BANQUET SS17
Social gathering meets market place as Sneaker Banquet facilitates a sneaker-swap meet-up for collectors, dealers, and footwear fans in general.

Papirhallen
Trangravsvej 22, CPH
bit.ly/sneakerbanquet

Emily Tait

WHAT'S ON • MAY



BOTANICAL GARDENS TOUR

Take part in a guided tour of Denmark's largest living plant collection – past plants that are in their prime, both outdoors and inside the lush greenhouses.

Botanical Gardens
Øster Farimagsgade 2B, KBH
botanik.snm.ku.dk
May 3

4

BINGO-BANKO AT ABSALON

Every Thursday night, the popular community centre Absalon hosts a bingo night. The perfect location for non-natives to improve their Danish number skills

Absalon
Sønder Boulevard 73, KBH
absaloncph.dk



GEORGE CLINTON

In one of Copenhagen's most impressive venues, come and see the American funk, soul and rock music collective who created their own genre: P-funk.

DR Koncerthuset
Ørestads Boulevard 13, CPH
drkoncerthuset.dk
May 5

5

GENTS

The Copenhagen-based duo are known for a signature sound that merges synths with softer vocals, giving their music a decidedly 80s vibe. Gents are also part of Danish magazine Soundvenue's 'Breakin' sound 2016' list.

Pumpehuset
Studiestræde 52, KBH
pumpehuset.dk

LETSGO

– CARSHARING IN COPENHAGEN

LetsGo is a flexible and easy way to have access to a car when you live in Copenhagen, and much cheaper than having your own car in Denmark.

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