Martin Søyland

Postdoctoral Fellow · Political Science, University of Oslo

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Experience

Postdoctoral Fellow
University of Oslo

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
05.2021-present

Open position as Postdoctoral Fellow with 25% teaching. Reasearch focus on metodological developments in computational social science, legislative studies, and organized political actors. Mainly using Norway as case, but also the United Nations General Assembly, House of Commons, and more. Development of R packages on Norwegian politics and Norwegian language. Teaching and development of courses at the BA and MA level, including R teaching. Supervision of MA and doctoral students.

Researcher TiNDe
University of Oslo

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
10.2022-12.2022

Research position in the TiNDe project (temporary buy-out from Postdoc position). Work included linkin conceptualization to data sources, data gathering, data structuring, data management, and contributions to the final repport.

Researcher TiNDe
University of Oslo

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
01.2021-05.2021

20% project position. Work included contributions to grant proposal, project planning, conceptual development, gathering data, preparing data, and data facilitation.

PhD Candidate
University of Oslo

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
01.2016-05.2020

Open position as doctoral student with 25% teaching. My thesis utilized quantitative text analysis methods on parliamentary speeches in the Norwegian Storting and how one can analyze political behavior based on these. Teaching and course development on both BA and MA level, in a variety of courses. Supervision of MA thesis'.

Developer
University of Oslo

SOCIAL SCIENCE DATA LAB
09.2019-12.2019

Development of digital workbooks and other tools for methods teaching at the University of Oslo. Foundation work for BA methods tutorial for R.

Resrach assistant
University of Oslo

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
06.2015-12.2015

100% position as research assistant with various teaching and research projects.

Education

Ph.D. in Political Science
University of Oslo

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
01.2016-05.2020

- Thesis: *Parliamentary Debates in Norway: A Computational Social Science Approach*
- Trial lecture: *How do intra-party relations in multiparty systems affect the functioning of parliaments?*
- Supervisor: Professor Bjørn Høyland
- Defense discussants: Professor Royce Carroll and Doctor Iulia Cioroianu

Master's in Political Science
University of Oslo

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
08.2013-06.2015

- Thesis: *Survival of the Ministers: On Ministerial Durability in Postwar Norway*
- Supervisors: Professor Bjørn Høyland and Doctor Cristina Bucur
- Defense dicussants: Professor Bjørn Erik Rasch and Professor José Antonio Cheibub

Bachelor's in Political Science
University of Oslo

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
08.2010-06.2013

- Thesis: *Secrecy and Governance: On the correlation between secrecy jurisdiction status and quality of governance*
- Minor in English

Publications

Journal Articles

Bjørkholt S. and Søyland M. (2024)

THE DRAMA IS IN THE INK: CONFLICT IN WRITTEN PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

Legislative Studies Quarterly OnlineFirst

Finseraas H., Høyland B., and Søyland M. (2021)

CLIMATE POLITICS IN HARD TIMES: HOW LOCAL ECONOMIC SHOCKS INFLUENCE MPS ATTENTION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

European Journal of Political Research 60 (3): 738-747

Høyland B. and Søyland M. (2021)

ELECTORAL REFORM AND PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

Legislative Studies Quarterly 44 (4): 593-615

Langsæther P. E., Gjerløw H., and Søyland M. (2019)

IS ALL PR GOOD PR? HOW THE CONTENT OF MEDIA EXPOSURE AFFECTS CANDIDATE POPULARITY

Electoral studies 57: 143-152

Lapponi E., Søyland M., Velldal E., Oepen S. (2018)

THE TALK OF NORWAY: A RICHLY ANNOTATED CORPUS OF THE NORWEGIAN PARLIAMENT, 1998-2016

Language Resources and Evaluation 52 (3): 873-893

Søyland M. (2015)

TILBAKEHOLDEN OG EKSPANSIV LIBERALISME: OM UTENRIKSPOLITIKK I STATE OF THE UNION-TALER

Internasjonal politikk 73 (1): 7-27

Søyland M. (2017)

SURVIVAL OF THE MINISTERS: ON MINISTERIAL DURABILITY IN POSTWAR NORWAY

Scandinavian Political Studies 40 (2): 182-206

Book Chapters

Nedregård O., Søyland M. (2025)

LEGISLATIVE PARTY GROUPS AND PARTY COHESION

In Allern E, Braut-Hegghammer M, Kolltveit K, Rasch BE (eds.), *Oxford Handbook of Norwegian Politics*. Oxford University Press

Søyland M., Høyland B. (2021)

NORWAY: COMMITTEE-MEMBERSHIP MATTERS PARTY LOYALTY DECIDES

In Bäck, H., Debus, M., and Fernandes, J. M. (eds.) *The Politics of Legislative Debates*. Oxford University Press

Conference Proceedings

Søyland M. (2022)

PARTY CONTROL AND RESPONSIVENESS: HOW MPS USE VARIATION IN LOWER-LEVEL INSTITUTIONAL DESIGN AS AN ELECTORAL RESPONSIVENESS MECHANISM.

CEUR Workshop Proceedings 3133: 101-117

Reports

Knutsen C. H.. Dahlum S., Allern E. H., Hagfors S. B., Klausen J. E., Søyland M., and Wig T. (2023)

TILSTANDSANALYSE AV DET NORSKE DEMOKRATIET

Universitetet i Oslo. Link

Ongoing research

Asking with intent: On the functions of nonlegislative activities

BJØRKHOLT, S. AND SØYLAND, M.

Status: Submitting to *Western European Politics* spring 2025.

Previously presented at: NOPSA (2024), PODS (ISV, UiO, 2024), and Gothenburg University (2024)

Patterns of Global Politics: Geopolitical Entity Networks in the UN General Assembly

DJUVE, V. L AND SØYLAND, M.

Status: Under review at the *American Political Science Review*.

Previously presented at: APSA (2024), CIR (ISV, UiO, 2023), National Conference in Political Science (2024), and University of Stavanger (2024)

The Political Origins of Critical Social Science

HJORT, F., WIG, T., BALTZERSEN, E., AND SØYLAND, M.

Status: Submitted for EPSA, June 2025.

Trade Union Appeals in the House of Commons, 1950–2019

RØED, M. AND SØYLAND, M.

Status: Submitting to *British Journal of Political Science* in March 2025.

Previously presented at: EPSA (2024) and National Conference in Political Science (2025)

Gendered Communication in Parliamentary Questions

RØED, M., SØYLAND, M., AND BÄCK, H.

Status: Submitted for EPSA, June 2025.

Previously presented at: National Conference in Political Science (2025)

Open Science and Data Reusability in Political Science

SØYLAND, M.

Status: Under review at *Political Analysis*.

Previously presented at: National Conference in Political Science (2024), Tuesday seminar series (ISV, UiO, 2023), DH-forum (UiO Library, 2022)

Cross-Partisan Co-Sponsoring in Parliamentary Systems

SØYLAND, M. AND THÜRK, M.

Status: Submitted for EPSA 2025

Funded Projects

Trade Union Appeals   *Småforsk, UiO*

MEMBER   *2025*

'Småforsk' project with Maiken Røed on when MPs use such positive and negative appeals to trade unions betweem 1950 and 2019. The project sheds new light on whose interests MPs seek to represent.

Parliamentary Questions in the Storting   *Småforsk, UiO*

LEADER   *2023-2025*

'Småforsk' project with Solveig Bjørkholt. This project focuses on analysis of written parliamentary questions in the Norwegian parliaments from 1998 to the present. The goal of the project is twofold: 1) contribute to the literature on quantitative text analysis on political texts, especially for Norwegian language, and 2) theoretical and empirical contributions to the literature on behavior in parliaments.

Tilstandsanalyse av det norske demokratiet (TiNDe)   *UiO*

MEMBER   *2021-2022*

TiNDe, led by Carl Henrik Knutsen and Siranne Dahlum, aims at developing nuanced and rich measures of different aspects of democracies, that can be used to capture differences in level and changes amoung high quality democracies. Norway as case.

Talk of Norway *UiO*

Doctoral project with Emanuele Lapponi, Stephan Oepen and Erik Velldal. The project gathered and preprocessed speeches in the Storting from 1998 to 2016. The data also comes with state of the art grammatical tagging of the texts via the Oslo-Bergen-tagger (OBT).

Institutional Responsibilities

2018-2019 **PhD representative,** Programme council for the PhD programme, Faculty of Social Sciences		*University of Oslo*
2018-2019 **Deputy member,** Political Science Department Board		*University of Oslo*

Teaching

LECTURES

Course	Level	Years	Role	Lectures
Quantitative text analysis	MA	2017-2018	Course convenor	1. Tokens, bag of words, pre-processing 2. Text acquisition and web scraping 3. Topic models (LDA and STM) 4. Structural topic models (application)
Big text data (Norwegian)	BA	2022-2024	Course convenor	1. Introduction 2. Scraping and loading text 3. Preprocessing of text 4. Use APIs – Case: Stortinget 5. AI, machine learning, and deep learning 6. Classification of text – Topic models 7. Summary
Comparative politics	BA	2018-2025	Lecturer	1. Effects of regime types 2. Elections and electoral systems 3. Legislatures and governments
Norwegian politics (Norwegian)	BA	2024-2025	Lecturer	1. Storting og regjering
Social Science Data Analysis and Programming	BA	2025	Lecturer	1. Introduction (substitute) 2. Webscraping with APIs 3. Scraping Static Websites
The Politics of Organized Political Actors	MA	2025	Lecturer	1. The Legislative Arena: The Strategies and Role of Parties 2. The Governmental Arena: The Strategies and Role of Parties

Group teaching

Course	Level	Role	Year	Description
Introduction to political science	BA	Seminar leader	2015	Writing and discussion training seminars for first year BA students
Research methods and statistics	BA	Seminar leader R	2015-2022	Development of R-seminars in intro to methods and statistics for BA students
International political economy	BA	Seminar leader	2016	Course assignment seminar with presentations and discussions
Democratic Institutional Design	BA	Seminar leader	2015	Course assignment seminar with presentations and discussions
BA thesis in political science	BA	Seminar leader	2021-2022	Discussion seminars for BA thesis drafts
Research methods and statistics	MA	Seminar leader R	2016	Development of R-seminars in intro to in methods and statistics for MA students
Statistical Analysis	MA	Seminar leader R	2017	Development of R-seminars in advanced methods and statistics
Digital Data in Political Science	MA	Course development	2023	Shared responsibility for development of course material, videos, and digital book.
Design seminar in political science	MA	Seminar leader	2021-2022	Discussion seminars of first outline draft of MA thesis

Supervision

Candidate	Level	Year	Title
Baltzersen, Eli S.	PhD	2023-	*State action, public attitudes, and sexual consent*
Bjørkholt, Solveig	PhD	2023-	*The Politics of International Standardization*
Baccouche, Elias K. B. T.	MA	2022	*Fra klassisk til global jihad: En revurdering av tilbakeslagsteorien med Tjenestekontorets «al-Jihad Magazine» som case*
Fjell, Amalie	MA	2024	*Endringer i fødetilbudet i Norge*
Frydenlund, Jan	MA	2023	*Media trust and affective political polarization: Does distance disparage trust?*
Gunadasan, Birgitha Syse	MA	2025	*On the Path from Colony to Tax Haven*
Knudsen, Sara G.	MA	2023	*Questioning Accountability: A Survival Analysis of Ministerial Durability Through Parliamentary Accountability Measures*
Marchand, Oda	MA	2020	*Informasjonskrig i det 21. århundret: En studie av prorussiske og antivestlige narrativ i postsovjetiske stater, med vekt på Moldova*
Nygaard, Nora Johanne	MA	2024	*En analyse av debatten rundt kontantstøtten*
Rotabakk, Olga	MA	2025	*Befolkningsutvikling i Norge: Demografiske endringer og lokalpolitiske prioriteringer*
Smørdal, Martine Aamås	MA	2021	*Politiske partier, kjønn og preferanser i familiepolitikken: Hvordan kvinners politiske representasjon kan påvirke partiers preferanser*
Williamson, Caroline	MA	2021	*Kartlegging av partiers preferanser til utvidelse av arbeidstrygdordninger*

Courses

Quantitative Causal Analysis and Prediction
University of Oslo

PHD COURSE
2016

- Doctoral course in causal inference. Lecturers: T. Wig,
- B. Høyland, H. Finseraas og A. Kotsadam.

EITM Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis   *University of Mannheim*

PHD COURSE   *2016*

- Doctoral course in quantitative text analysis.
- Lecturers: J. Lo, S. Fang, A. Spirling og N. Baerg

Comparative Political Institutions   *Harvard University*

PHD COURSE   *2016*

- Doctoral course on political institutions.
- Lecturer: D. M. Smith

Summer School on Parliaments   *Humboldt-Universität*

PHD COURSE   *2017*

- Doctoral course in theoretical and empirical research on parliaments.
- Lecturers: S. Bailer, L. Wängnerud, T. Leeper, F. Zucchini, K. Strøm, T. Saalfeld, S. Martin, B. Høyland og H. Klüver

Reviews

Journal of Politics, peer review

Legislative Studies Quarterly, peer review

European Journal of Political Research, peer review

Scandinavian Political Studies, peer review

European Educational Research Journal, peer review

R for alle (T. Hegghammer), book consultant

Development

stortingscrape   *CRAN*

R PACKAGE   *2025*

Automated data gathering from the Storting API. Over 4000 installations from CRAN.

TiNDe-explorer   *shiny.uio.no*

SHINY DASHBOARD   *2023*

Shiny app for TiNDe indecies.

noRc   *Github*

R PACKAGE   *2023*

Tools for roll call analysis in Stortinget.

NorSentLex   *Github*

R PACKAGE   *2022*

Sentiment dictionary for Norwegian in R.

Talk of Norway   *Github*

R PACKAGE   *2018*

Data on speeches in the Storting.

ministersNor   *Github*

R PACKAGE   *2016*

Data on Norwegian cabinet members (1945-2013).

Awards & Fellowships

2021-2025 **Postdoctoral fellowship,** Department of political science _University of Oslo_
2016-2020 **PhD fellowship,** Department of political science _University of Oslo_

2014 **Ordingprisen,** for best student paper in the Nordic countries _Internasjonal_
Politikk

Media and presentations

2025 **_Spør Ekko: Regjeringskabalen_,** NRK P2 (05-02-2025) _Radio show_
2025 **_Regjerings-exit for dummies_,** Aftenposten _Interview_
2024 **_Erna Solberg kom oftare til Stortinget enn Jonas Gahr Støre_,** NRK _Interview_
2024 **_Breakfast Seminar: Artificial Intelligence in Social Science Research_,** Læringsnettverket EILIN _Invited presentation_
2023 **_Hvor demokratisk er det norske demokratiet?_,** Verdens Gang _Op-ed_
2023 **_Ung i IT – Meetup_,** Dataforeningen, UiO _Invited presentation_
2023 **_Skandale etter skandale etter skandale_,** Morgenbladet _Interview_
2023 **_Freista og forført_,** Stavanger Aftenblad _Op-ed_
2023 **_Hvor ble det av ryggraden?_,** Dag og Tid _Op-ed_
2022 **_Forskere fikk meldeplikt, men alle kildene var døde_,** University of Oslo _Interview_
2022 **_DH-forum: R and accessing the Norwegian parliamentary data_,** University of Oslo _Invited presentation_
2022 **_Statsvitenskapelige analyser av store datamengder_,** University of Oslo, HON1000 _Invited presentation_
2021 **_VGTV: Nye meningsmålinger_,** Verdens Gang _TV show_
2021 **_Plagsomt med demokrati_,** Jærbladet _Op-ed_
2019 **_Erna Solberg ga Stortinget feilaktige flyktningtall_,** Aftenposten _Interview_
2019 **_Politikere bør holde seg til å snakke om politikk, viser ny forskning_,** forskning.no _Dissemination_
2017 **_Bestemmer seg først når budsjettet er landa_,** NRK _Interview_
2017 **_Ikke representativt_,** Vårt Land _Interview_
2016 **_Personstemmer går på bekostning av politikk_,** Aftenposten _Op-ed_
2013 **_Bestemmer seg først når budsjettet er landa_,** NRK _Interview_

References

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Maria Thürk
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> Uppsala University, Department of Government
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