



NORDIC STUDIES AT NORDIC CENTRE, FUDAN UNIVERSITY AUTUMN SEMESTER 2022

The Nordic Social and Political Experience and the 'Nordic model'

Course description

This course presents the social and political characteristics of the Nordic countries and how the modern Nordic countries and societies – taken as a whole – can be distinguished from other social and political systems. Using the concept of a 'Nordic model', each lecture explores a specific theme, ranging from the emergence of the Nordic welfare states, through decentralization policies, changes and challenges to the welfare state, its multiculturalism, immigration policies, family policies, wages and work life inclusion, welfare governance, higher education, and health policies.

The course has 13 online lectures, using break-out rooms for discussions and reflections, and plenaries for summaries and feed-back. The lecturers, representing three universities located in three different Nordic countries, leader of the Nordic Center and two guest researchers, are all keen to be engaged in discussions, and to be challenged, on ways to understand and interpret welfare state policies and developments. In addition to these lectures, a workshop is dedicated to preparing you for writing your course paper. We hope to see you in our digital classroom this fall!

OSLOMET

SDU

Tampereen ammattikorkeakoulu
Tampere University of Applied Sciences

Lectures and literature autumn semester 2022

Lecture 1: An introduction to Nordic societies and culture

Veli-Matti Palomäki (Nordic Centre), Ivan Harsløf (OsloMet) and Randi Wærdahl (OsloMet)

September 6, 18:30-19:15, 19:25-20:10 (CET: 12:30-13:15, 13:25-14:10)

This first lecture introduces the course – and provides a general introduction to the Nordic societies and culture. We will among other things talk about Nordic design and music, and the second part of the lecture is devoted to Nordic cinema. This part discusses how critical topics of Nordic societies, topics that concern health and welfare, family, migration, poverty etc., are dealt with in recent Nordic movies.

Lecture 2: An introduction to “The Nordic Model”, concepts and principles, and its challenges in the era of globalization

Ivan Harsløf (OsloMet)

September 13, 18:30-19:15, 19:25-20:10 (CET: 12:30-13:15, 13:25-14:10)

This lecture will first give an introduction to the basic concepts and principles of what is commonly referred to as “The Nordic Model”. Furthermore, it discusses how the Nordic welfare states are faring under the current conditions of globalization, involving strong processes of global market integration, international migration and cultural convergence. It focuses on the ‘new social risks’ that emerge as Nordic countries move towards post-industrial societies, and the social policies they adopt to alleviate these risks.

Readings:

Harsløf, I., Scarpa, S. and Andersen, S. (2013). Changing population profiles and social risk structures in the Nordic countries. In Harsløf, I. and Ulmestig, R. (eds.) *Changing social risks and social policy responses in the Nordic countries*. Palgrave Macmillan.

Hemerijck, A. (2011). Two or three waves of welfare state transformation? In: Morel, N., Palier, B. and Palme, J. (eds.) *Towards A Social Investment Welfare State?: Ideas, Policies and Challenges*. Bristol: Policy Press.

Nam, Y. (2020). Do welfare benefits compensate for globalization among affluent democracies? *European Journal of Social Policy*, 30(2): 158-175.

West Pedersen, A. and Kuhnle, S. (2017) The Nordic welfare state model. In: Knutsen, Oddbjørn P. (ed.), *The Nordic Models in Political Science: Challenged, but Still Viable?* (pp 249-272). Fagbokforlaget, 2017.

Lecture 3: Nordic welfare states – still standing or changed by the COVID-19 Crisis?

Minna van Gerven (University of Tampere, Finland)

September 20, 18:30-19:15, 19:25-20:10 (CET: 12:30-13:15, 13:25-14:10) (Finnish time: 11:30-12:15, 12:25-13.10)

This lecture explores whether the COVID-19 crisis has been changing the Nordic welfare states. It considers the instruments the Nordic countries have taken as part of dealing with the welfare challenges resulting from rising unemployment and greater social and economic insecurity in the wake of the crisis.

Readings:

Greve, B., Blomquist, P., Hvinden, B. and Gerven, M. v. (2021). Nordic welfare states—still standing or changed by the COVID-19 crisis? *Social Policy and Administration*. 55:295–311

West Pedersen, A. and Kuhnle, S. (2017) The Nordic welfare state model. In: Knutsen, Oddbjørn P. (ed.), *The Nordic Models in Political Science: Challenged, but Still Viable?* (pp 249-272). Fagbokforlaget, 2017 [same as Lecture 2]

Lecture 4: Nordic health policies: Past achievements, recent transformations and current challenges

Alban Davesne (Postdoctoral fellow, OsloMet)

September 27, 18:30-19:15, 19:25-20:10 (CET: 12:30-13:15, 13:25-14:10)

This lecture provides an overview of the main features and challenges of Nordic health systems, by exploring long-term trends in both curative and preventive health policies. Focusing on the tension between coordination and competition at local, national and Nordic levels, this lecture provides a framework for understanding a paradox of the Nordic model which is both internationally celebrated and vulnerable. Choice reforms, New Public Management and the handling of the COVID-19 crisis in Nordic countries, which has attracted widespread media attention, will be discussed extensively in this context.

Readings:

Martinussen & Magnussen. 2009. Chapter 1. Health care reform: the Nordic experience. In Magnussen et al. *Nordic Health Care Systems. Recent Reforms and Current Policy Challenges*. Mc Graw Hill University Press: 21-52 (The book introduction, which is included in the PDF-document, is suggested further reading).

Helgesen. 2014. Governance of public health: Norway in a Nordic context. *Scandinavian Journal of Public Health* 42(15): 25-30.

Hansson & Stefánsdóttir. 2021. "Nordic Solidarity and COVID-19." *Small States and Territories* 4(1): 29-44.

Chinese National Day holiday week, no lecture on October 4

Lecture 5: Poverty and income inequalities in the Nordic countries – wage setting and welfare governance

Rune Halvorsen (OsloMet)

October 11, 18:30-19:15, 19:25-20:10 (CET: 12:30-13:15, 13:25-14:10)

The Nordic countries have taken pride in low social inequalities. However, we witness a growing concern and political disagreement about increasing inequalities in income, wealth and risks of poverty. In this lecture Halvorsen first examines the evidence of the development trends and identifies the disagreements about the interpretation of the data.

Second, he discusses the reasons for the development trends. In particular he discusses how the mechanisms for wage setting and income maintenance benefits influence on the level of social inequality for persons inside and outside the labour market.

Readings:

Wallerstein, M. and Golden, M. (2000) Postwar wage setting in the Nordic countries, in T Iversen, J. Pontusson and D Soskice (eds) *Unions, employers and central banks*, Cambridge University Press, page 107-137.

Minas R, Jakobsen V, Kauppinen T, Korpi T, Lorentzen T. (2018) The governance of poverty: Welfare reform, activation policies, and social assistance benefits and caseloads in Nordic countries. *Journal of European Social Policy*. 2018;28(5):487-500.

Kvist, J., Fritzell, J., Hvinden, B., & Schøyen, M. A. (2015) The Nordic Welfare Model in the Twenty-First Century. *The Bumble-Bee Still Flies!*. Social Policy and Society Volume 15, Issue 1, January 2016, pp. 57-73

Lecture 6: Minorities and multiculturalism in the Nordic countries

Romana Careja (SDU)

October 18, 18:30-19:15, 19:25-20:10 (CET: 12:30-13:15, 13:25-14:10)

This lecture considers issues on minorities and multiculturalism in the Nordic countries, with a view to the different approaches the Nordic countries are adopting to cater for the

different types of minorities, including indigenous peoples, national minorities and immigrants.

Readings:

- Hedetoft, U. 2010. Denmark versus Multiculturalism. In Vertovec, S. and Wessendorf, S. (eds.) *The Multiculturalism Backlash: European Discourses, Policies and Practices*. Taylor & Francis Group, 111-128
- Kymlicka, W. 2010. The rise and fall of multiculturalism? New debates on inclusion and accommodation in diverse societies. In Vertovec, S. and Wessendorf, S. (eds.) *The Multiculturalism Backlash: European Discourses, Policies and Practices*. Taylor & Francis Group, 32-49.
- Kivisto, P. and Ö. Wahlbeck. 2013. Reflections on the Future of Multicultural Inclusion in the Nordic Countries. In Kivisto, P. et al. (eds.) *Debating Multiculturalism in the Nordic Welfare States*, Palgrave Macmillan, 325-339.

Lecture 7: Nordic higher education and Sino-Nordic learning cultures

Donna Hurford (SDU)

October 25, 18:30-19:15, 19:25-20:10 (CET: 12:30-13:15, 13:25-14:10)

This lecture will be an interactive session on 'Nordic higher education and Sino-Nordic learning cultures', combining teacher input and learning activities for groups in the online Break Out rooms. We will compare Nordic and Sino teaching and learning cultures and reflect on the challenges and opportunities they present. The group tasks will focus on ways in which universities can support students when they experience different teaching and learning cultures, such as when a student who has been educated in a Chinese education system, studies at a Nordic university and vice versa.

Readings:

- Brooks, R., Gupta, A. Jayadeva, S. and Abrahams, J. (2020): Students' views about the purpose of higher education: a comparative analysis of six European countries. *Higher Education Research & Development*.
- Jæger, K. and Gram, M. (2015) (Self)Confidence or compliance Students' experience of academic quality in study abroad contexts. *Learning and Teaching*, 8 (3) pp.37-59.

NB: Daylight savings time, on October 30 Europe backward one hour, China no change.

Lecture 8: Gender, work and family policies in the Nordic countries

Randi Wærdahl (OsloMet)

November 1, 18:30-19:15, 19:25-20:10 (CET: 11:30-12:15, 12:25-13:10)

Women have entered the labor market in different manners in the Nordic countries, and both labor market policies and family policies have thus develop differently. This lecture will take a comparative look at some of the connections between family policy and demographics in the Nordic countries.

Reading:

- Skevik Grødem, A. (2014). A review of Family Demographics and Family Policies in the Nordic Countries. *Baltic Journal of Political Science*. December 2014, No 3.

Paper workshop

Kristin Solli (OsloMet) and Veli-Matti Palomäki (Nordic Centre)

November 8, 18:30-19:15, 19:25-20:10 (CET: 11:30-12:15, 12:25-13:10)

This workshop will be centered around key principles and strategies you can use when writing the paper you will be submitting at the end of the course. The workshop involves several practical exercises and group discussions.

Lecture 9: The politics of decentralization (state-local government relations)

Gro Sandkjær Hanssen (OsloMet)

November 15, 18:30-19:15, 19:25-20:10 (CET: 11:30-12:15, 12:25-13:10)

This lecture provides an introduction to the governance systems of the Nordic countries, with an emphasis on differences and similarities. The lecture relates these features of governance and administration to the larger functioning of the welfare state in terms of welfare outcomes, redistribution and democracy.

Readings:

Baldersheim, H. and Ståhlberg, K. (2002) From Guided Democracy to Multi-Level Governance: Trends in Central-Local Relations in the Nordic Countries, *Local Government Studies*, 28:3, 74-90.

Ladner, A., Keuffer, N., Baldersheim, H., Hlepas, N., Swianiewicz, P., Steyvers, K. and Navarro, C. (2019) *Patterns of Local Autonomy in Europe*. Springer Link. - Chapter 1. What is local Autonomy? & Chapter 14. Conclusions: Local Autonomy—Patterns, Dynamics and Ambiguities.

Lecture 10: Immigration policies in the Nordic countries -principles, challenges, and experiences

Einar Øverby (OsloMet)

November 22, 18:30-19:15, 19:25-20:10 (CET: 11:30-12:15, 12:25-13:10)

The lecture concerns immigration policies, and immigrant-related welfare policies, in the Nordic countries. Both EU migration and non-EU migration will be discussed. The lecture will present and discuss the consequences of the European Union's rules regarding migration, which all the Nordic countries are compelled to follow. About immigration from non-EU citizens, all the Nordic countries have ratified the 1951/67 UN refugee convention, but implementation practice varies. Sweden has traditionally been the most liberal, Denmark the most restrictive, with Norway in-between. The readings include a study of how different groups of immigrants fare in the Nordic countries, plus analyses of changes in the elite-political discourse concerning what should be the principles behind Nordic immigration policies.

Readings:

Grodem, A.S. (2016). Migration as a challenge to the Nordic welfare states in Veggeland, N. (2016) (ed.) *The Current Nordic Welfare State Model*. New York: NOVA Science Publishers

Brochmann, G & A. Midtbøen (2020). Philosophies of integration Elite views on citizenship policies in *Scandinavia Ethnicities* 2021, Vol. 21(1) 146–164

Hagelund, a. (2020). After the refugee crisis: Public discourse and policy change *Comparative Migration Studies* (2020) 8:13 (Recommended reading)

Lecture 11: Economic and social changes to grandparenting and the generational contract

Randi Wærdahl (OsloMet)

November 29, 18:30-19:15, 19:25-20:10 (CET: 11:30-12:15, 12:25-13:10)

In this lecture we take a comparative approach to the topic of grandparenting and the generational contract. You will be introduced to how the role of grandparenting has changed, and how it is conceptualized in different social contexts as well as how generations think differently about the constitution of their family. Student will come together in break-out rooms for some simple and practical exercises concerning “the family” where the students use their own families or families they know as a starting point to reflect upon the comparative similarities and differences between their Chinese (or other) background and

experience, and that which has been presented as the Nordic. Together we will be discussing the diversity of the empirical examples.

Readings:

- Eklund, L (2018) Filial Daughter? Filial Son? How China's Young Urban Elite Negotiate Intergenerational Obligations, *NORA - Nordic Journal of Feminist and Gender Research*, 26:4, 295-312.
- Bjerrum Nielsen, H and M. Rudberg (2000) Gender, Love and Education in Three Generations: The Way Out and Up. *European Journal of Women's Studies*, Volume: 7 issue: 4, page(s): 423-453 Issue published: November 1, 2000.
- Herlofson, K. & Hagestad, G.O. (2012) Transformations in the role of grandparents across the welfare states, in: Arber, S. & Timonen V. (2012) Contemporary grandparenting. Changing family relationships in global contexts, Bristol UK & Chicago US: The Policy Press

Lecture 12: Nordic disability protection meeting supranational equal treatment policy

Rune Halvorsen (OsloMet) and Biao He (University of Tartu, Estonia & OsloMet)

December 6, 18:30-19:15, 19:25-20:10 (CET: 11:30-12:15, 12:25-13:10)

The lecture will introduce some of the key concepts of disability protection in the Nordic countries, such as social regulations, income maintenance and social service policies. The two lecturers will compare disability policies in Norway and China using the introduced terminology.

Readings

- Halvorsen, Rune, Bjørn Hvinden, Susan Kuivalainen, Mi Ah Schøyen (2018) New Approach to Promoting Youth Inclusion in the Labour Market? Disability in the Nordic Welfare States, in Halvorsen, Rune; Hvinden, Bjørn (Eds) *Youth, Diversity and Employment*, Edward Elgar Publisher
- Tøssebro, J. (2015). Disabled Children and Welfare Policy in the Nordic Countries: Historical Notes. In: Traustadóttir, R., Ytterhus, B., Egilson, S.T., Berg, B. (eds) *Childhood and Disability in the Nordic Countries. Studies in Childhood and Youth*. Palgrave Macmillan, London.
https://doi.org/10.1057/9781137032645_3

Lecture 13: The Nordic Model and Sino-Nordic differences – summary and cross-cutting perspectives

Randi Wærdahl (OsloMet) and Veli-Matti Palomäki (Nordic Centre)

December 13, 18:30-19:15, 19:25-20:10 (CET: 11:30-12:15, 12:25-13:10)

In this final lecture we will draw some lines through the course and present some cross-cutting perspectives. We will welcome prepared questions on *comparative Sino-Nordic issues* from students, and we also encourage students to raise questions for discussion and give feedback during the session.

A paper from the course is due December 30.

Presentation of lecturers in order of appearance



Veli-Matti Palomäki is the Programme Manager at the Nordic Center at Fudan University. He has lived in China since 2016, and prior to the Nordic Centre, he was responsible for culture affairs and public diplomacy at the Consulate General of Finland in Shanghai. MA in East Asian Studies from the University of Helsinki, he has also worked as a teacher of Mandarin Chinese in Finland.



Ivan Harsløf holds a Master in social studies from Aalborg University and a PhD in Sociology, University of Oslo. He has worked at the Danish National Centre for Social Research (SFI), Norwegian Social Research (NOVA), and is now an associate professor at Oslo Metropolitan University. Here he has been the Managing Director of the Group for Inclusive Social Welfare, acting research leader for the interfaculty programme, Care, Health and Welfare, and Assistant Dean for research at the Faculty of Social Sciences. His research interests include comparative welfare state research, the organization of social services, social inequalities in health, poverty and European social policy.



Minna van Gerven is professor of social policy at Tampere University of Applied Sciences, Finland. She has previously held positions at the University of Helsinki, Finland and the department of Public Administration (PA) within the Faculty of Behavioural, Management & Social Sciences (BMS) of the University of Twente, The Netherlands. Besides her broad interest in comparative research on institutions, systems, actors, ideas and policies, Minna van Gerven is interested in questions stemming from sociological, political science and public administration research.



Alban Davesne is a Marie-Curie postdoctoral research fellow at Oslo Metropolitan University. He holds a doctorate in political science from Sciences Po, Paris. His research focuses on regional integration and comparative health policies. His field of interests include history of health care reforms, cross-border healthcare, patient mobility and Nordic health cooperation in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Rune Halvorsen, PhD in sociology, is professor of social policy and co-director of the Research centre for digitalization of public services and citizenship at Oslo Metropolitan University. His main interests are comparative welfare policy, social citizenship, and citizenship movements. He has contributed to theorisation of social citizenship, welfare governance, and structure/agency dynamics in mature welfare states. Empirically his research has focused on labour market inclusion policies, disability policy, poverty, youth transitions, and social mobilisation among marginalised population groups. In 2020-2023 he is the Scientific Coordinator of EUROSHIP - Closing gaps in social citizenship. New tools to foster social resilience in Europe. From 2019 he is the co-chair of the Nordic ESPAnet – Network for European Social Policy Analysis, and a council member at the Nordic Centre at Fudan University, Shanghai.



Romana Careja is an Associate Professor at the Political Science Department of Southern Denmark University. She has obtained her PhD in 2009 at the University of Bern, working with Klaus Armingeon. Ever since, her research has explored various facets of the impact migration has on European societies: changes in social and labour market policies, changes in attitudes and policy preferences, and local-level actors' involvement in implementation of integration measures. Her work is published International Migration Review, Comparative Political Studies, Journal of European Social Policy and Scandinavian Political Studies.



Donna Hurford has since 2013 been an educational consultant in the Centre for Teaching and Learning the University of Southern Denmark (SDU). In this role, she supports university teachers developing interactive approaches to teaching and learning. She visited Fudan University in 2019 as part of a Danish Ministry of Higher Education project and collaborated with her colleague Yan Ding, (Associate Professor and Vice Director of the Center for Faculty Development, Fudan University) providing workshops for university teachers about feedback, group work and supporting international students. In December 2019 I returned to Fudan University and taught sessions on Nordic approaches to teaching and learning in universities and how international students experience studying in Danish and Chinese universities on the Nordic Studies course.



Randi Wærdahl has a Dr.Polit in Sociology and is a Professor of sociology at Oslo Metropolitan University. Her work has a special focus on childhood, families, generations, parenting, and socialization as well as consumption, consumer societies, social transformations, transitions, and trajectories. Wærdahl has studied childhood and families in several social and political circumstances, in many different geographical contexts, among them the effects of rapid economic change on urban Chinese childhood (2006).



Kristin Solli is an associate professor in the Unit for Academic Language and Practice at OsloMet. Her research interests include multilingual research texts and writing practices, the thesis by publication (article-based dissertation) as a genre, and research writing in professional fields. Solli's recent publications include work on PhD students in professional fields writing for publication, pedagogies for teaching research writing, and the book *Strategies for Writing A Thesis By Publication in the Social Sciences and Humanities* (Routledge, 2020). She teaches various writing courses and workshops for students and researchers at OsloMet.



Gro Sandkjær Hanssen is a researcher at the Urban and Regional Research Institute NIBR, Oslo Metropolitan University. She is a political scientist, and her research, among other things, concern participation, coordination and management challenges at local and regional level, especially related to urban planning. She has also addressed the topics in projects on regional planning, climate adaptation and water management.



Einar Øverbye works at the Department of Social Work, Child Welfare and Social Policy, Oslo Metropolitan University. His main research area is Social Policy and Health Policy. His main applied interest is comparative studies of policy implementation, while his main theoretical interest concerns the intersection between principal-agent theory and semiotics



Biao He, PhD candidate and junior research fellow for the project „European Union's Horizon 2020 ERA Chair in E-Governance and Digital Public Services“, University of Tartu, Estonia. He is also a guest researcher for CEDIC – Research Centre for Digitalisation of Public Services and Citizenship. As research assistant, he participated in the project „Disability Resilience in China“, funded by the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Beijing from 2020 to 2021. His research interests include accessibility of digital public services, accessibility policy making and implementation, multi-level governance, and disability policy. He has a dual bachelor's degree in Social Work and Economics from Nanchang Hangkong University, China. In 2019, he was awarded the master's degree in Applied Social Sciences from OsloMet.