

Rewilding

The revolution “Re-wilding”

The public: "Beat the dead horse, YES please!"

This network captures the comment sections on a Danish documentary about the project in the Nature National Park (NNP) in Mols Mountains, both on Facebook (1300 comments) and Youtube (585 comments).

The visualization shows the co-occurrence relations between the 330 most frequent terms in the comments, excluding non-public figures.

The lines represent the fact that expressions co-occur in one of more comments.

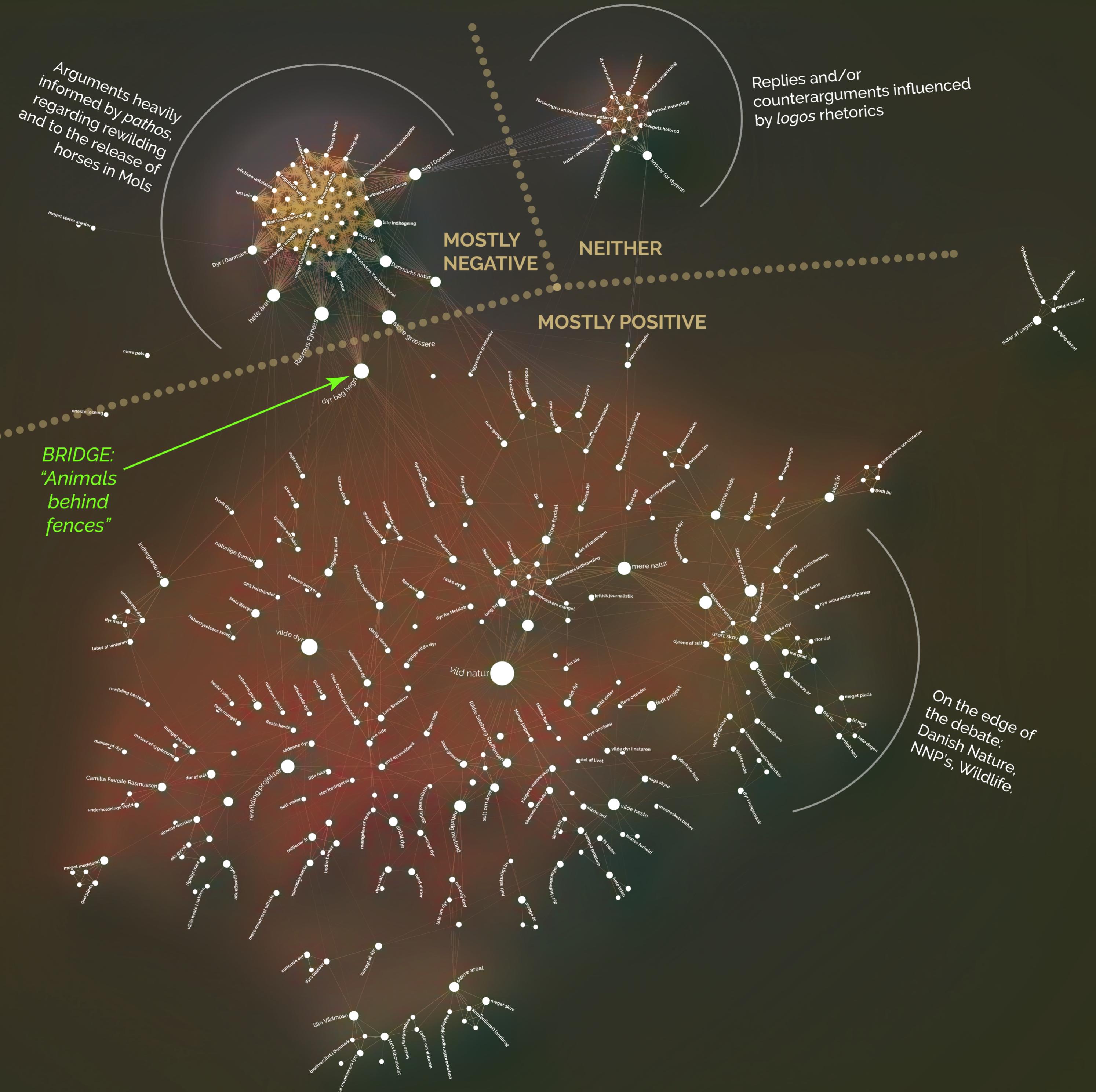
The size of the dots represents the betweenness score in the network: big nodes are expressions that **bridge** different parts of the network.

ANALYSIS

Almost the entire discussion is about the interactions between humans and large herbivores, and animal abuse. One of the most central points is the node “**animals behind fences**” (**dyr bag hegna**), which functions as a bridge between two distinct parts of the network. This concern is at the core of the controversy, voiced both by those that feel that they lose access and are excluded by the fence, and by those that are supporting the installment of a physical fence.

Additionally, terms surrounding animal abuse such as “starvation” and “painful death” are mainly centered around the horses and less so on cattle, indicating a differentiation among the animals and what is considered appropriate. The expressions of the mostly negative cluster (top-left) are heavily influenced by emotional arguments, and indicated greater empathy for horses rather than the cattle.

In comparison, terms about animal abuse and related topics are not part of the discourse in the academic literature (not pictured here), showing a divide in the focus of interests.



*Made by students as part of the 2022 Controversy Mapping course on the MSc program in Techno-Anthropology, Aalborg University, Denmark.
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