

ARENA Centre for European Studies,
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Trym Nohr Fjørtoft

Education

2022 **Ph.D., Political Science, University of Oslo**

Dissertation title: "Borders of Technocracy: Expertise, democracy, and the legitimacy of unelected bodies." Supervisors: Erik O. Eriksen and Asimina Michailidou.

2016 **M.A., Political Science, University of Oslo**

2013 **B.A., International Studies, University of Oslo**

Academic Positions

2022– **Postdoctoral Fellow, ARENA, University of Oslo**

"The Politics of European and American Single-Market Governance" (SINGLEMARKETS). (On parental leave spring 2023.)

2017–22 **Doctoral Research Fellow, ARENA, UiO**

2022 **Researcher, ARENA, UiO**

Member of the secretariat for a government-appointed commission to evaluate Norway's experience with the EU and EEA (EØS-utredningen).

2021–22 **Researcher, Department of Sociology and Human Geography, University of Oslo**

2021 **Researcher, ARENA, UiO**

Jan–Jun. Project leader on the development of the website DifferentiGate.

Peer-reviewed Academic Publications

Andrejuk, Katarzyna, Trym Nohr Fjørtoft, Craig Parsons, Susanne Schmidt, Andy Smith, and Jarle Trondal. 2025. "American Services in European Perspective: Why Don't Americans Care about Interstate Barriers in Construction?" *Publius* 55(4). doi.org/10.1093/publius/pjaf027.

Andrejuk, Katarzyna, Trym Nohr Fjørtoft, Craig Parsons, Susanne Schmidt, Andy Smith, and Jarle Trondal. 2025. "Federal Spirits: Governing Trans-border Trade within the EU and the US. The Case of Alcoholic Drinks." *Publius* 55(4). doi.org/10.1093/publius/pjaf033.

Fjørtoft, Trym Nohr. 2024. "Inductive Risk and the Legitimacy of Non-Majoritarian Institutions." *British Journal of Political Science* 54(2). doi.org/10.1017/S0007123423000200.

- Fjørtoft, Trym Nohr and Hallvard Sandven. 2023. "Symmetry in the Delegation of Power as a Legitimacy Criterion." *JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies* 61(4). doi.org/10.1111/jcms.13429.
- Fjørtoft, Trym Nohr. 2022. "More Power, More Control: The Legitimizing Role of Expertise in Frontex after the Refugee Crisis." *Regulation & Governance* 16(2). doi.org/10.1111/rego.12373.
- Fjørtoft, Trym Nohr and Asimina Michailidou. 2021. "Beyond Expertise: The Public Legitimacy of European Union Agencies." *Political Research Exchange* 3(1). doi.org/10.1080/2474736X.2021.2018266.

Other Publications

["Teknisk ekspertise kan være en politisk ressurs."](#) *Stat & Styring* 30 (3): 12-15.

Works in Progress

- "Technical Legitimacy." Single-authored. **Under review.**
- "Delegation without a coherent people: Non-Majoritarianism in EU and US Single Market Governance." Single-authored. **Under review.**
- "Softening the Oligarchy: The Normalization of Big Tech Power." With Elena Escalante Block. **Under review.**
- "How Do Politicians Appeal to the Single Market? Evidence from the European Parliament." With Martin Moland. **Under review.**
- "Demokratiets stilling i Europa – hva gjør EU og hvordan kan Norge bidra?" With John Erik Fossum. For special issue in *Internasjonal Politikk*. **Under review.**
- "Governance through index-making: re-assessing the 'measurement obsession' in gender equality policy." With Cathrine Holst. Work in progress.
- "Reputational Management in the Digital Age: How the European Commission and the Federal Trade Commission Navigate Antitrust Issues." With Elena Escalante Block. Work in progress.
- "Depoliticization, repoliticization, and the European border regime." With Hallvard Sandven. Work in progress.
- "Consensus Politics in Practice: Parliamentary Agreements as a Depoliticisation Mechanism." With Guri Rosén. Work in progress.
- "Who still wants the Single Market? Evidence from firms in goods and services sectors." With Andy Smith. Work in progress.

Teaching

- F2024 **STV1501: The EU as a political system**, Department of Political Science, UiO. Course co-convenor.
- 2023– **MA Supervisor**, Department of Political Science, UiO

- 2019– **External examiner**, Oslo Business School, Oslo Metropolitan University
Courses: Governance, Bachelor Thesis, Migration, Crisis Management.
- 2016 **Seminar Tutor**, Department of Political Science, UiO
Courses: Introduction to Political Science, Political Philosophy

Other Positions

- 2016–17 **Higher Executive Officer**, ARENA, UiO
- 2015–16 **Research Assistant**, ARENA, UiO
- 2015 **Head of Department**, UngInfo Oslo (6 direct reports. Budget and personnel responsibilities.)

Visiting Positions

- 2022–23 **Visiting Researcher**, UC Berkeley
Institute of European Studies.
- 2020 **Visiting Ph.D. Researcher**, European University Institute
Liaison Professor: Jeffrey Checkel.

Outreach and Dissemination

- “[Spør Ekko: Studentopprør i Europa.](#)” Radio interview in Ekko. 2 April 2025.
- Lecture on EU politics for *Aker Seniorakademi*, 20 February 2025.
- Lecture on EU economic policy for the Norwegian Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries, 13 February 2025.
- Presentation at ARENA’s 30th anniversary, 21 November 2024. ([→ video](#))
- Presentation at the Faculty of Social Sciences’ (UiO) “Research Relay,” November 2023.
- Lecture for the Delegation of the European Union to Norway, November 2023.
- “[Farligere enn noensinne.](#)” Interview in *Klassekampen*, 1 August 2022.
- “[What drives public acceptance of expert agencies?](#)” (with Asimina Michailidou.) *The Loop*, 14 February 2022.
- “[EUs grensepoliti saksøkes for å presse flyktninger på havet.](#)” Interview in *Vårt Land*, 28 May 2021.
- “[Frontex i skuddlinjen.](#)” Interview in *Morgenbladet*, 19 February 2021.
- “[EU ser mot yttergrensa.](#)” Interview in *Klassekampen*, 13 November 2020.
- “The Appeal to Technical Expertise in Frontex.” *TARN Blog*, 10 April 2020.

Awards and Grants

- 2022 *Research Council of Norway* Mobility Grants, for stays at EUI and UC Berkeley.
2020
2015 *Fritt Ord* student grant, Department of Political Science, UiO.

Leaves of absence

- 2023 Parental leave (5 months).

Presentations and Talks (* indicates an invited talk.)

- “Depoliticization without value-freedom: The legitimacy of fiscal credibility institutions.” Workshop: *A Sustainable Leviathan? Democratic Control and Macroeconomic Credibility*, London School of Economics, 17 October 2025.*
- “Technical Legitimacy.” *Oslo Political Theory* seminar, 1 October 2025.*
- “The Administrative State as a Democratic Asset.” *Institute for Social Research*, Oslo, 13 August 2025.*
- “Reputational Management in the Digital Age: How the European Commission and the Federal Trade Commission Navigate Antitrust Issues.” (With Elena Escalante Block.) *ECPR Standing Group on Regulatory Governance*, Hertie School of Governance, Berlin, 11 June 2025.
- “Technical Legitimacy.” *LAGAPE Seminar Sessions*, Université de Lausanne, 10 April 2025.*
- Discussant, book launch of “Mechanisms of European Integration: The Force of Reasons,” Erik O. Eriksen. Oslo, 11 March 2025.*
- “Non-majoritarianism in European and American single market governance.” *The EU’s Single Market Compared*. Workshop at the European University Institute, Florence, 17 February 2025.*
- “Delegation Without a Coherent People: Non-majoritarianism in European and American single market governance.” Workshop on *Expertise and Political Values in Inter-Institutional Reasoning*, OsloMet, 31 October – 1 November 2024.*
- “Delegation in asylum and border management.” (With Hallvard Sandven.) *(Re)(De)Politicization workshop*, Sciences Po Paris, 26–27 September 2024.*
- “The Structure and Legitimacy of Non-Majoritarianism in EU and US Single Market Governance.” *APSA Annual Meeting*, Philadelphia, PA, 6 September 2024.
- “Technical Legitimacy.” *ARENA Tuesday Seminar*, 27 August 2024.*
- “Technical Legitimacy.” *ECPR General Conference*, Dublin, 13 August 2024.
- Discussant, launch of [special issue](#) on “Philosophy, Policy, and Moral Expertise” (Res Publica), Oslo, 15 March 2024.*

- “Technical Legitimacy.” *GOODPOL research seminar*, Oslo, 12 October 2023.*
- “Inductive Risk and the Legitimacy of Non-Majoritarian Institutions.” *SciDem Research Seminar*, Oslo, 15 September 2023.*
- “The Empirical-Normative Dissonance in Technical Legitimacy.” *The Norwegian Institute in Rome*, 10 May 2023.*
- “Inductive Risk and the Legitimacy of Non-Majoritarian Institutions.” *GOODPOL Closing Conference*, Oslo, 20 May 2022.*
- “The Need for Normative Theory in Empirical Political Science.” *Centre for Advanced Study*, Oslo, 18 February 2021. *
- Invited discussant and panelist, launch of report “Schengen Evaluation: An educational experience. The example of Norway.” *The Norwegian Police University College*, 19 November 2020.*
- “The Public Legitimacy of European Union Agencies.” In *The Politics of Bureaucratic Reputation*, ECPR General Conference 2020 (virtual event), 28 August 2020.
- “Frontex, Expertise and the Refugee Crisis.” In *Making Non-Majoritarian Institutions Safe for Democracy. Workshop at ARENA Centre for European Studies*, 20-21 June 2019.*
- “The Role of Expertise in Frontex.” In *The Technocratic Challenge to Democracy: Experts, Elites and the People. Workshop at the ECPR Joint Sessions*, Nicosia. 13 April 2018.

Professional Service

- Convenor of the ARENA Research in Progress seminar series (2024–).
- Moderator of the IES Undergraduate Conference, UC Berkeley, 4 November 2022.
- Reviewer for *American Journal of Political Science*, *Journal of Common Market Studies*, *Political Research Exchange*, *Journal of Borderland Studies*.

Languages

- Norwegian (native)
- English (fluent)
- German (intermediate)
- Serbo-Croatian (beginner/intermediate)
- R (statistical programming language)