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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](http://DifferentiGate).

## Peer-reviewed Academic Publications

Fjørtoft, Trym N. 2026. “Technical Legitimacy.” Forthcoming in *Political Studies*.  
[doi.org/10.1177/00323217251409057](https://doi.org/10.1177/00323217251409057).

Andrejuk, Katarzyna, Trym N. 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](https://doi.org/10.1093/publius/pjaf027). (Corresponding Author.)

Andrejuk, Katarzyna, Trym N. 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](https://doi.org/10.1093/publius/pjaf033). (Corresponding Author.)

Fjørtoft, Trym N. 2024. “Inductive Risk and the Legitimacy of Non-Majoritarian Institutions.” *British Journal of Political Science* 54(2).  
[doi.org/10.1017/S0007123423000200](https://doi.org/10.1017/S0007123423000200).

Fjørtoft, Trym N. 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](https://doi.org/10.1111/jcms.13429).

Fjørtoft, Trym N. 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](https://doi.org/10.1111/rego.12373).

Fjørtoft, Trym N. 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](https://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

"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.**

"Demokratiets stilling i Europa – hva gjør EU, og kan Norge bidra?" With John Erik Fossum. For special issue in *Internasjonal Politikk*. **Under review.**

"How Do Politicians Appeal to the Single Market? Evidence from the European Parliament." With Martin Moland. **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.

"Depoliticization without value-freedom: The legitimacy of fiscal credibility institutions." Work in progress.

## Teaching

- 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.

### Externally funded project management and participation

- 2025–28 **TANDEM** (Erasmus + JMO Network, EU)  
Participant.
- 2025–26 **Norway and the EU undergoing change** (NUPI)  
Co-lead, WP on democracy.
- 2022–26 **SINGLEMARKETS** (NFR)  
WP co-lead and Postdoctoral Fellow.
- 2017–22 **REFLEX** (NFR)  
Doctoral Research Fellow.

### 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.

## 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.

## 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 at LUISS, Rome, 5 December 2025.\*

“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)