

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

Fjørtoft, Trym N. 2026. “Technical Legitimacy.” Forthcoming in *Political Studies*.
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. (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. (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.

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.

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.

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.

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 Depolitisation 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 grensepolitisk 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)