

Rasmus Sinding Søndergaard

Senior Researcher, PhD

Foreign Policy & Diplomacy

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WORK EXPERIENCE

- 2020– **Danish Institute for International Studies**, Senior Researcher
- 2019-2020 **Lund University**, Human Rights Studies, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow
Visiting researcher: Stockholm University (2020), University of Oslo (2020)
- 2017-2019 **Georgetown University**, Department of Government, Carlsberg Foundation
Postdoc Researcher
- 2017-2017 **University of Copenhagen**, Saxo Institute, Lecturer
- 2017-2017 **University of Southern Denmark**, Center for American Studies, Lecturer
- 2013-2013 **Danish National Research Foundation**, Research Advisor
- 2012-2012 **U.S. Congress, House Foreign Affairs Committee**, Congressional Fellow:
policy analysis, legislative assistance
- 2010-2012 **University of Copenhagen**, Center for Advanced Security Theory (CAST):
Research Assistant & Saxo Institute: Teaching and Research Assistant

EDUCATION

- 2017 **University of Southern Denmark**
PhD, History and American studies
Dissertation: *The Institutionalization of Human Rights: Congress, Reagan and U.S. Foreign Policy*. Degree obtained: January 25, 2017
Visiting researcher, University of California, Berkeley (1 year, 2014-2015)
- 2013 **University of Copenhagen**
MA, History (GPA: 12/12), exchange student: University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill: International relations and American politics (GPA: 3.9/4.0)
- 2010 **University of Copenhagen**
BA, History & Minority Studies (GPA: 11.5/12), summer school: New Anglo-American College in Prague: European state formation, religious wars

PUBLICATIONS

- 2020 *Reagan, Congress, and Human Rights: Contesting Morality in US Foreign Policy* (Cambridge University Press, 2020), 322. ISBN: 9781108495639

- Forthcoming "The Committee for the Free World and the Defense of Democracy," *Journal of Cold War Studies*, (accepted)
- 2020 "The Contested Origins of US Democracy Promotion: the National Endowment for Democracy and its Congressional Critics" *International Politics* (online version)
- 2020 "Human Rights and the 1980 U.S. Presidential Election," *American Studies in Scandinavia*, 52:2 (2020), p. 29-46. ISSN: 0044-8060.
- 2019 "A Positive Track of Human Rights Policy: Elliott Abrams, the Human Rights Bureau and the Conceptualization of Democracy Promotion," in *The Reagan Administration, the Cold War and the Transition to Democracy Promotion*, eds. William Michael Schmidli, Robert Pee (Palgrave Macmillan, 2019), 31-50. ISBN: 978-3-319-96382-2.
- 2018 "The Resilience of Camelot: The Kennedy Myth in Danish Newspapers during the Cold War," *American Studies in Scandinavia* 50 (2), 69-88. ISSN: 0044-8060.
- 2018 "The Congressional Human Rights Caucus and the Plight of the Refuseniks," in *The Cold War at Home and Abroad: Domestic Politics and U.S. Foreign Policy since 1945*, eds. Andrew L. Johns and Mitchell B. Lerner (University Press of Kentucky, 2018), 224-246. ISBN: 9780813175737.
- 2016 Robert David Johnson, Hideaki Kami, Tizoc Chavez, Michael Brenes, David L. Prentice, Autumn C. Lass, Chris Foss, Daniel G. Hummel, **Rasmus Sinding Søndergaard**, and Andrew Johnstone "Domestic Politics and U.S. Foreign Relations: A Roundtable" *Passport: The Newsletter of SHAFR* 46 (3) January (2016): 47-64.
- 2016 *The Institutionalization of Human Rights: Congress, Reagan and U.S. Foreign Policy*, PhD-dissertation, Department of History, University of Southern Denmark, 2016, 291. OCLC: 967498474.
- 2015 "Bill Clinton's 'Democratic Enlargement' and the Securitisation of Democracy Promotion," *Diplomacy & Statecraft* 26 (3), 534-551. ISSN: 1557-301X, DOI: 10.1080/09592296.2015.1067529.
- 2012 "Anti-amerikanisme blandt danske intellektuelle i 1950'erne," *1066 Tidsskrift for Historie* 42 (1), 3-14. ISSN: 2244-9817.

Book Reviews

- Forthcoming Review of Jan Eckel *The Ambivalence of Good: Human Rights in International Politics since the 1940s* (Oxford, 2019) in *Diplomatic History* (accepted)
- 2019 Review of Robert Pee *Democracy Promotion, National Security and Strategy: Foreign Policy under the Reagan Administration* (Routledge 2015) in *Journal of Cold War Studies* 21 (2), 199-201.
- 2019 Review of Hal Brands *Making the Unipolar Moment: U.S. Foreign Policy and*

the Rise of the Post-Cold War Order (Cornell University Press 2016) in *Journal of Contemporary History* 54 (1), 236-238.

- 2017 Thomas J. Knock, John Cooper, Patrick McDonald, **Rasmus Sinding Søndergaard**, and Trygve Throntveit, H-Diplo Roundtable Review of Tony Smith, *Why Wilson Matters: The Origins of American Liberal Internationalism and Its Crisis Today*. Princeton University Press, 2017, <https://networks.h-net.org/system/files/contributed-files/roundtable-xix-16.pdf>.
- 2014 "Er Obamas USA exceptionel?" Review of Stephen Brooks *American Exceptionalism in the Age of Obama* in *Tidsskrift for Politik*, 17 (1), 66-67. ISSN: 16040058.

FUNDING

I have received research funding amounting to circa **3.870.000 DKK / 516.000 Euro**.

- 2020 Reimagining Norden in an Evolving World (ReNEW) mobility grant, visiting scholar, University of Oslo (15.000 NOK)
- 2019 Joint Committee for Nordic Research Councils (Hum. & Soc.Sci.) workshop "Scandinavian Internationalist Diplomacy" (collective grant) (38.539 Euro)
- 2019-2021 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship for postdoc (203.852 Euro)
- 2019-2021 Carlsberg Foundation Doctoral Fellowships in Denmark for postdoc (1.250.000 DKK) – *Declined*
- 2017-2019 Carlsberg Foundation Internationalisation Fellowship for postdoc (two one-year grants amounting to a total of 700.000 DKK)
- 2016 Heidelberg Spring Academy Fellow (selected among >150 applicants)
- 2015 Danish Ministry of Higher Education & Science Elite Research Travel Grant (200.000 DKK) (1 of 20 recipients across all academic fields)
- 2015 Salzburg Global Scholar (1-week competitive fellowship)
- 2015 Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations Summer Institute
- 2014 American-Scandinavian Foundation, for stay at UC Berkeley (20.000 USD)
- 2012 Lantos-HIA Congressional Fellowship (5-month competitive fellowship)

TEACHING

I have taught six courses within the fields of history, American studies, and human rights studies at three universities, spanning from first-year students to advanced graduate students. I have completed a pedagogical course on "Teaching and Learning in Higher Education."

- 2020 **Human Rights in Foreign Policy**
MA course in Human Rights Studies (spring), Lund University
Created and taught the course (online), written exam

- 2017 **Civilreligion I USA: Nationalisme, Religion og Historiebrug**
Double MA course in History 30 ECTS (spring), University of Copenhagen
Co-created and co-taught the course, supervised 15 student papers
- 2017 **American Government**
BA course, American studies (spring), University of Southern Denmark
Taught the course, graded written exams
- 2015 **Reagan's America: U.S. Politics in the 1980s**
BA course, American studies (fall), University of Southern Denmark
Created and taught the course, graded oral and written exams
- 2014 **Human Rights in US Foreign Policy 1970-2000**
BA course, American studies (spring), University of Southern Denmark
Created and taught the course, graded oral and written exams

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

In addition to experience with legislative assistance in the U.S. Congress and research management at the Danish National Research Foundation, I have administrative experience from organizing workshops, seminars, and conference panels.

- 2020-2021 Co-organizer of the workshop series “Scandinavian Internationalist Diplomacy” at University of Copenhagen (September 2020), Södertörn University (January 2021) and University of Oslo (February 2021).
- 2020 Organizer of the seminar “Nordic Human Rights Histories,” Lund University, September 2020.
- 2016-2017 PhD student representative in the Danish Society for Contemporary History
Participation in organization of annual conference.
- 2016 **Co-organizer of the interdisciplinary conference “Norm Formation and Images of the Enemy,” University of Southern Denmark.**
- 2015– Organizer of panels accepted for conferences of: Human Rights Consortium (2020 – cancelled), Transatlantic Studies Association (2019), The Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (2015 and 2018), the Organization of American Historians (2017), and the American Politics Group of Political Science Association – UK (2017).

INVITED TALKS AND SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

I have given invited nook talks on *Reagan, Congress, and Human Rights* at: Harvard University, Yale University, University at Albany, Stockholm University, Lund University, University of Southern Denmark, Cold War Research Network, US Studies Online (BAAS)

“Human Rights in East-West Relations in the late Cold War: The Case of Soviet Jewish Emigration” Europe from the Helsinki Accords to the fall of the Berlin Wall and beyond, December 4, 2020 (invited talk)

“Scandinavian Diplomacy on Human Rights & Economic Inequality at the United Nations in the 1970s”, Lund University, September 8, 2020.

“Reagan, Congress, and Human Rights: Contesting Morality in US Foreign Policy,” (invited talk), Nobel Institute, Norway, March 13, 2020 (invited talk), (Cancelled due to Covid-19).

“Scandinavia, Human Rights and Economic Inequality at the UN in the 1970s,” University of Oslo, Norway, March 10, 2020 (invited talk).

“Scandinavian Diplomacy on Human Rights and Economic Inequality at the United Nations in the 1970s,” Södertörn University, Sweden, February 13, 2020 (invited talk).

“Human Rights and Economic Inequality: The Scandinavian Approach,” Aarhus University, January 30, 2020 (invited talk).

“The National Endowment for Democracy and its Congressional Critics,” Transatlantic Studies Association, Lancaster University, UK, July 10, 2019.

“Contesting Morality: Members of Congress and Human Rights in the 1980s,” International History Seminar Series, Georgetown University, US, January 15, 2019.

“Waking the Weakened Will of the West: The Committee for the Free World and the Defense of Democracy,” Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations annual conference, Philadelphia, US, June 21, 2018.

“Contesting Human Rights: Congress, Reagan and U.S. Foreign Policy,” American Historical Association annual conference, Washington DC, US, January 6, 2018.

“Colors of Camelot: The Kennedy Myth in Danish Newspapers,” Nordic Association of America Studies bi-annual conference, SDU, Odense, Denmark, May 24, 2017.

“Human Rights as a Language of Power in American Foreign Relations Roundtable,” Organization of American Historians annual conference, New Orleans, US, April 6-9, 2017.

“Elliott Abrams, the Human Rights Bureau, and the Conceptualization of Democracy Promotion,” American Politics Group of Political Science Association (UK), Leicester, UK, January 6, 2017.

“The Congressional Black Caucus, Human Rights, and Economic Sanctions against South Africa,” Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations annual conference, San Diego, US, June 24, 2016.

”Defeating Reagan: The Congressional Black Caucus, Human Rights, and Sanctions against South Africa,” Seminar in American History, Department of English, Germanic and Romance Studies, University of Copenhagen, June 7, 2016 (invited talk).

“The (Ab)Use of Human Rights: Executive-Legislative Struggles over US Nicaragua Policy in the 1980s,” European Association for American Studies bi-annual conference, Constanta, Romania, April 23, 2016.

“Executive-Legislative Struggles over U.S. Policy towards Nicaragua in the 1980s,” Heidelberg Spring Academy, Heidelberg, Germany, March 16, 2016.

“The Congressional Human Rights Caucus: A New Voice for Human Rights in American Foreign Policy,” Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations annual conference, Arlington, US, June 26, 2015.

“After the Breakthrough: Congressional Human Rights Policy 1981-1993,” Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations Summer Institute, Columbus, OH, June 21, 2015.

“Congressional Human Rights Activism in U.S. Foreign Policy 1981-2020,” Humanities & Social Science Association, UC Berkeley, US, February 18, 2015.

MEDIA & DISSEMINATION

My experience with scientific dissemination includes popular science publications, public lectures, podcasts, and over 200 media appearances in Danish TV, radio, and print.

Popular Science Publications

“Bliver Tyskland verdens nye moralske stormagt?” Politiken (kronik), September 22, 2021.

“Bidens demokratiagenda åbner danske muligheder,” Jyllands-Posten, August 16, 2021.

“The Trump Administration's Efforts to Redefine Human Rights Echoes Those of the Reagan Administration,” Cold War Research Network, January 28, 2021.

“In Confronting China on Human Rights, Biden Can Learn from Reagan,” OREMA, January 13, 2021.

“Klima, corona og race. Hvad har vi lært af de to præsidentdebatter?” DIIS Comment, October 27, 2020.

“When human rights could determine an election,” DIIS Longread, 23 October, 2020.

”Biden og den Liberale Verdensorden efter Trump,” DIIS Comment, November 12, 2020.

”Congress and Human Rights in the Age of Reagan,” Cambridge University Press, FifteenEightyFour blog, April 13, 2020 <http://www.cambridgeblog.org/2020/04/congress-and-human-rights-in-the-age-of-reagan/>

“Var Reagan en helt, der vandt den kolde krig, eller var han en forbryder, som stod i spidsen for en blodig udenrigspolitik,” Politiken (kronik), December 15, 2019

”Der er intet nyt i Trumps ’America First’” Politiken (kronik), June 30, 2018.

To Skridt Frem og Et Tilbage - USA og Menneskerettighederne (Kongressen Forlag: 2016) e-book ISBN: 9788799857036.

“The Office: Racisme og Sexisme på det Amerikanske Arbejdsmarked” in *Fiktionens Magt*, ed. Mette Rolan Kjærsgaard (Rosenkilde Bahnhof: 2015) ISBN: 9788771289138.

“Virkelighedens House of Cards” in *Glimt af Amerika*, ed. Anders Agner Pedersen (Rosenkilde Bahnhof: 2015) ISBN: 9788771288919.

“Touchdown, Carolina! Amerikansk collegesport set med danske øjne” in *Glimt af Amerika*, ed. Anders Agner Pedersen (Rosenkilde Bahnhof: 2015) ISBN: 9788771288919.

“Snowdens lækager flænses glansbilledet af Obama” in *Fem år med Obama. Forandring vi kunne tro på?*, ed. Anders Agner Pedersen (Rosenkilde Bahnhof: 2014) ISBN: 9788771283754.

Selected Public Lectures

”EU og USA - hvem redder demokratiet?” European Parliament (Denmark), April 14, 2021.

”Bidens USA og Europa: Prioriteter og Udfordringer,” DEO, January 20, 2021.

”Amerikansk valgfest - USA og verdens fremtid,” International Debat, November 3, 2020.

”How to get a Postdoc Grant,” (for PhD students) University of Oslo, March 10, 2020.

”My Way to a Postdoc Grant: Key Learnings from Writing Postdoc Proposals,” (for prospective postdoc applicants) University of Copenhagen, September 5, 2019.

”Storhed og fald: menneskerettigheder i amerikansk udenrigspolitik fra FDR til Trump,” Fredagstaler, Studenterforeningen, Copenhagen, February 10, 2017. (Sound recording: <https://soundcloud.com/studenterforeningen/48-rasmus-sinding-sondergaard>.)

”Trump’s Foreign Policy and the Transatlantic Relationship Amidst the Rise of Populism,” The Danish European Movement, Copenhagen, December 13, 2016.

”NSA, Snowden og overvågning efter 9/11,” Danish University Extension (Folkeuniversitetet), Copenhagen, November 30, 2016 + February 8, 2017.

”To Skridt frem og Et Tilbage: USA og Menneskerettighederne,” Amnesty International Denmark, Copenhagen, January 13, 2016.

”Snowden og Obama,” book launch, Politikens Boghal, March 26, 2014.

”The United States & BRICS,” Danish Institute for Study Abroad, January 21, 2014.

”Europe and the United States: Partners and Rivals,” Danish Institute for Study Abroad, November 3, 2013.

”USA og FN: Et forhold i forandring?,” FN Debat, Folketinget (Danish Parliament), September 18, 2013.

”USA efter valget,” Krogerup Højskole, September 11, 2012.

Podcasts & Recorded Webinars

2021, “Trump efterlod dybe sår på Europa. Kan Biden hele dem?” Jyllands-Posten, Verdenshjørner. <https://podcasts.apple.com/dk/podcast/17-trump-efterlod-europa-med-dybe-s%C3%A5r-kan-biden-hele-dem/id1521999924?i=1000524772652&l=da>

2021, Will China Rule the World?, <https://www.diis.dk/en/event/book-launch-will-china-rule-the-world>

2020, “Rethinking Isolationism,” <https://www.diis.dk/en/event/rethinking-isolationism>

2020, Post Covid-19: A New World Order?, DIIS,
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uPA_8nioNwk

2020, “Ronald Reagan,” POTUS: President of the United States (Heartbeats)
<https://heartbeats.dk/podcast/president-of-the-united-states-ronald-wilson-reagan-den-fremragende-kommunikatoer/>

2016, “Trump – udenrigspolitik med et helt andet verdenssyn,” DIIS
<https://soundcloud.com/diisdk/trump-udenrigspolitik-med-et-helt-andet-verdenssyn>

2016, “USA’s udenrigspolitik, Clinton vs. Obama” DIIS, <https://soundcloud.com/diisdk/usas-udenrigspolitik-clinton-vs-obama>

MISCELLANEOUS

2020– Visiting Research Fellow, Human Rights Studies, Lund University

2018-2021 Researcher, “Laying the Foundations: The League of Nations and International Law, 1919-1945,” collective research project funded by Independent Research Fund Denmark, PI: Morten Rasmussen

2018– **Reviewer:** *Nordic Journal of Human Rights, American Studies in Scandinavia*

Membership of associations and networks: International Studies Association, Organization of American Historians, American Historical Association, Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations, New Diplomatic History, European Association for American Studies, Danish Association for American Studies, Nordic Human Rights History Network