Mari S. Helliesen

Senior Researcher, NORCE Social Sciences

Personal information

First name, Surname:	Mari S. Helliesen		
Date of birth:	19.12.1989	Sex:	Female
Nationality:	Norwegian		
Researcher unique identifier(s) (ORCID, ResearcherID, etc.):	ORCID: 0000-0002-8940-4962		
URL for personal website:	https://www.norceresearch.no/en/persons/mari-skaara-helliesen/38028680		

Education

Year	Faculty/department - University/institution - Country
2023	Ph.D., Department of Comparative Politics – University of Bergen – Norway Thesis: Representative democracy and climate change: Climate policy preferences and congruence between citizens and elected representatives
2015	Master, Department of Comparative Politics – University of Bergen – Norway
2012	Bachelor of European Studies, Department of Archaeology, History, Cultural Studies and Religion – University of Bergen – Norway

Positions - current and previous

Year	Job title – Employer - Country
2023-	Senior Researcher – NORCE Norwegian Research Centre, Research groups: Climate, Environment, and Sustainability; Democracy and climate adaptation
2018-2023	PhD Candidate – Department of Comparative Politics, University of Bergen
2017-2018	Researcher – Department of Comparative Politics, University of Bergen
2016-2017	Research Assistant – Department of Comparative Politics, University of Bergen

Career breaks

Year	Reason
April 2025-March 2026	Maternity leave

Project management experience

Year	Project owner - Project - Role - Funder
2026-	NORCE - The impacts of land use conflicts on society and citizens: how local arguments shape democratic participation and lived experience (LANDSCAPE) – Project manager – NFR (357942)
2024-	NORCE – Protesting Controversial Climate Policies: Avenues of Opposition (TRUST) – Work package leader – NFR (352314)
2022	University of Antwerp, Stefaan Walgrave - "How Politicians Evaluate Public Opinion" (POLPOP) - Coordinated the Norwegian team while team leader was on leave - ERC

Supervision of students

Master's students	Ph.D. students	University/institution - Country
2		Department of Comparative Politics, University of Bergen – Norway

Other relevant professional experiences

Year	Description - Role
2026-	Member of the scientific committee for The Norwegian Panel of Politicians (Norsk politikerpanel), KODEM
2026	Project member of MEDIAKT (Medienes dilemma: Hvordan kan journalistikken ivareta klimaaktivisters legitimitet uten å svekke publikums tillit?), funded by the Norwegian Media Authority
2022-	Reviewer for *Political Behavior, European Journal of Political Research, Scandinavian Political Studies, Environmental Science and Policy, Internasjonal Politikk*
2021-	Member of the Norwegian country team in the international research collaboration POLPOP (University of Antwerp, ERC), surveying citizens and national elected representatives
2015-2025	Member of the Thematic research unit *Climate and Environment*, Norwegian Citizen Panel, DIGSSCORE, University of Bergen
2023-2024	Member of the NFR funded project *The electoral ramifications of environmental policy (THERAPY)*, project nr: 302869
2016-2023	Member and Coordinator (2021-2022) of the research group *Citizens, Opinions, Representation* at the Department of Comparative Politics, University of Bergen
2021-2022	Set up and coordinated the NFR funded *CORE Lecture Series* at the Department of Comparative Politics, University of Bergen, inviting and hosting international leading political science researchers to hold guest lectures for staff and students
2020-2022	Department Council, Department of Comparative Politics, University of Bergen – Representative and deputy representative for temporary academic staff
2021	Gender equality committee, Department of Comparative Politics, University of Bergen – member from temporary academic staff

Track record

Peer-reviewed publications

Gregersen, T., Helliesen, M. S. & Jagers, S. 2025. ""The poor are hit the hardest"- Norwegians' perceptions of climate (in)justice." *Scandinavian Political Studies.* https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-9477.70002

Helliesen, M. S. & Peters, Y. 2025. "The political perspective of social sustainability: age-based representation" in Vaalavuo, M., Kuitto, K. & Nelson, K. (Eds.), Social Sustainability in Ageing Societies. Edward Elgar Publishing.

Helliesen, M. S., Mathisen, R. & Peters, Y. 2025. "The Fairest of Them All? Political Representation and Equality in Norway" in Rasch, B. E., Allern, E. H., Braut-Hegghammer, M. & Kolltveit, K. (Eds.), Oxford Handbook on Norwegian Politics.

Helliesen, M. S. 2023. "Unequal Representation of Women and Youth on Climate Policy Issues." *Representation, 59*(4), 615-632. https://doi.org/10.1080/00344893.2022.2133001

Helliesen, M. S. 2023. "Representative democracy and climate change: Climate policy preferences and congruence between citizens and elected representatives." PhD thesis, University of Bergen.

Academic conference presentations

Climate Policy Congruence: A cross-national analysis of citizens' and representatives' preferences, *National Political Science Conference 2025*, Bergen 2025

Environmental protection or economic growth: What policy package does the public want? *ECPR General Conference 2024,* Dublin 2024

Environmental protection or economic growth: What policy package does the public want? *NoPSA 2024 XX Nordic Political Science Congress,* Bergen 2024

Protest party voters, *National Political Science Conference 2024*, Stavanger 2024

Perceptions of decision criteria in climate policy, *Beyond Oil 2023*, Bergen 2023

Understanding opposition to meat reduction, *Living with Climate Change*, Bergen 2023

Representing climate policy preferences, *National Political Science Conference 2022*, Oslo 2022

Framing effects on climate policy support, *ECPR General Conference 2021*, Digital event

Environmental Issue Congruence and Unequal Representation, *ECPR General Conference 2020,* Digital event

Environmental Issue Congruence and Unequal Representation, *Environmental Politics and Government 2020*, Digital event

Public outreach and dissemination (selected)

18.06.24	Ser verden brenne fra en «drittleilighet»	Newspaper interview	*NRK*
21.02.24	Considering climate policy: Different roles in democracy - different prioritizations?	Invited speaker	CET lunch, University of Bergen
02.01.24	Dealing with climate change in representative democracies	Policy brief	New Challenges to Democracy, University of Bergen and NORCE
15.11.23	Klimaskepsis, politikk og folk flest	Invited speaker	Klimasnukonferansen Ålesund
18.10.23	Reflections on a Just Transition	Panel	Beyond Oil Conference, Bergen
12.08.23	Tilliten til det politiske Norge	Radio / TV interview	*NRK*
30.07.23	Tilliten til norske politikere er i verdenstoppen. Men det er ikke sikkert den forblir høy, mener ekspert	Newspaper interview	*Aftenposten*
03.05.23	Er klimakrisen den største trusselen mot demokratiet?	Invited speaker	#Klimaomstilling, Sogndal
14.04.23	Mister demokratiet de unge?	Panel	University of Bergen
12.04.23	Lokaldemokratiet har mista desse unge folkevalde	Newspaper interview	*NRK*
15.03.23	Ungdommenes aksjon var vellykket	Op-ed	*VG*
29.04.22	Demokrati, maktfordeling og klimapolitikk – hvem bestemmer i klimapolitikken?	Invited speaker	Holberg i skolen, Holbergprisen
02.02.22	Kutte i kjøtt- og meieriprodukter? Folkevalgte mer mot enn velgerne	Article	*Energi og klima*
01.10.21	Demokrati i ubalanse? På dette området er norske politikarar klart i utakt med unge veljarar	Newspaper interview	*Framtida*
13.09.21	Klimasakens skiftende rolle i valgkampen	Panel	Studentersamfunnet i Bergen
11.09.21	Tror klima vil mobilisere unge velgere	Newspaper interview	*NRK*
24.08.21	Temperaturen i klimadebatten	Podcast	Lunsj med Lars, *Stavanger Aftenblad*
13.08.21	Hvordan påvirker innrammingen av klimatiltak politisk støtte?	Invited speaker	Bergen kommune, Klimaetat
06.12.19	Hvorfor er Norge det tredje mest klimaskeptiske landet i verden?	Video Interview	*NRK*
07.10.19	Norge er blant landene med flest klimaskeptikere	Newspaper interview	*Khrono*
04.10.19	Slik er de norske klimaskeptikerne	Op-ed	*Bergens Tidende*
03.10.19	Klimaskepsis: Hva er det og bør vi forske på det?	Panel	Sampolkonferansen