



Samforsk

The Social Science
Research Institute

Annual report

2022



Åbo Akademi
University

2022

Forewords

2022 was a year of significant progress at Samforsk. Apart from the inauguration of our brand new deliberation laboratories, we had the honor to host the Summer School in Deliberative Democracy and Public Opinion. Moreover, we welcomed additional members to our Samforsk team and several visiting fellows during 2022.

In this annual report, we want to share with you our projects and events of the past year.

The Future of Democracy, FutuDem

For more information about FutuDem, please visit our homepage: www.futudem.fi

The Finnish Research Infrastructure for Public Opinion, FIRIPO

For more information about FIRIPO, please visit our homepage: www.firipo.fi

BAROMETERN – online panel survey for Swedish speaking Finns

Within **Barometern**, two surveys were conducted in 2022. In addition, two reports were published in Swedish: *Culture consumption, language relations and attitudes toward Swedish in Finland* and *Changes in the attitudes of Swedish-speaking Finns toward NATO 2019–2022*. The book *Svenskfinland i pandemitider* (eds. Thomas Karv & Jenny Backström) was also published during 2022. In December, new participants were recruited to the panel. All the reports can be downloaded from www.barometern.fi. **Barometern** is funded by the Swedish Cultural Foundation in Finland.

Public Research Seminar in Political Science

A recurring event where colleagues present their latest research. Please contact coordinator **Jonas Schauman** (jonas.schauman@abo.fi) if you would like to present at our seminars.

FORGE

The research project *Foresight and Future Generations in Law-Making* (FORGE) studied how future generations and their rights are taken into consideration in legislative processes. The aim of the project was to enhance the understanding of how future generations are considered in policymaking and how foresight could be better utilised in law-making. The research project supported the preparation of the second part of the Governmental report on the future and was a collaboration between researchers from Åbo Akademi University, the University of Turku and Tampere University. The project was conducted between January – November 2022. The Government's analysis, assessment and research activities (VN TEAS) funded the project.

EUComMeet

The **EUComMeet** project has entered a crucial stage. The past year was very eventful: we successfully submitted our deliverable, contributed to the yearly technical/financial report of the project, co-designed the survey for the pilots in schools and universities, and co-moderated the simulations. Currently, we are preparing for the main deliberative event in the spring. More information and recent updates about the project's activities are available at: <https://www.eucommet.eu/>

New Staff at Samforsk

Samforsk has welcomed four new members to the team this year. Project researcher Isak Vento is substituting Marina Lindell, who is now an Academy Research Fellow. Among other things, Isak is responsible for **Barometern**. Hanna Holmbäck and Lachlan Paterson are project assistants for **FIRIPO** and **FutuDem**, Eva Aspnäs is also new to the team, and works as a project assistant for **FutuDem** and **EUCommeet**.

Deliberative Democracy

Summer School 2022

The fourth Summer School in Deliberative Democracy and Public Opinion took place between the 20th and 22nd of June, in Åbo. It was organized by the Social Science Research Institute at Åbo Akademi University (Samforsk) in collaboration with Canberra University, the University of Turku, Tampere University, and the ECPR Standing Group on Democratic Innovations. This year's Summer School was funded by the Future of Democracy (FutuDem) and the Finnish Research Infrastructure for Public Opinion (FIRIPO).

The theme for the 2022 Summer School was *Understanding Public Deliberation – Contexts, Opinions and Consequences*. The Summer School brought together 67 people from 27 different countries. Three inspiring keynote lectures were given, which all contextualized how deliberation can offer a new democratic pathway and solve societal issues. Professor **James S. Fishkin** (Stanford University) discussed the merits of deliberation in his keynote lecture, *Can deliberation cure the ills of democracy?*

Professor **Jane Suiter** (Dublin City University) showed during her lecture, *Irish citizens' assemblies – the gradual process towards institutionalisation*, a practical example of how deliberation was used in Ireland to decide on the legalization of abortion. *Landing citizens' assemblies: turning our grace to bureaucracy* was the topic of Professor **Graham Smith's** (University of Westminster) keynote. Research Director **Lauri Rapeli** (Åbo Akademi University) chaired the roundtable discussion *The future of deliberative democracy*. The panelists were Professor **Andre Bächtiger** (University of Stuttgart), Professor **Nicole Curato** (Canberra University), Professor **Sofie Marien** (KU Leuven) and Professor **Kimmo Grönlund** (Åbo Akademi University). As well as listening and taking part in interesting discussions, doctoral candidates from all over the world got the chance to present their papers and get feedback from their peers and senior colleagues. The organizers would like to thank everyone that participated in the Summer School!

◀ Top left - top right: Dean Marko Joas holding his welcome speech | Participants listening to a Keynote lecture | Group picture of the Summer School participants | Paper session ongoing in the deliberation laboratories.

FUTUDEM



FIRIPO
The Finnish Research Infrastructure
for Public Opinion



Other News

Marina Lindell new Academy Research Fellow 2022-2027

Marina Lindell received funding from the Academy of Finland as an Academy Researcher for her project *Re-thinking opinion change: The role of framing, communications dynamics and personality for 2022–2027*.

Brand new deliberation laboratories at ÅAU

During spring, we were delighted to inaugurate our brand new discussion laboratories, or deliberation laboratories, in the ASA building. They are part of the Finnish Research Infrastructure for Public Opinion consortium (FIRIPO), led by Professor Kimmo Grönlund, which since

2021 is part of the roadmap for national research infrastructures in Finland. Apart from enabling high tech solutions for conducting research, the laboratories provides an excellent teaching environment where all participants can be seen and heard equally well. The laboratories consists of two large rooms with four round tables, equipped with the latest video conferencing technology. In addition, the rooms have sound-absorbing curtains and carpets. With state of the art 360° cameras and roof microphones, the laboratories provide interesting new research possibilities. For more information about the laboratories, please contact FIRIPO's coordinator **Rasmus Sirén** or project assistant **Hanna Holmbäck**.



The deliberation laboratories in full use for the first time during the IAB meeting and the Summer School.

ECPR Standing Group on Democratic Innovations

Marina Lindell has been chairing the ECPR Standing Group on Democratic Innovations together with **Hannah Werner**. The SG had the following main activities: 2022 Joint Sessions: Workshop endorsed, *Direct Democracy and Public Policies: Understanding Motivations and Consequences*. 2022 General Conference: Section endorsed, *Democratizing Democratic Innovations*. *Online Webinar Series – Democracy Rebooted: Deliberative Responses to Planetary Challenges?*

International Advisory Board Meeting, FIRIPO & FutuDem

On June 17, FutuDem's and FIRIPO's international advisory boards met for an in-person meeting in Åbo. The meeting was held jointly with the IAB members of both FutuDem and FIRIPO. The all-day meeting took place in Samforsk's discussion laboratories. At the meeting, current research plans were discussed and the new laboratories were presented.

Guest lecture, Dr. Olga Onuch

On May 30, Dr. Olga Onuch (University of Manchester) held a highly topical guest lecture titled *Support for Democracy and Civic Duty among Ukrainians: Understanding the Basis for Civilian Resistance*. Dr. Onuch (DPhil Oxford) is a Senior Lecturer in Politics at the University of Manchester, and a leading expert in mass mobilization, social movements and public opinion research in new democracies.

Visiting scholars program 2022

Sergiu Gherghina – University of Glasgow, April • **Franziska Mayer** – Universität Stuttgart, June • **Saskia Goldberg** – KU Leuven, June • **Sebastien Rojon** – Université Libre de Bruxelles, June • **Graham Smith** – University of Westminster, June • **Nicole Curato** – University of Canberra, June • **Luca Bernardi** – University of Liverpool, September • **Anton Brännlund** – Uppsala University, 2022/2023.

Outgoing scholars

Nanuli Silagadze – University of Siena, March–June / Goethe University Frankfurt am Main, October / Babeş-Bolyai University, November • **Fredrik Malmberg** – Linköping University, January – July • **Kim Backström** – University of Gothenburg, October – December • **Kimmo Grönlund** – Stanford University, October – November • **Janette Huttunen** – Goethe University, November – January.



Janette Huttunen received her doctoral degree

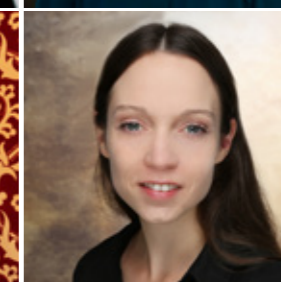
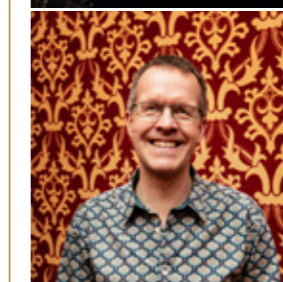
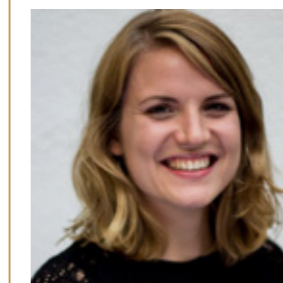
Janette Huttunen defended her doctoral dissertation titled *Young people, democracy and political participation. Four perspectives on younger citizens' democratic engagement in Finland* on May 25. The opponent was professor **Laura Morales** from Science Po (Paris Institute of Political Studies).

Photo: Säde Pusa.

James S. Fishkin, Honorary Doctor at Åbo Akademi University

Professor **James S. Fishkin** (Stanford University) was conferred the title Honorary Doctor of Social Sciences in recognition of his groundbreaking research on deliberative democracy. His model of Deliberative Polling is universally the most used method for deliberative citizen discussions. James S. Fishkin is a member of the Advisory Boards for FutuDem and FIRIPO.

Bottom left – top right: Graham Smith, Saskia Goldberg, Luca Bernardi, Franziska Maier, Nicole Curato, Sergiu Gerghina, Sebastien Rojon, and Anton Brännlund.



Select Publications

Journal articles and other refereed publications

Backström, K., Karv, T., & Strandberg, K. (2022). Kommunala folkomröstningar i Finland. *Politiikka*, 64(1). <https://doi.org/10.37452/politiikka.109455>

Bernardi, L., Mattila, M., Papageorgiou, A., & Rapeli, L. (2022). Down But Not Yet Out: Depression, Political Efficacy, and Voting. *Political Psychology*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/pops.12837>

Christensen, H. S., Leino, M., Setälä, M., & Strandberg, K. (2022). Knowledge, Trust or Perspectives? A Causal Mediation Analysis of How a Citizens' Jury Affected Voting Intentions in the General Public. *Swiss Political Science Review*, 28(3), 516–535. <https://doi.org/10.1111/spsr.12513>

Christensen, H. S., Huttunen, J., Malmberg, F., & Silagadze, N. (2022). Unequal Inequalities: How participatory inequalities affect democratic legitimacy. *European Political Science Review*. <https://doi.org/10.31235/osf.io/rukh8>

Christensen, H. S., & Saikkonen, I. (2022). The lure of populism: a conjoint experiment examining the interplay between demand and supply side factors. *Political Research Exchange*, 4(1). <https://doi.org/10.1080/2474736X.2022.2109493>

Gherghina, S., & Silagadze, N. (2022). Selective Equality: Social Democratic Parties and the Referendums on Same-Sex Marriage in Eastern Europe. *Europe-Asia Studies*, 74(1), 140–158. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09668136.2021.1902481>

Grönlund, K., Herne, K., Jäske, M., & Värttö, M. (2022). Can politicians and citizens deliberate together? Evidence from a local deliberative mini-public. *Scandinavian Political Studies*, 45(4), 410–432. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-9477.12231>

Grönlund, K., & Herne, K. (2022). Research Methods in Deliberative Democracy. In S. A. Ercan, H. Asenbaum, N. Curato, & R. F. Mendonça (Eds.), *Deliberative Democracy*. Oxford University Press: Oxford. <https://doi.org/10.1093/oso/9780192848925.001.0001>

Gunko, R., Rapeli, L., Vuorisalo, T., Scheinin, M., & Karell, P. (2022). Does Water Quality Matter for Life Quality? A Study of the Impact of Water Quality on Well-being in a Coastal Community. *Environmental Management*, 70(3), 464–474. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00267-022-01673-0>

Gunko, R., Rapeli, L., & Karell, P. (2022). Striving with global stress on a local level. Has the COVID-19 pandemic changed the relationship between people and nature? *Sustainability*, 14(15), 9496. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su14159496>

Gunko, R., Rapeli, L., Scheinin, M., Vuorisalo, T., & Karell, P. (2022). How accurate is citizen science? Evaluating public assessment of coastal water quality. *Environmental Policy and Governance*, 32(2), 149–157. <https://doi.org/10.1002/eet.1975>

Karv, T., Backström, K., & Strandberg, K. (2022). Consultative referendums and democracy - assessing the short-term effects on political support of a local level referendum. *Local Government Studies*, 1–30. <https://doi.org/10.1080/03003930.2022.2047029>

Karv, T., Lindell, M., & Rapeli, L. (2022). How Context Matters: The Significance of Political Homogeneity and Language for Political Efficacy. *Scandinavian Political Studies*, 45(1), 46–67. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-9477.12215>

Karv, T., & Strandberg, K. (2022). Lowered Expectations and Shifting Standards? - Two Survey Experiments exploring Neo-populist Political Scandals and the Perceived Trustworthiness of Politicians. *Scandinavian Political Studies*, 45(2), 178–201. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-9477.12221>

Kekkonen, A., Suuronen, A., Kawecki, D., & Strandberg, K. (2022). Puzzles in affective polarization research: party attitudes, partisan social distance, and multiple party identification. *Frontiers in Political Science*, 4. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpos.2022.920567>

Rapeli, L. (2022). Accuracy of Self-Assessments of Political Sophistication. In Nørgaard Kristensen, N. Denk, T. Olson, M. & T. Solhaug (eds.), *Perspectives on Political Awareness: Conceptual, Theoretical and Methodological Issues* (pp. 97–114). Springer: Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-90394-7_6

Rapeli, L. (2022). What is the best proxy for political knowledge in surveys? *PLoS ONE*, 17(8), e0272530. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0272530>

Rapeli, L., Papageorgiou, A., & Mattila, M. (2022). When life happens: the impact of life events on turnout. *Political Studies* (ahead of print). <https://doi.org/10.1177/00323217211064579>

Rapeli, L., & Söderlund, P. (2022). Does sports success increase government support? Voter (ir)rationality in a multiparty context. *Research and Politics*, 9(3). <https://doi.org/10.1177/20531680221122369>

Rapeli, L., & von Schoultz, Å. (2022). Personal or impersonal evaluations? Political Sophistication and Citizen Conceptions of the Democratic Process. *Government & Opposition*. (Ahead of print). <https://doi.org/10.1017/gov.2021.59>

Saikkonen, I., & Christensen, H. S. (2022). Guardians of Democracy or Passive Bystanders? A Conjoint Experiment on Elite Transgressions of Democratic Norms. *Political Research Quarterly*, 0(0). <https://doi.org/10.1177/10659129211073592>

Silagadze, N. (2022). La Démocratie Directe Inhibitrice de Changement? [Does Direct Democracy Prevent Change?]. In R. Mag-

ni-Berton & L. Morel (Eds.), *Démocraties Directes* [Handbook on Direct Democracy] (pp. 173–184). Bruylant: Brussels.

Silagadze, N., Christensen, H. S., Sirén, R., & Grönlund, K. (2022). Perceptions of Inequality and Political Participation: The Moderating Role of Ideology. *Political Studies Review*, 0(0). <https://doi.org/10.1177/14789299221082037>

Strandberg, K., Leino, M., Lindell, M., Christensen, H. S., & Setälä, M. (2022). Citizens' Intertemporal Perspectives on Municipal Mergers and the role of Deliberation for these. *Forthcoming Journal of Contemporary European Studies*, 1–15. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14782804.2022.2028132>

Tuominen, L., Helle, S., Helanterä, H., Karell, P., Rapeli, L., Richmond, D., Vuorisalo, T., & Brommer, J. (2022). Structural equation modeling reveals decoupling of ecological and self-perceived outcomes in a garden box social-ecological system. *Scientific Reports*, 12, 6425. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-022-10178-z>

Other publications

Airos, M., Ahlqvist, T., Knudsen, M., Mutanen, A., Rapeli, L., Schauman, J., Setälä, M., & Taylor, A. (2022). Foresight and future generations in legislative processes, institutions and practices. Publikationsserie för statsrådets utrednings- och forskningsverksamhet 2022: 66. Statsrådets kansli: Helsingfors. <http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-383-208-4>

Huttunen, J. (2022). Young people, democracy and political participation: four perspectives on younger citizens' democratic engagement in Finland. Åbo Akademi University. <https://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-12-4193-2>

Karv, T., & Backström, J. (2022). Svenskfinland i pandemitider: Resultat från den finlandssvenska medborgarpanelen Barometern 2020–2022. Institutet för samhällsforskning vid Åbo Akademi. <https://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-12-4210-6>

Lindell, M., & Strandberg, K. (2022). The Deliberative Type? The Role of Personality Traits in Experiences of Public deliberation. *ConstDelib Working Paper Series*, 19, 1–17.

The Samforsk team

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Find out more

For more information about Samforsk please visit our webpage at www.abo.fi/en/samforsk

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