

# Ruben Berge Mathisen

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Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Department of Comparative Politics  
University of Bergen (UiB) | Christies Gate 15. | Bergen, Norway

✉ [Ruben.Mathisen@uib.no](mailto:Ruben.Mathisen@uib.no) ☎ +47 94 84 95 34 🐦 [rubenbmathisen](https://twitter.com/rubenbmathisen) 🌐 [rubenmathisen.com](https://rubenmathisen.com) | Updated: 08 Oct 2024

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## PERSONAL DETAILS

Born: 13 August 1994

Parental leave: 2022 (January-April; October-December)

Languages: Norwegian (native), English (fluent)

## EDUCATION

### **PhD in Comparative Politics, University of Bergen** 2018-2023

Thesis Title: Economic Inequality and Political Power in Norway

Main Supervisor: Yvette Peters (UiB)

Co-supervisors: Cornelius Cappelen (UiB) and Martin Gilens (UCLA)

### **Master's degree in Comparative Politics, University of Bergen** 2016-2018

Thesis Title: A Postmaterialist Explanation for Homophobia in Africa: Multilevel Analysis of Attitudes Towards Homosexuals in 33 African Countries

Supervisor: Siri Gloppen (UiB)

Committee: Tor Midtbø (UiB) and Tore Wig (UiO)

Grade result: A

### **Bachelor's degree in Comparative Politics, University of Bergen** 2013-2016

Thesis Title: Watchdog or Lapdog? The Private and Public Media in the Build-up to the 2003 US War on Iraq.

Supervisor: Siri Gloppen (UiB)

Grade result: A

## PUBLICATIONS

**Mathisen, Ruben.** 2024. "The Influence Gap: Unequal Policy Responsiveness to Men and Women"

*Journal of Politics*, 1-30 [pdf]

**Mathisen, Ruben., Schakel, W., Hense, S., Elsässer, L., Persson, M., & Pontusson, H. J.** 2023. "Unequal Responsiveness and Government Partisanship in Northwest Europe".

In *Unequal Democracies*, edited by Noam Lupu and Jonas Pontusson, Cambridge University Press. [pdf]

**Mathisen, Ruben. & Peters. Y. 2023. "Political Participation and Unequal Representation: Addressing the Endogeneity Problem".**

In *Unequal Democracies*, edited by Noam Lupu and Jonas Pontusson, Cambridge University Press. [pdf]

**Mathisen, Ruben. 2023. "Taxing the 1 percent: Public Opinion vs. Public Policy".**

*British Journal of Political Science*, 1-17 [pdf]

**Mathisen, Ruben. 2023. "Affluence and Influence in a Social Democracy"**

*American Political Science Review*, 117(2), 751-758 [pdf]

#### IN THE PIPELINE

**Helliesen, M., Mathisen, R., Peters, Y. "Political Representation and Equality"**

Under contract, as part of Oxford Handbook of Norwegian Politics.

**Mathisen, R. "Political Inequality and Coincidental Representation"**

Under review

**Cappelen, C. Dahlberg, S. Mathisen, R. "Mistakes in the Welfare State: How Beliefs about False Positives and False Negatives Shape Social Preferences"**

Under review

**Mathisen, R. "Rising Economic Inequality Since 1980: On Whose Watch?"**

Presented at MPSA 2024 in Chicago

**Haugsgjerd, A., Linde, J., Mathisen, R. "Vehicles of democratic dissatisfaction? Populist Radical Right Electoral Success and Satisfaction with Democracy in Europe 1976-2019".**

Working paper

**Tatham, M., Mathisen, R., Schaffer, L., Anchustegui, I. "Taming the Yellow Vests? Participation, compensation, and mobilization against renewable energy"**

Working paper

**Mathisen, R. "Taxation without Representation? Public Opinion and Taxation in Western Democracies"**

Working paper

**Cappelen, C., Mathisen, R., Peters, Y. "Understanding popular support for policies to distribute wealth more equally. Evidence from a survey experiment in 15 countries"**

Working paper

**Mathisen, R. "Growing Ideological Polarization Between Teenage Boys and Girls: Evidence from Norwegian High Schools"**

Working paper

**Mathisen, R. "Too unequal? Maximally Acceptable Levels of Economic Inequality in the Public Mind"**

Ongoing work

## DATASETS

**Mathisen, Ruben B. 2022. "Replication Data for: Affluence and Influence in a Social Democracy." Harvard Dataverse.**

Public opinion and government policy decisions matched for 603 specific policy proposals in Norway. [\[link\]](#)

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in Comparative Politics, University of Bergen 2023-2027**

With my own project, called "Understanding Political Inequality in Advanced Democracies"

**External Grader for University of Agder 2020-2023**

Course: Research Methods in Social Science (ME-100)

**External Exam Evaluator for University of Tromsø 2021**

Course: Applied Methods (BED-2046)

**Research Assistant to Professor Siri Gloppen, University of Bergen 2016-2018**

Project: "Political determinants of sexual and reproductive health"

**Research Assistant to Professor Michaël Tatham, University of Bergen 2017**

Project: "The Causes of Power Dispersion and its Consequences on Climate Change Policy"

**Research Assistant to Professor Lise Rakner, University of Bergen 2016-2017**

Project: "Tax bargains in unlikely places: The politics of Zambian mining taxes"

**Research Assistant to Erla Løvseth, University of Bergen 2016**

Project: PhD project on climate policy

## TEACHING

**Data Analysis and Programming for Social Scientists (Sampol237), University of Bergen 2024**

Undergraduate course, for which I have sole responsibility [\[link\]](#)

**Better Data Visualization (using R) (Sampol906), University of Bergen 2024**

PhD course, for which I had sole responsibility [\[link\]](#)

**Political Inequality in Democracy (Sampol388), University of Bergen 2024**

Postgraduate course, for which I have co-responsibility together with Yvette Peters  
[link]

**Societal security and crisis management (Sampol611), University of Bergen** 2023

Postgraduate course, 1 lecture on quantitative methods [link]

**Field Methodology: Political Field Investigation (Sampol607), University of Bergen** 2022

Postgraduate course, 2 lectures on quantitative methods [link]

**Methods in the Social Sciences (Met102), University of Bergen** 2019-2021

Undergraduate course, lecture series on quantitative methods (7 lectures per semester;  
5 semesters) [link]

**Political ideologies (Sampol103), University of Bergen** 2019-2020

Undergraduate course, lecture on the role of money in politics (1 lecture per semester;  
2 semesters) [link]

## TALKS

**“Hvem lytter politikerne til? [To whom do politicians listen?]”**

Askøy Senioruniversitet, Bergen, 30 January 2024

**“Hvem har innflytelse i norsk politikk? [Who has influence in Norwegian politics?]”**

Teachers’s Day, University of Bergen, 26 January 2024

**“Økonomisk og politisk makt i Norge [Economic inequality and political power in Norway]”**

Manifest Media, Oslo, 23 January 2024

**“Hvordan lage grafer som fanger oppmerksomhet? [How to make charts that catch people’s attention]”**

NORCE, Bergen, 14 September 2023

**“Økonomisk Ulikhet og Politisk Makt i Norge [Economic inequality and political power in Norway]”**

Kommunesektorens Organisasjon (KS), Bergen, 20 September 2022

**“Kule ting vi gjør i statsvitenskapen [Cool things we do in political science]”**

Presentation for incoming undergraduate students, Bergen, 17 August 2022

**“Taxing the 1 percent: Public Opinion vs. Public Policy”**

DIGSSCORE Tuesday seminar, Bergen, 22 February 2022.

**“Taxing the 1 percent: Public Opinion vs. Public Policy”**

Taxation and Social Policy Group (University of Birmingham), Online, 30 November 2021.

**“Økonomisk Ulikhet og Politisk Makt i Norge [Economic inequality and political power in Norway]”**

Sampolkonferansen, Bergen, 24 September 2021. [[video](#)]

**“Attitudes towards homosexuals in Africa”**

Bergen Global, Bergen, 5 March 2019.

MEDIA

**Difor blir ikkje vanlege folk høyrde [Here’s why ordinary people are not heard]**

Interview in newspaper, *Nationen*, 14 April 2024 [[link](#)]

**Milliardærenes makt over demokratiet [Billionaires’ power over democracy]**

Interview on Podcast, *Mímir & Marsdal*, 4 Januar 2024 [[link](#)]

**Hvad de rige gør, er altid det rigtige [What the rich do is always right]**

Interview in newspaper, *Weekendavisen*, 23 October 2023 [[link](#)]

**“Politikken går de rikes vei [Policy follows the preferences of the rich]”**

Article in magazine, *LO Aktuelt*, 23 October 2023. [[link](#)]

**“Valg 2023: Fire av ti lar være å stemme. Dette er gruppene som oftest blir sittende hjemme [Election 2023: Four out of ten abstain from voting. These are the groups that most often stay home.]”**

Interview in newspaper, *Bergens Tidende [Times of Bergen]*, 3 September 2023. [[link](#)]

**“Valg 2023:“Hva skal jeg stemme?” Her får du hjelp! [Election 2023: “What should I vote?” Get help here!]”**

Interview in newspaper, *Bergens Tidende [Times of Bergen]*, 30 August 2023. [[link](#)]

**“Strid om partifinansiering [Disagreement about party financing]”**

Debate on TV, *NRK Dagsnytt 18*, 19 July 2023. [[video](#)]

**“Vanlige folk har liten innflytelse på politikken [Ordinary people have little influence on policy]”**

Article in newspaper, *Bergens Tidende [Times of Bergen]*, 26 May 2023. [[link](#)]

**“Makt er ikke likt fordelt [Power is not equally distributed]”**

Editorial (by Mari Skurdal), *Klassekampen [The Class Struggle]*, 9 May 2023. [[link](#)]

**“Vanlige folks meninger [The opinions of ordinary people]”**

Interview in newspaper, *Dagens Næringsliv [Norwegian Business Daily]*, 8 May 2023. [[link](#)]

**“Stemmerett for 16-åringer [Voting rights for 16 year olds]”**

Debate on TV, *NRK Dagsnytt 18*, 8. May 2023. [[video](#)]

**“Rike og velutdannede vinner i norsk politikk [The rich and well-educated are winning in Norwegian politics]”**

Article in newspaper, *Dagens Næringsliv* [Norwegian Business Daily], 17 August 2022. [\[link\]](#)

**“Rike har mest politisk innflytelse [The rich have the most political influence]”**

Interview on TV, *NRK Nyhetsmorgen*, 17 August 2022. [\[video\]](#)

**“Fra penger til makt [From money to power]”**

Interview in magazine, *Stoff Magasin*, 24 May 2022. Available at [\[link\]](#)

ROLES

<b>Faculty Board Member, Department of Social Sciences (UiB)</b>	<b>2021</b>
Representative for Group B (Temporary Staff)	
<b>Faculty Board Deputy Member, Department of Social Sciences (UiB)</b>	<b>2020-2021</b>
Representative for Group B (Temporary Staff)	
<b>Programme Board for the PhD Programme, Department of Social Sciences (UiB)</b>	<b>2019-2021</b>
PhD Candidate Member	

CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

<b>NOPSA Congress, Bergen</b>	<b>2024</b>
<b>MPSA Annual Meeting, Chicago</b>	<b>2024</b>
<b>APSA Annual Meeting, Montreal</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>The Politics of Inequality Workshop, Bergen</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>Unequal Democracies Workshop, Geneva</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>The Roots of Political Inequality Workshop, Paris</b>	<b>2019</b>

GRANTS

<b>Meltzer Research Fund Project Grant</b>	<b>2019</b>
For travel abroad. Grant ID: 22635	
<b>Meltzer Research Fund Project Grant</b>	<b>2018</b>
For hiring research assistant. Grant ID: 19225	

AWARDS

<b>Head of Department’s Publication Award</b>	<b>2023</b>
For the article “Affluence and Influence in a Social Democracy”. Awarded by Department of Comparative Politics (University of Bergen)	
<b>Best Data Visualization using ESS data</b>	<b>2023</b>

Awarded by the Norwegian Coordinator Team of the European Social Survey

#### OTHER EXPERIENCE

##### **Fieldwork in Zambia**

2017

Purpose: Qualitative fieldwork and implementation of elite survey of Zambian MPs.

##### **Christian Michelsen Institute Student Affiliation**

2016-2018

#### REFERENCE PERSONS

##### **Cornelius Cappelen**

Professor, UiB, phone: 55 58 97 53, email: [Cornelius.Cappelen@uib.no](mailto:Cornelius.Cappelen@uib.no)

##### **Yvette Peters**

Professor, UiB, phone: 55 58 94 56, email: [Yvette.Peters@uib.no](mailto:Yvette.Peters@uib.no)