

Asmus Leth Olsen  
Professor  
Department of Political Science  
Public Administration and Policy  
**Postal address:**  
Øster Farimagsgade 5  
1353  
København K  
**Email:** ajlo@ifs.ku.dk  
**Mobile:** +4529848692  
**Phone:** +4535323401  
**Web address:** <https://www.polsci.ku.dk>

## Publications

### **Behavioral Public Administration: Past, Present, and Future Aspirations**

Olsen, Asmus Leth, 2023, *Frontier Research in Behavioral Public Administration*. Chen, Z. (ed.). Singapore: Springer  
Singapore, p. 11-16

### **Citizens' economic recovery models for a pandemic**

Olsen, Asmus Leth & Woller, A., 2023, In: PLoS ONE. 18, 2, 13 p., 0266531.

### **When blame avoidance backfires: Responses to performance framing and outgroup scapegoating during the COVID-19 pandemic**

Porumbescu, G., Moynihan, D., Anastasopoulos, J. & Olsen, Asmus Leth, 2023, In: *Governance*. 36, 3, p. 779-803 25 p.

### **Is a disease leader attractive? Six tests of whether the COVID-19 pandemic affected follower preferences for attractiveness, health and other traits in political and non-political leaders**

Laustsen, L. & Olsen, Asmus Leth, 2022, In: *Leadership Quarterly*. 33, 6, 101574.

### **The Unequal Distribution of Opportunity: A National Audit Study of Bureaucratic Discrimination in Primary School Access**

Olsen, Asmus Leth, Kyhse-Andersen, J. H. & Moynihan, D., 2022, In: *American Journal of Political Science*. 66, 3, p. 587-603 17 p.

### **Are managers susceptible to framing effects? An experimental study of professional judgment of performance metrics**

Fuenzalida, J., Van Ryzin, G. G. & Olsen, Asmus Leth, 2021, In: *International Public Management Journal*. 24, 3, p. 314-329 16 p.

### **Moral dilemmas and trust in leaders during a global health crisis**

Everett, J. A. C., Colombatto, C., Awad, E., Boggio, P., Bos, B., Brady, W. J., Chawla, M., Chituc, V., Chung, D., Drupp, M. A., Goel, S., Grosskopf, B., Hjorth, F., Ji, A., Kealoha, C., Kim, J. S., Lin, Y., Ma, Y., Maréchal, M. A., Mancinelli, F. & 17 others, Mathys, C., Olsen, Asmus Leth, Pearce, G., Prosser, A. M. B., Reggev, N., Sabin, N., Senn, J., Shin, Y. S., Sinnott-Armstrong, W., Sjästad, H., Strick, M., Sul, S., Tummers, L., Turner, M., Yu, H., Zoh, Y. & Crockett, M. J., 2021, In: *Nature Human Behaviour*. 5, august, p. 1074-1088 15 p.

### **Behavioral Public Performance: How People Make Sense of Government Metrics**

James, O., Moynihan, D., Olsen, Asmus Leth & Van Ryzin, G., 2020, Cambridge University Press. 120 p.

### **Reducing Bias in Citizens' Perception of Crime Rates: Evidence From a Field Experiment on Burglary Prevalence**

Larsen, M. V. & Olsen, Asmus Leth, 2020, In: *Journal of Politics*. 82, 2, p. 753-756 6 p.

### **Sustaining Honesty in Public Service: The Role of Selection**

Barfort, S., Harmon, Nikolaj Arpe, Hjorth, Frederik Georg & Olsen, Asmus Leth, Nov 2019, In: *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*. 11, 4, p. 96-123 28 p.

### **Behavioral Dishonesty in the Public Sector**

Olsen, Asmus Leth, Hjorth, Frederik Georg, Harmon, Nikolaj Arpe & Barfort, S., 17 Oct 2019, In: *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*. 29, 4, p. 572-590 19 p.

### **Microbrook, Mesobrook, Macrobrook**

Jilke, S., Olsen, Asmus Leth, Resh, W. & Siddiki, S., 2019, In: *Perspectives on Public Management and Governance*. 2, 4, p. 245-253

### **Public Sector Communication and Performance Management: Drawing Inferences from Public Performance Numbers**

Olsen, Asmus Leth, 1 Feb 2018, *Public Sector Communication*. 24 p.

### **Precise Performance: Do Citizens Rely on Numerical Precision as a Cue of Confidence?**

Olsen, Asmus Leth, 1 Jan 2018, Department of Political Science, University of Copenhagen, 16 p.

### **Human Interest or Hard Numbers? Experiments on Citizens' Selection, Exposure, and Recall of Performance Information**

Olsen, Asmus Leth, 1 May 2017, In: *Public Administration Review*. 77, 3, p. 408-420 12 p.

### **Behavioral Public Administration: Combining Insights from Public Administration and Psychology**

Grimmelikhuijsen, S., Jilke, S., Olsen, Asmus Leth & Tummers, L., 1 Jan 2017, In: *Public Administration Review*. 77, 1, p. 45-56 12 p.

### **Behavioral public administration: Connecting psychology with european public administration research**

Olsen, Asmus Leth, Tummers, L., Grimmelikhuijsen, S. & Jilke, S., 1 Jan 2017, *The Palgrave Handbook of Public Administration and Management in Europe*. Palgrave Macmillan, p. 1121-1133 13 p.

### **Citizens and public performance measures: Making sense of performance information**

James, O. & Olsen, Asmus Leth, 1 Jan 2017, *Experiments in Public Management Research: Challenges and Contributions*. Cambridge University Press, p. 270-290 21 p.

### **Adfærdsadministration og tallenes psykologi**

Olsen, Asmus Leth, 2017, In: *Tidsskriftet Økonomi & Politik, DJØF*. 90, 4, p. 15-26 11 p.

### **Citizens and Public Performance Measures: Making Sense of Performance Information**

Olsen, Asmus Leth & James, O., 2017, (Accepted/In press) *Experiments in Public Management Research: Challenges and Contributions*. James, O., Jilke, S. & Van Ryzin, G. (eds.). Cambridge University Press, p. 270-290 21 p.

### **Compared to What? How Social and Historical Reference Points Affect Citizens' Performance Evaluations**

Olsen, Asmus Leth, 2017, In: *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*. 27, 4, p. 562-580 19 p.

### **Hvem kan forudsige, hvem der bliver borgmester?**

Larsen, M. V. & Olsen, Asmus Leth, 2017, *KV13: Analyser af kommunalvalget 2013*. Elklit, J., Kjær, U. & Elmelund-Præstekær, C. (eds.). Odense: Syddansk Universitet, p. 291-304 (University of Southern Denmark Studies in History and Social Sciences, Vol. 546).

### **Meningsmålinger under valgkampen**

Dahlgård, J. O., Hjorth, Frederik Georg, Larsen, M. V. & Olsen, Asmus Leth, 2017, *Oprør fra udkanten: Folketingsvalget 2015*. Møller Hansen, K. & Stubager, R. (eds.). København: Djøf Forlag, p. 367-384 (Studier i dansk politik; No. 5).

### **Responding to problems: actions are rewarded, regardless of the outcome**

Olsen, Asmus Leth, 2017, In: *Public Management Review*. 19, 9, p. 1352-1364 13 p.

### **Spending and cutting are two different worlds: experimental evidence from Danish local councils**

Houlberg, K., Olsen, Asmus Leth & Pedersen, Lene Holm, 2 Sep 2016, In: *Local Government Studies*. 42, 5, p. 821-841 21 p.

**Gedragbestuurskunde: Combineren van inzichten uit de bestuurskunde en de psychologie**

Jilke, S., Olsen, Asmus Leth, Tummers, L. & Grimmelikhuisen, S., 2016, In: Bestuurskunde. 24, 3, p. 9-16 7 p.

**Introduction to the Virtual Issue on Behavioral Public Administration**

Tummers, L., Olsen, Asmus Leth, Jilke, S. & Grimmelikhuisen, S., 2016, In: Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory. Virtual issue, Vol.xx, xx, p. 1-3 3 p., 1.

**Forsker: Landsbydjøfere skal nu administrere staten**

Olsen, Asmus Leth, 5 Oct 2015, In: Politiken.

**Et enkelt menneskes død er en katastrofe. Hundredetusinde menneskers død er blot en statistik**

Olsen, Asmus Leth, 10 Sep 2015, In: Politiken.

**A Formal Model of Corruption, Dishonesty and Selection into Public Service**

Barfort, S., Harmon, Nikolaj Arpe, Hjorth, Frederik Georg & Olsen, Asmus Leth, 2015, 16 p.

**Citizen (Dis)satisfaction: An Experimental Equivalence Framing Study**

Olsen, Asmus Leth, 2015, In: Public Administration Review. 75, 3, p. 469-478 10 p.

**Compared to What? How Social and Historical Reference Points Affect Citizens' Performance Evaluations**

Olsen, Asmus Leth, 2015, 33 p.

**Cross-National Yardstick Comparisons: A Choice Experiment on a Forgotten Voter Heuristic**

Hansen, Kasper Møller, Olsen, Asmus Leth & Bech, M., 2015, In: Political Behavior. 37, 4, p. 767-789 23 p., 1.

**Dishonesty and Selection into Public Service in Denmark: Who Runs the World's Least Corrupt Public Sector?**

Barfort, S., Harmon, Nikolaj Arpe, Hjorth, Frederik Georg & Olsen, Asmus Leth, 2015, 56 p. (University of Copenhagen. Institute of Economics. Discussion Papers (Online); No. 12, Vol. 2015).

**Human Interest or Hard Numbers? Experiments on Citizens' Selection, Exposure, and Recall of Performance Information**

Olsen, Asmus Leth, 2015, (Submitted) Copenhagen: Department of Political Science, University of Copenhagen, 34 p.

**Negative Performance Information Causes Asymmetrical Evaluations and Elicits Strong Responsibility Attributions**

Olsen, Asmus Leth, 2015.

**The Appropriate Response to Performance Information by Citizens: A Large-scale Experiment with Local Politicians**

Olsen, Asmus Leth, 2015, (Submitted).

**The Numerical Psychology of Performance Information: Implications for Citizens, Managers, and Policy Makers.**

Olsen, Asmus Leth, 2015, In: Public Performance and Management Review. 39, 1, p. 100-115 16 p.

**"Simon Said," We Didn't Jump**

Olsen, Asmus Leth, 2015, In: Public Administration Review. 75, 2, p. 325-326 2 p.

**Order in Chaos: Ballot Order Effects in a Post-Conflict Election?**

Hansen, B. T. & Olsen, Asmus Leth, Nov 2014, In: Research & Politics. 1, 3

**Political hypocrisy: The effect of political scandals on candidate evaluations**

Bhatti, Y., Hansen, Kasper Møller & Olsen, Asmus Leth, Oct 2013, In: Acta Politica. 48, 4, p. 408-428 21 p.

**Leftmost-digit-bias in an enumerated public sector? An experiment on citizens' judgment of performance information**  
Olsen, Asmus Leth, May 2013, In: Judgment and Decision Making. 8, 3, p. 365–371

**Absolut flertal og forvaltningens dagsordenssættende indflydelse - er der en kausal sammenhæng?**  
Olsen, Asmus Leth, 2013, In: Politica - Tidsskrift for politisk videnskab. 45, 2, p. 139-158, 233

**Kommunalpolitikeres syn på statslig styring, enkeltsager, embedsmænd og egen indflydelse i perioden 1995-2013**  
Olsen, Asmus Leth, 2013, In: Oekonomi og Politik. 86, 4, p. 18-32

**Poligak: Hvordan politikerne prøver at snøre dig - og hvorfor du næsten altid snyder dig selv**  
Hjorth, Frederik Georg & Olsen, Asmus Leth, 2013, København: Poligak. 217 p.

**The politics of digits: Evidence of odd taxation**  
Olsen, Asmus Leth, 2013, In: Public Choice. 154, 1-2, p. 59-73

**Betyder ændringen i skatteprocenten noget for tilslutningen til borgmesterpartiet? Resultater fra danske kommuner**  
Bhatti, Y., Hansen, Kasper Møller & Olsen, Asmus Leth, 2012, In: Politica. 44, 4, p. 563-581

**The effect of private life scandals on candidate evaluations**  
Bhatti, Y., Hansen, Kasper Møller & Olsen, Asmus Leth, 2012.

**From Failure to Learning: A Regression Discontinuity Design**  
Olsen, Asmus Leth, Apr 2011. 27 p.

**Administrative Professionals and the Diffusion of Innovations: The case of citizen service centres**  
Bhatti, Y., Olsen, Asmus Leth & Pedersen, Lene Holm, 2011, In: Public Administration. 89, 2, p. 577-594 17 p.

**Anm. af Lars Bo Kaspersen, Joachim Lund & Ole Helby Petersen (red.): Offentligt eller privat? Historiske og aktuelle udfordringer i politik og økonomi. DJØF, 2010**  
Olsen, Asmus Leth, 2011, In: Oekonomi og Politik. 84, 2, p. 83-85 3 p.

**Djøferne gør en forskel – men hvorfor?**  
Bhatti, Y., Olsen, Asmus Leth & Pedersen, Lene Holm, 2011, In: Samfundsoekonomen. 3, p. 15-19 5 p.

**Keeping the Lights On: Citizen Service Centers in Municipal Amalgamations**  
Bhatti, Y., Olsen, Asmus Leth & Pedersen, Lene Holm, 2011, In: Administration in Social Work. 35, 1, p. 3-19 17 p.

**Hvorfor politologien bør bekymre sig om sociale netværk: Anm. af Nicholas A. Christakis and James H. Fowler. Connected - The Surprising Power of Our Social Networks and How They Shape Our Lives: Little, Brown and Company, 2009**  
Olsen, Asmus Leth, 2010, In: Politik. 13, 2, p. 72-73

**Kommunalreformens konsekvenser: Kommunalpolitikernes rolle, borgernes lokaldemokratiske opfattelse og den administrative organisering**  
Olsen, Asmus Leth, 2010, In: Tidsskriftet Politik. 13, 3, p. 38-48 11 p.

**Municipal Amalgamations and the Democratic Functioning of Local Councils: The Case of The Danish 2007 Structural Reform**  
Kjær, U., Hjelmar, U. & Olsen, Asmus Leth, 2010, In: Local Government Studies. 36, 4, p. 569-585 17 p.

**Should I Stay or Should I Go Now? Voluntary Retirement from Danish Local Government.**  
Hjelmar, U., Olsen, Asmus Leth & Holm Pedersen, L., 2010, In: Scandinavian Political Studies. 33, 4, p. 402-416 15 p.

### **Kommunalpolitikernes rolle og råderum**

Dahlgaard, J. O., Hjelmar, U., Olsen, Asmus Leth & Pedersen, Lene Holm, 2009, Kbh.: AKF-Forlaget. 102 p.

### **Kommunalpolitikernes rolle og råderum**

Dahlgaard, J. O., Hjelmar, U., Olsen, Asmus Leth & Pedersen, Lene Holm, 2009, AKF-Forlaget.

### **The Effects of Administrative Professionals on Contracting Out**

Bhatti, Y., Olsen, Asmus Leth & Pedersen, Lene Holm, 2009, In: Governance. An International Journal of Policy, Administration and Institutions. 22, 1, p. 121-137 17 p.

## **Activities**

### **Sustaining Honesty in Public Service: The Role of Selection.**

Olsen, Asmus Leth (Other)

Apr 2019

### **Sustaining Honesty in Public Service: The Role of Selection**

Olsen, Asmus Leth (Other)

Mar 2019

### **Sustaining Honesty in Public Service: The Role of Selection**

Olsen, Asmus Leth (Other)

Feb 2019

### **Hans Reitzels Forlag (Publisher)**

Olsen, Asmus Leth (Editor)

2019

### **A Non-Corrupt Public Sector: If You Can Keep It: Multi-Country Study of Honesty**

Olsen, Asmus Leth (Other)

Apr 2018

### **The Psychology of Performance Numbers in the Public Sector**

Olsen, Asmus Leth (Other)

Apr 2018

### **Experiments in Behavioral Public Administration: The Case of Citizens Perception of Public Sector Performance**

Olsen, Asmus Leth (Other)

Feb 2018

### **Lost Ark Found: A Century Old Psychology of Performance Information**

Olsen, Asmus Leth (Other)

Feb 2018

### **Behavioral Public Administration and The Psychology of Performance Information: An Overview of Recent Experimental Findings: Graduate School of Public Administration, Seoul National University, South Korea**

Olsen, Asmus Leth (Invited speaker)

14 Feb 2017

### **Tallenes magt? Hvad psykologien har at sige om borgernes fortolkning af (finans-)politiske tal: Oplæg hos Samuelsen - Finanspolitisk Netværk**

Olsen, Asmus Leth (Invited speaker)

26 Jan 2017

**At forklare sig med og forsvare sig imod tal: Oplæg for Københavns Kommune**

Olsen, Asmus Leth (Invited speaker)

17 Nov 2016

**Lost Ark Found: A Behavioral Approach to Performance Information: Behavioral Public Administration: Understanding key public administration challenges by combining insights from psychology and public administration Academy Colloquium at the Dutch Royal Academy of Arts and Sciences, Amsterdam, Holland.**

Olsen, Asmus Leth (Invited speaker)

4 Nov 2016

**At forklare sig med og forsvare sig imod tal: Morgenmøde hos DEA**

Olsen, Asmus Leth (Invited speaker)

10 Oct 2016

**At forklare sig med og forsvare sig imod tal: Mini Masterclass 2B - Nye svar på offentlig ledelse i nøjsomhedens tidsalder, Master of Public Governance**

Olsen, Asmus Leth (Invited speaker)

27 Sep 2016

**The Psychology of Performance Information: An Overview of Recent Experimental Findings: Governance & Management Research Speaker Series The School of Public and Environmental Affairs University of Indiana at Bloomington, USA**

Olsen, Asmus Leth (Invited speaker)

26 Aug 2016

**Sustaining Honesty in Public Service: The Role of Selection. Who Runs the World's Least Corrupt Public Sector?: Seminar at the Center for Experimental and Behavioral Public Administration (CEBPA), Rutgers-Newark, USA**

Olsen, Asmus Leth (Invited speaker)

11 Aug 2016

**Gæsteophold ved Rutgers University**

Olsen, Asmus Leth (Participant)

6 Aug 2016 → 5 Sep 2016

**Mennesker, tal og politik: Oplæg på Politiken**

Olsen, Asmus Leth (Invited speaker)

15 Mar 2016

**Tallenes magt: Mennesker, tal og politik Hvad ved vi om borgernes fortolkning af politiske tal?: Oplæg hos Samuelsen - Gruppe for politisk kommunikation**

Olsen, Asmus Leth (Invited speaker)

20 Jan 2016

**The Numerical Psychology of Performance Information: A Collection of Results and Implications from Recent Experiments**

Olsen, Asmus Leth (Lecturer)

14 Oct 2014

**Temarække for gymnasieelever, Institut for Statskundskab (KU)**

Olsen, Asmus Leth (Lecturer)

7 Feb 2014

**Konference om "psykologi på kryds og tværs" i gymnasiet - N.Zahles Gymnasieskole**

Olsen, Asmus Leth (Lecturer)

5 Feb 2014

**Ræson Vidensfestival - Den Sorte Diamant**

Olsen, Asmus Leth (Lecturer)

25 Jan 2014

**ECPR Joint Sessions**

Olsen, Asmus Leth (Participant)

12 Apr 2011 → 17 Apr 2011