Denmark made a difficult decision in November 2020 to cull their farmed mink populations in order to reduce the likelihood of the spread of a unique mutation of the Covid-19 virus. The decision has been fraught with complexities that encompass many dimensions of well-being and sustainability.

The speakers gathered at this webinar will address a variety of sustainability and transitional challenges in the mink fur industry in Denmark. The aim is to broaden and deepen our understanding of interconnections amongst sustainability concerns that extend throughout Danish society. These include biogas and the circular economy, animal welfare and the industry setting in legal and global contexts. They have been charged with discussing sustainability and transition issues relating to the abrupt removal of virtually all farmed mink from Denmark.
Program

13.00 – 13.05  Welcome by Professor Brooks Kaiser  
University of Southern Denmark, MERE Group

13.05 – 13.30  Senior Adviser Henning Otte Hansen  
University of Copenhagen, Department of Food and Resource Economics

13.30 – 13.55  Senior Researcher Steen Henrik Møller  
Aarhus University, Department of Animal Science

13.55 – 14.05  Break

14.05 – 14.30  CEO Sune Aagot Sckerl  
Executive Director, LandboSyd

14.30 – 14.55  Professor Bent Ole Gram Mortensen  
University of Southern Denmark, Department of Law

14.55 – 15.00  Break

15.00 – 15.30  Panel Discussion with Associate Professor Eva Roth, SDU

About the webinar series

This is an inaugural webinar in a new Webinar Series on Sustainability, Resource Use and Transitions from the Management and Economics of Resources and the Environment (MERE) Group, at the Department of Sociology, Environmental and Business Economics (SEBE), University of Southern Denmark (SDU). The topics in this webinar series deal with tradeoffs and complex societal challenges from an academic perspective. The aim is to share knowledge and perspectives.

By participating in this webinar or others in the series, you agree to a code of conduct showing respect and appreciation across any potential divisions. Failure to comply will result in being removed from the webinar.
The speakers and panelists

**Henning Otte Hansen**, Senior Adviser at University of Copenhagen with 20 years of experience from the private business sector in the agricultural and food industry. Member of an expert group under the European Commission focusing on the structural development and the economic environment of agriculture and of the connected industries.

**Sune Aagot Sckerl**, CEO of LandboSyd, a progressive farmers’ association broadly involved in consulting within finance, plant breeding, the environment and pets. Former chairman of Genanvend Biomasse, which works to ensure recycling of organic residues and former board member of Biogas Danmark which works to solve difficult climate challenges and make food production more sustainable. Until 2019 area director of the business area BioRec at HedeDanmark.

**Bent Ole Gram Mortensen**, Professor at Department of Law, University of Southern Denmark, specializing in, among other things, Environmental and Energy Law and Sustainable Markets. Teaching in the fields of climate, environmental and energy law, receiving several awards for his activities. Has contributed to the mink debate with his extensive knowledge in the legal field and had 2020’s most read debate post in Altinget, writing about his view on the mink case and the rule of law.

**Steen Henrik Møller**, Senior Researcher at Department of Animal Science, Aarhus University, specializing in, among other things, health, welfare and production of mink. His extensive research on mink include tactical and operational management of the mink farms, aggregation of scientific evidence and practical experience into mink farm management systems and development of the Wel-Fur-Mink protocol. He is president and treasurer of the board of directors for the International Fur Animal Scientific Association and member of the board of directors of the Danish Fur Animal Research Foundation.

**Eva Roth**, Associate Professor of Economics at MERE, University of Southern Denmark. Long and diverse history of research experience in Danish and EU agricultural and marine resources, sustainability and transitions.

**Brooks Kaiser**, Professor of Economics at MERE, focused on long run sustainable development in resource-based communities. Research has focused on bioeconomic models that facilitate understanding of broader transitions, with emphasis on disruptions to natural capital from e.g. invasive species or new trade routes and purposes.