

Appendix A: Synopsis:

As a much-needed supplement to research on technological climate change solutions, this humanities-based project investigates how **experiences of climate change** emerged as a **'vernacular phenology'** — everyday expressions of engagements with “cyclical and seasonal natural occurrences” [1] — in the significant but not studied part of journalistic products that re-occurs on an annual basis; what here is termed **'seasonal journalism'** (e.g. articles on allergy every Spring). Almost all research on **climate change journalism** is on science or political news and aimed at understanding how journalistic norms and practices may impede or foster awareness and mobilization [2-4] or how such coverage relates to structures of domination [5-7]. By adding **new knowledge** on the climate as public negotiations “between the weather and human culture” [8], this project fills a **research gap** in two ways: it identifies an area of journalism that has received no scholarly attention and analyses this through the concept of phenology, a concept that is only beginning to emerge in the field of environmental humanities [1, 9-10], despite a recent move towards issues of temporality [11].

This **cross-disciplinary** project combines **journalism studies** and **environmental humanities** to address the **research question**: how and when does an awareness of shifts in the timings of nature relatable to climate change emerge in seasonal journalism in the period 1996-2021? Much journalism is closely aligned with political, cultural and natural seasonal rhythms within which recurring events are covered: the opening and closing of parliament, holidays and, not least, events and activities related to specific times of the year: heavy rain, droughts, foraging, planting vegetables etc. Writings linked to such natural events and rhythms reveal a **vernacular sense of phenology**; and given that “phenological events” are “among the most sensitive biological responses to climate change” [12], seasonal journalism constitutes a valuable set of phenological data that simultaneously reveals social responses to ecosystems.

A key **aim** is to understand how such a vernacular phenology gradually came to intertwine natural, cultural and political aspects as seen in the Danish newspaper *Information's* obituary over the Danish winter in 2019. “We are losing”, it read, not only a common memory about a season, a meteorological and cultural common event and a symbolic and concrete frame around our year, our high festivals, our lives and our time (my translation from Danish) [13].

It is the antecedents of such **explicit links between climate change and disruptions of well-known seasonal rhythms** that this project traces by identifying, framing and investigating seasonal journalism.

By analyzing journalism on either leisure activities or weather phenomena tied to seasonal changes, the project investigates and compares national and local online newspapers in two industrialized nations **Denmark and Australia** in the period from 1996 to 2021. Australia differs from Denmark by being a settler-nation placed in an ecologically vulnerable part of the Southern Hemisphere, by being heavily invested in the export of coal and, consequently, with much more polarized media landscape. The **online content** is available in the national Danish web archive (Netarkivet; 2005-) and the Australian Web Archive (1996-). Danish and Australian data will also be retrieved from the US-based Internet Archive (1996-), which is open access. Professor N. Brügger has granted access to data and methods, obtained through a pilot study of the Danish web's history at the Center for Humanities Computing at Aarhus University (CHCAA), that make it possible to work with **the stored web as aggregate data**. To the extent possible, these methods will also be applied to the material from the Australian Web Archive. In addition to distant readings, smaller time slices will be selected for more in-depth qualitative analyses around some of the COP climate-change meetings starting with COP3 (Kyoto, 1997).

The Team: The team consists of PI Henrik Bødker (HB), Michelle Bastian (MB), a native Australian and a senior lecturer within the environmental humanities at the University of Edinburgh, and two post.docs working on, respectively, the Danish and Australian case, and hired through an international call. The work is jointly overseen by HB and MB both of whom work on temporalities and climate change from within, respectively, journalism studies [14-16] and the intersection of time studies and environmental humanities [17-19].

Impact: This project adds significant new knowledge of how varying disruptions of seasonal shifts have played into an emergent awareness of climate change. Such an awareness is thought to be **vital for action**, especially by people largely insulated (e.g. by wealth) from some of the more extreme fall-outs of a changing climate.

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