

PHD.-DEFENCE

HOMEOWNER RESPONSES TO CLIMATE CHANGE: A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY OF HOW DANISH HOMEOWNERS UNDERSTAND AND ADAPT TO CLIMATE CHANGE

CAND.SCIENT.SOC. NINA BARON



During her studies, Nina Baron has researched how homeowners can and do respond to climate change and the ensuing risk of more extreme weather. The study was concerned with two main issues: (1) how homeowners perceive their own lives, their properties and their local area in relation to the effects of climate change, and (2) what makes homeowners renovate their homes in general and adapt them to climate change specifically?

Nina Baron's findings from the project fall into two main categories. Firstly, she argues that personal experience with single weather events and long-term dwelling in a landscape are the most important factors for how the homeowners respond to climate change. She further emphasises that those personal experiences are influenced and shaped by different types of water-managing technologies that either hide the effects of climate change or create a feeling of being able to overcome future climate problems by technological means. Secondly, she contributes with new knowledge about how we, on a more general level, can understand the actions of homeowners concerning their properties. With the concept of the 'practice of dwelling' she argues how feelings or knowledge regarding a future climate risk do not necessarily translate into concrete adaptation actions, not because the homeowners have decided that they do not need to take actions, but because they have not had sufficient time, energy or interest to change their usual practice.

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Contact information: Nina Baron, e-mail: nba@envs.au.dk, tel.: +45 8715 8639

Members of the assessment committee: Professor Thomas Berker, Department of Interdisciplinary Studies of Culture, Norwegian University of Science and Technology.

Senior researcher Toke Haunstrup Christensen, Town, housing and property, Aalborg University

Professor Mikael Skou Andersen, Department of Environmental Science, Aarhus University.

Main supervisor: Senior researcher, Lars Kjerulf Petersen, Department of Environmental Science, Aarhus University.

Co-supervisor: Helle Ørsted Nielsen, Department of Environmental Science, Aarhus University.

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