

# Fringe Talk Series

With **Sindre Bangstad** on **20<sup>th</sup> April** at **10:30 am**

## UNDERSTANDING THE FAR- AND POPULIST RIGHT-WING CONTINUUM: THE CASE OF NORWAY



Scholars have long suggested that Islamophobia or anti-Muslim hatred is a unifying factor in European right-wing populist political formations (Hafez 2014, Zuquete 2008). Islamophobia or anti-Muslim hatred may also be seen as a means through which far-right ideas and sentiments are mainstreamed, platformed and legitimated by populist right-wing political formations.

In Norway, the far right and racist Stop the Islamisation of Norway or SIAN have long had a strong following among voters for the populist right-wing Progress Party or FrP in Norway. Leading figures in SIAN have been convicted for hate speech in Norwegian courts and have been involved in public Qu'ran-burnings in Norway. After media disclosures to the effect that twenty local politicians for the Progress Party were also highly active on SIAN's social media platforms back in 2017, the central leadership of the then governing Progress Party declared membership of SIAN to be unacceptable for Progress Party officials. Yet four years on, no expulsions or sanctions for such membership appears to have materialized. With reference to the work of Wodak (2015), I will in this presentation argue that populist right-wing 'calculated ambiguity' towards the far- and racist right has long been a central part of populist right-wing strategies in Norway and beyond.

**Sindre Bangstad** is a social anthropologist and Research Professor at KIFO (Institute for Church, Religion and Worldview Research) in Oslo, Norway. He has a background in ethnographic fieldwork on Muslims in Cape Town, South Africa and Oslo, Norway. The author of nine books and edited volumes, including 'Anders Breivik And the Rise of Islamophobia' (2014), Bangstad was awarded the 2019 Anthropology in The Media Awards (AIME) from the American Anthropological Association (AAA) for his long-standing work on disseminating anthropological knowledge and insights through the public media in Norway and internationally.

This event is FREE and open to the public on April 20, 2021 @10:30 AM

Oslo (GMT +2) <https://stavanger.zoom.us>

Meeting ID: 696 3350 3084 Password: 535677