

Curriculum Vitae

Personal information

Name: Renate Marie Butli Hårstad
Position: Researcher, PhD
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Education

2025 PhD in Political Science, Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), Trondheim. PhD thesis topic: “*Animal welfare in transition: Ideas and politics in the Norwegian animal welfare field*”
2015 Master of science in Political Science with Teacher Education, Master’s degree Programme, 5 years - Department of Sociology and Political Science – NTNU, Trondheim

Employment record

2015 - 2018 Research assistant, Ruralis – Institute for Rural and Regional Research
2018 - 2019 Researcher III, Ruralis – Institute for Rural and Regional Research
2019 - 2025 Researcher III/PhD student, Ruralis – Institute for Rural and Regional Research
2025- Researcher (PhD), Ruralis – Institute for Rural and Regional Research

Additional information: Her career includes three parental leave periods between 2016 and 2023 – a total of 32 months.

Citation metrics (Google Scholar): h-index 5, 218 citations (June 2026; 1 year post-PhD)

Bio

Renate Marie Butli Hårstad holds a PhD in political science from the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) in Trondheim and has been a researcher at Ruralis since 2015. Research interests lie at the intersection of agriculture, animal welfare, technology, sustainability issues, and policy.

She has led work packages in several projects funded by the Research Council of Norway and has solid experience in research on agricultural policy, advisory systems, sustainable food

production, and structural change in agriculture, with a particular focus on changing attitudes and practices related to animal welfare across industry, society, and policy.

She has published in international peer-reviewed journals on animal welfare governance, agricultural policy and advisory systems. Her work combines qualitative and quantitative methods, including interviews, surveys, document analysis, observational studies, and statistical analysis (STATA). Hårstad also has experience in research dissemination, teaching, and peer review, and has served as an external examiner at NTNU.

Publications

Journal papers:

- 2026 Vik, J., and **Hårstad, R.M.B.** Narratives in the Farm Animal Welfare Policy Process. *Scandinavian Political Studies*, 49(1), e70029. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-9477.70029>.
- 2025 **Hårstad, R.M.B** Understanding politicisation of farm animal welfare through stability and change in public trust. *Journal of Rural Studies*, 114, 103557. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jrurstud.2024.103557>
- 2024 **Hårstad, R.M.B** The politics of animal welfare: A scoping review of farm animal welfare governance. *Review of Policy Research*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ropr.12554>
- 2023 **Hårstad, R. M., & Vik, J.** (2023). Political parties' framing of farm animal welfare: A fragmented picture. *European Policy Analysis*, 9(1), 30-47. <https://doi.org/10.1002/epa2.1154>
- 2022 Farstad, M., & **Hårstad, R.M.B.** Crowdfunding of GHG mitigation measures in agriculture: A feasible contribution to the climate challenges? Sociocultural constraints and enablers in Norway. *Geografisk Tidsskrift-Danish Journal of Geography*, 122(2), 117-128. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00167223.2022.2152972>
- 2022 Kvam, G.T., **Hårstad, R.M.B** & Stræte, E.P. The role of farmers' microAKIS at different stages of uptake of digital technology, *The Journal of Agricultural Education and Extension*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1389224X.2022.2046617>
- 2017 Klerkx, L., Petter Stræte, E., Kvam, G. T., Ystad, E., & **Hårstad, R. M.B.** Achieving best-fit configurations through advisory subsystems in AKIS: case studies of advisory service provisioning for diverse types of farmers in Norway. *The Journal of Agricultural Education and Extension*, 23(3), 213–229. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1389224X.2017.1320640>

Reports:

- 2021 Vik, J., Stræte, E. P., Søråa, R. A., Finstad, T., Melås, A. M., Gjefsen, M. D., ... & **Hårstad, R.M.B** (2021). Smart teknologi for et bærekraftig landbruk. R-9/21. Trondheim: Ruralis – Institutt for rural og regionalforskning
- 2020 Vik, J., Melås, A., **Hårstad, R.M.B.**, Stræte, E.P. and Langørgen, O.R. (2020). Smart teknologi i landbruket – kartlegging og modenhetsvurdering. Report 1/20. Trondheim: Ruralis – Institutt for rural og regionalforskning
- 2019 **Hårstad, R.M.B** (2019). Bonden, familien og melkeroboten–en ny hverdag. Report 1/19. Trondheim: Ruralis – Institutt for rural- og regionalforskning

- 2018 Stræte, E.P., **Hårstad, R.M.B.**, Kvam, G.T., Ystad, E., Mørch, A., Klev, R. og Haugum, M. (2018). Kompetanse og rådgiving i jordbruket: Kunnskapsoversikt, aktuelle problemstillinger og analytiske perspektiver for studier av bønders kompetanse som samspill mellom bønder, rådgiving og forskning. Report 2/18. Trondheim: Ruralis – Institutt for rural- og regionalforskning
- 2018 **Hårstad, Renate M.B.** (2018). Socio-cultural factors: Opportunities and challenges for crowdfunding of climate measures in Norwegian agriculture. Notat-1/18: Ruralis – Institutt for rural- og regionalforskning
- 2015 Hiorth, G., K. Sandvik, M. Villa & **R. M. B. Hårstad** (2015). Mulighetsstudie Bjugn og Ørland kommuner. [Feasibility study for the municipalities of Bjugn and Ørland] Progress report. Trondheim: Rambøll
- 2015 **Hårstad, Renate M.B.** (2015). Nyproduktivisme i det norske politiske landskap: En case-studie av nyproduktivistiske ideer i politiske partier og norsk landbrukspolitikk. [Neo-productivism in the Norwegian political landscape: A case study of political parties and agricultural policy] BF-Report 5/2015. Trondheim: Centre for Rural Research

Other publications (popular science and dissemination)

- 2026 **Hårstad, R.M.B.** & Fuglestad, E. Jorda som forsvinn [The disappearing land]. Newspaper article. Nationen 08.03.26. URL: <https://www.nationen.no/jordvern-jorda-som-forsvinn-kan-bli-umogleg-a-ta-i-bruk-igjen/o/5-148-872906>
- 2025 **Hårstad, R.M. B.** (2025). Dyrevelferd i endring–ideer og politikk på det norske dyrevelferdsfeltet [Changing Animal Welfare – Ideas and Politics in the Norwegian Animal Welfare Field] (PhD thesis, Norwegian University of Science and Technology). National Academic Archive. <https://nva.sikt.no/registration/0198edc26028-8165714f-f248-4640-948c-e6833663c613>
- 2025 **Hårstad, R.M.B** (2025). Studie: Politikerane er passive i dyrevelferdsdebatten. [Study: Politicians are passive in the animal welfare debate] Newspaper interview. Nationen. 06.07.25. URL: <https://www.nationen.no/forsker-renate-marie-butli-harstad-ved-ruralis-mener-politikerne-er-passive-i-dyrevelferdsdebatten/s/5-148-755429>
- 2025 **Hårstad, R.M.B** (2025). Dyrevelferd: – Det koster mer enn kua kan betale. [Animal welfare: It costs more than the cow can pay] Newspaper interview. Forskning.no. 31.05.2025. <https://www.forskning.no/dyrevelferd-landbruk-partner/dyrevelferd-det-koster-mer-enn-kua-kan-betale/2510035>
- 2022 **Hårstad, R.M.B** (2022). Dyrevelferd taper i krysspress med andre politiske mål. [Animal welfare loses out in the cross-pressure between competing policy goals] Newspaper interview. Dagsavisen. 03.10.22. <https://www.dagsavisen.no/nyheter/dyrevelferd-taper-i-krysspress-med-andre-politiske-mal/6844814>
- 2021 Bjørkhaug, H. & **Hårstad, R.M.B** (2021). Negative oppslag har ikke påvirket folks tillit til bønder. [Negative media coverage has not affected public trust in farmers] Newspaper interview. NRK.no 03.07.21. <https://www.nrk.no/ostfold/ny-forskning-viser-at-tilliten-til-bonder-er-uendret-selv-etter-avsloringer-1.15552817>

- 2021 Bjørkhaug, H., **Hårstad, R.M.** & Borgen, S.O. (2021). Hvem stoler vi på at forteller sannheten om dyrevelferd i norsk husdyrproduksjon? [Who do we trust to tell the truth about animal welfare in Norwegian livestock production?] Newspaper article. Forskning.no 16.06.21. URL: <https://forskersonen.no/dyrevelferd-kronikk-mat-og-helse/dyrevernskandaler-hvem-stoler-vi-pa-at-forteller-sannheten-om-dyrevelferd-i-norsk-husdyrproduksjon/1875010>
- 2020 **Hårstad, R.M.B.** (2020). Et spørsmål om tillit. [A question of trust.] Newspaper article. Nationen 13.05.20. URL: <https://www.nationen.no/motkultur/faglig-snakka/et-sporsmal-om-tillit/>
- 2019 **Hårstad, R.M.B.** (2019). «Ingen har lov til å spise hverandre». [«No one is allowed to eat each other»] Newspaper article. Nationen 20.02.19. URL: <https://www.nationen.no/motkultur/faglig-snakka/ingen-har-lov-til-a-spise-hverandre/>
- 2017 **Hårstad, R.M.B.** (2017). «Partiene og landbrukspolitikken». [Political parties and the agricultural policy] Poster presented on AGROPRO – final conference: Agronomy for increased food production, Oslo, June 21.-22.
- 2017 **Hårstad, R. M.B.** (2017). Farvel til økt matproduksjon? [Goodbye to increased food production?] Newspaper article. Nationen 02.09.17. URL: <http://www.nationen.no/article/farvel-til-okt-matproduksjon/>
- 2016 **Hårstad, R.M.B.** (2016). Styring eller status quo i landbrukspolitikken. [Steering or status quo in agricultural policy?] Newspaper article. Aftenposten 16.02.16. URL: <https://www.aftenposten.no/meninger/debatt/i/V966/Styring-eller-status-quo-i-landsbrukspolitikken--Renate-Marie-Butli-Harstad>

Research projects (project role)

- 2026 - MatMakt: Exploring the implications of power dynamics for food system change and sustainability outcomes across food, environment, health and climate. 2026-2029 (**Work Package leader**)
- 2025 - AGRILAND+ Locating and utilizing Norway's lost and underused agricultural land reserves. 2025-2028 (**Work Package leader**)
- 2023 - Karbonmat: Designing sustainable business model (SBM) concepts for carbon sequestration in soils to transform the Norwegian food system. 2023-2026. (**Project member**)
- 2023 - WELFARM: Improving animal welfare regulatory compliance in dairy and pig farming. 2023-2026 (**Work Package leader**)
- 2019 - 2025 GoodAnimal: Animal Welfare for Sustainable Futures. Researcher Project – BIONÆR. 2019-2022 (**PhD project**)
- 2018 - 2021 SmaT - Smart technology for sustainable agriculture. 2018-2021 (**Project member**)
- 2017 - 2021 AgriLink: Agricultural Knowledge: Linking Farmers, advisors and researchers to boost innovation. Horizon2020. 2017-2021 (**Project member**)
- 2017 - 2020 COOLCROWD: Local crowdfunding for a low-emission society: Investigating the concept of local climate crowdfunding for Norway. 2017- 2020 (**Project member**)

- 2015 - 2019 New approaches for management and breeding of dairy cows, in automatic milking systems (AMS). 2015-2019 **(Project member)**
- 2015 - 2018 Improving farmers' competence by more efficient interaction between farmer, advisory services and research (COMPETENT FARMER). 2015-2018. **(Project member)**
- 2015 - 2015 Mulighetsstudie Ørland og Bjugn kommuner (Ørland og Bjugn kommuner 2015, prosjektleder Rambøll). **(Project member)**
- 2013 - 2017 Agropro: Agronomy for increased food production. Challenges and solutions. **(Project member)**

Presentations and conference papers

- 2026 **Hårstad, R.M.B.** Between guidance and control: Animal welfare inspectors at the frontline of animal welfare policy. National conference of Political Science. Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim 06.-08.01.26 (conference paper and presentation)
- 2025 **Hårstad, R.M.B.** Changing Animal Welfare: The Interface between Animal Welfare and Norwegian Agricultural Policy. Agricultural policy course (for students and practitioners) Ruralis, Hølonda, 2 September 2025 (Invited lecture)
- 2025 **Hårstad, R.M.B.** The Politics and Development of Animal Welfare: Drivers and Non-drivers in the Animal Welfare Field. Ruralis, Animal Welfare Seminar, Litteraturhuset, Oslo, 5 June 2025 (Presentation)
- 2025 **Hårstad, R.M.B.** Political Parties', Industry and Stakeholders' Perceptions of Norwegian Animal Welfare Policy. Ruralis, Animal Welfare Seminar, Litteraturhuset, Oslo, 5 June 2025 (Presentation)
- 2024 **Hårstad, R.M.B.** How farmers and agriculture are affected by changing societal attitudes towards production animals and animal welfare. Seminar in Agricultural Economics at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), 12 November 2024 (Presentation)
- 2024 Vik, J. & **Hårstad, R.M.B.** A post-exceptional farm animal welfare discourse? Analyzing hearing responses on a new animal welfare white paper. National conference of Political Science. University of Stavanger, Stavanger, 08.-10.01.24 (conference paper)
- 2023 Vik, J., Borgen, S.O. & **Hårstad, R.M.B.** Animal welfare regimes in transition – the Norwegian case. Animal welfare regimes in transition – the Norwegian case. National conference of Political Science. Agder University, Kristiansand, 09.-11.01.23. (conference paper)
- 2023 **Hårstad, R.M.B.** The politicization of animal welfare: Polarization and trust in the Norwegian public. ECPR General conference. Prague, Czechia, 04.-08.09.23 (conference paper and presentation)
- 2018 **Hårstad, R.M.B.** Digital Agriculture, KULT1101. NTNU, Trondheim. 07 November 2018 (Invited lecture)
- 2015 **Hårstad, R.M.B** & Jostein Vik. Neoproduktivism and political parties in the European Parliament. XXVI ESRS Congress. Aberdeen, Scotland, 18.-21.08.15 (conference paper and presentation)

Other professional experiences

- 2025 - Deputy Board Member (employee representative), Ruralis.
- 2025 Chair, Working Environment Committee (Arbeidsmiljøutvalget, AMU), Ruralis.
- 2025 Reviewer for Journal of common market studies
- 2025 External examiner, POL3900 and POL3901 Master's Thesis in Political Science, Department of Sociology and Political Science, NTNU.
- 2024 Reviewer for European Policy Analysis
- 2024 External examiner, POL3525 The Management and Political Economy of Natural Resources, Department of Sociology and Political Science, NTNU.
- 2024 - Member, Working Environment Committee (Arbeidsmiljøutvalget, AMU), Ruralis.
- 2023 External examiner, POL3526 Comparative Public Policy and Administration, Department of Sociology and Political Science, NTNU.
- 2021 - Member, European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR), Standing Group on Food Policy and Governance.
- 2021 - Member, research group Public Policy and Administration, Department of Sociology and Political Science, Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU).
- 2020 - Health and Safety Representative (Verneombud), Ruralis.
- 2019 Head of Sponsorship, Local Organising Committee, European Society for Rural Sociology (ESRS) Conference, Trondheim.