

## **MSc thesis ideas, Jens Friis Lund**

### ***The rationale for divestment***

The divestment cause argues that we can affect global climate change trajectories by divesting in fossil fuel companies, i.e. companies that extract and sell fossil fuels. Opponents to this argue that this will not help as other investors will simply buy the shares of these companies thereby giving them capital infusion. Within the industry and among institutional investors (pension schemes for instance) one often hears that active ownership is better than divestment, i.e. it's better for critical investors to stay engaged and actively seek to influence the companies. Yet, it is unclear what active ownership entails and how effective it has been in changing the business models of fossil fuel companies. This thesis would work with the problem of divestment versus active ownership outlining economic as well as political-theoretic theoretical arguments for and against each option and engaging with Danish pension schemes and other larger institutional investors to get empirical evidence on the efficacy of active ownership in turning fossil fuel companies away from business models that are damaging the global climate.

### ***Conservation narratives in Tanzania***

Tanzanian media overflow with debates about the role of charcoal burning, poaching, illegal timber harvesting and slash-and-burn agriculture in the degradation the country's environment. Such media coverage shapes the minds of people in and outside of the country and may be driving many of the, at times, erratic and violent policy responses to environmental degradation, such as military crackdowns on rural communities in the search for poachers. Much of the rhetoric in the media resonate with more fundamental environmental narratives or theories that are highly contested scientifically, politically and morally. This thesis would collect and analyze media coverage to reveal the underlying narratives and show which organizations and individuals promote which type of explanations for environmental degradation in Tanzania.

### ***How climate friendly is University of Copenhagen?***

Through its initiative Green Campus and its 2020 strategy “Green Campus 2020: A Strategy for Resource Efficiency and Sustainability” University of Copenhagen (KU) signals a strong willingness to be environmentally sustainable. The press release accompanying the strategy states that the university sets “ambitious new targets for sustainability designed to make UCPH one of the world's most sustainable universities.” This MSc thesis will analyze the underlying worldviews in how KU conceptualizes the climate challenge and its solutions (eco-modernism, de-growth, etc.) and critically assess the set goals and achievements to-date of the university in becoming more climate friendly. The thesis work will involve a desk study of KUs past and present policies, strategies and initiatives, an analysis of the data underlying the statistics presented in the annual reports prepared by Green Campus, as well as interviews with key people at KU.