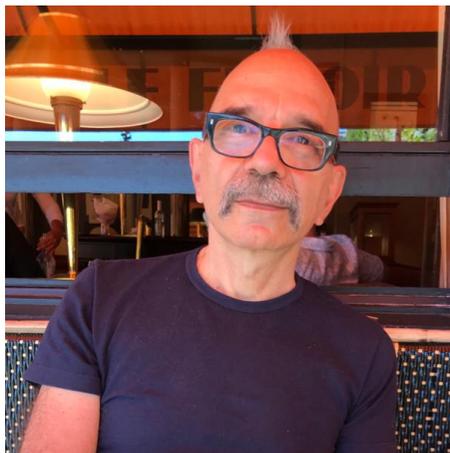
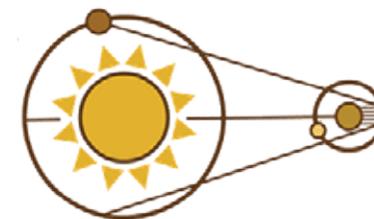




Aarhus University presents

The Ole Rømer Colloquium Series



Wednesday, October 27th @ 14:15 (sharp!)
Physics Auditorium

Emeritus Professor Serge Galam

Centre for Political Research, SciencesPo and CNRS
Paris, France

Opinion dynamics: from a successful 2016 Trump prediction to a failure in 2020, what happened?

In 2016, contrary to the predictions of pundits and polls, using the sociophysics Galam model of opinion dynamics, against all odds, I predicted Trump's victory. The model uncovered Trump winning martingale as his capacity to activate frozen prejudices at his advantage in many voters by paradoxically provoking first their real indignation against him. In a second step, those unfrozen prejudices were triggering individual supports for Trump via the occurrence of local doubt among voters while discussing their future votes.

However, four year later during the 2020 campaign, Trump "shocking" outings lost their emotional content, depriving him of his asymmetric advantage. In parallel, the Trump mandate has exacerbated the polarizaton of American voters.

As the result, according to the model, fear prejudice and inflexible partisanship were about to drive the campaign outcome for both Biden and Trump. Depending on the state, those two effects would compensate or cumulate. Accordingly, tiny differences in the respective proportions of inflexibles and amplitudes of fear of the other candidate, were going to make the outcomes about fifty-fifty in the Swing states.

My rough estimates of above proportions gave small advantages in favor of Trump in enough Swing States to secure his victory at the edge. My prediction failed. However, with Biden's victory so tight (contrary to the predictions of pundits and polls) as I will demonstrate, my error did not originate from the model but from my giving Trump slight advantages in terms of prejudices and inflexibles, when indeed they had to be given to Biden. My prediction failing by short confirms the robustness of the model and the need to progress on the evaluation of the parameters for which at the moment, no data is available.

Students & staff are all invited!

14:00-14:15: Informal discussions, cake & coffee

14:15-15:15: Seminar and Q&A

15:15-15:45: Special session between students & speaker