

## PhD Vlog Week 2 Verena Stingl

TIME	SPEAKER	AUDIO
00:00:06	Verena Stingl	Welcome back to the second week of my video blog. I'm safely back in Denmark after travelling the German-speaking world the last week. So what have I been up to? Well, first of all, I started on Monday with meeting a couple of researchers from the Max Planck Institute for Human Development. This place is, amongst other things, a hot spot for what is called adaptive heuristics – it's a quite neat concept on how we can make decisions with limited information, where I want actually
00:00:36	Verena Stingl	to move my PhD. So I met those guys last summer, when I was there for a summer school, and we found that we have some overlapping research interests, so now I'm planning to write a couple of articles together with them, which is pretty neat because they're very good in their field, so quite awesome for me. Also, having these international collaborations is something that DTU really pushes you to have, so you can say it's actually a mandatory requirement when you do a PhD
00:01:06	Verena Stingl	here that you have some external stay where you collaborate with other researchers in other research institutions abroad. So this is really pushed, which I think is quite neat, especially if you want to follow up on an academic career, building up this network, these international collaborations already during your PhD, will serve you well.  The second part of my travel then brought me to Switzerland, where I participated and presented in a workshop of our industry partner. So my PhD is
00:01:36	Verena Stingl	partially funded by a company, so I also have a couple of deliverables to them, which are about providing training content and input in those kinds of events, but also it provides me with the opportunity to engage in a less formal way with the practitioners that my research is about – so I not only engage with them through research interviews, but also built some more personal contacts with them, to understand their issues, their challenges, their interests, and this will also, of course, inform
00:02:06	Verena Stingl	my research, and also it seems they quite appreciate the academic input that we've brought to them.  Also something other, very exciting happened in the past

		<p>week – I got my first article out in print, so the first journal article where I’m the main author. This is pretty exciting for me, so I’m very glad, and research is going well.</p> <p>Whereas last week I told you a bit about how to get a PhD position here, so today I will tell you</p>
00:02:36	Verena Stingl	<p>a bit more about the resettling process. When you move to Denmark, especially when you move to Copenhagen, there are two interlinked things that you need to be aware of, that will be a challenge – one is the obvious one, is housing; the second one is the so-called CPR number. The CPR number is, in principle, just a social security number, but in reality it is way more. So some people say that a CPR number is what defines you as a human being in Denmark,</p>
00:03:06	Verena Stingl	<p>because basically you can get nothing of the nitty gritty administrative stuff done when you don’t have a CPR number. So you will need it to open a bank account and you will need it to get a mobile contract, you will need it to register your mailing address. So all these things require a CPR number, and in order to obtain a CPR number, you need to prove that you have a permanent place to live, so that you have a place to live where you can stay for at least three months. So you see, there might be a little vicious circle there, but not</p>
00:03:36	Verena Stingl	<p>having a CPR number is not the only thing that makes finding a place to stay a little bit difficult – it’s also that, as you might know, Copenhagen has a very fierce housing market – maybe not as bad as London, but still pretty bad, so rents are quite expensive. You can expect to pay somewhere between £400-700 for a smallish room in shared living – not even talking about getting your own flat – and also the competition is very high. So for the affordable and good rooms</p>
00:04:06	Verena Stingl	<p>in good locations, you can expect dozens of other applicants, because of course everybody wants those cheap and well-located places. So be prepared to bring time and nerves for your room hunt. If you’re a little bit flexible on where you want to live, where you can accept to live, that makes things easier – not easy as such, but at least easier. There are other little towns around Copenhagen that have less competition maybe. Also, if you have a little</p>
00:04:36	Verena	<p>bit of extra cash, that definitely also makes the deal a little</p>

	Stingl	<p>bit sweeter.</p> <p>And where to find those places actually? So DTU does offer a housing service, but they have very, very few listings, so it definitely makes sense to go and look at all these other web pages where they list accommodation as well, and especially if you look for shared apartments, then there are a couple of Facebook groups around, which you [might] like to check out, to find shared rooms.</p>
00:05:06	Verena Stingl	<p>That helps.</p> <p>And finally, I have three tips for you once you are on the room hunt, that you might want to consider. First of all, try to be on site – I was one of the very few lucky ones who actually scored a first semi-permanent place from abroad, but usually most people get only lucky once they are here, because of course, the landlords or your potential room-mates prefer to meet you in person, to make their decision. Also, there are a lot of scams out there, so you can avoid them</p>
00:05:36	Verena Stingl	<p>if you actually can go to the place, see the place, speak to the people – so, be on site. The second tip is – don't try to find anything in February or in September – this is when the semester starts and the housing market just goes entirely crazy, so the other months are much more relaxed, to some degree at least. And the third and most importantly, I already told you – you will need the CPR number, but many landlords prefer to rent out without giving you a proper lease contract, because they try to avoid taxes,</p>
00:06:06	Verena Stingl	<p>and so you would not be able to get a CPR registration. So whenever you look for a place, make sure that it offers CPR registration – that you get a proper lease contract, and then will be able to register as well. Also, this practice of not giving you a contract is obviously illegal, so you shouldn't get too much engaged with that.</p> <p>So these are my three tips. I hope they're in some way useful for you, once you move here. Next week, I will tell you a little bit</p>
00:06:36	Verena Stingl	<p>more about how then to get your PhD research started, and until then I hope you enjoyed this little video blog, and see you next week. Bye bye.</p>

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