

PhD Vlog Week 4 Verena Stingl

TIME	SPEAKER	DIALOGUE
00:00:01	CAPTION	"A snapshot of my PhD journey" Name: Verena Stingl PhD: Management Science Location: Kongens Lyngby
00:00:07	Verena Stingl	Welcome to the fourth episode of my video blog about my PhD life in Denmark. It's the final episode already and so as a promise I will not talk about the University anymore but rather about general life in Denmark. So, when I was thinking about what to talk in this episode, I thought I would look up some of the typical clichés, misconceptions people have about Denmark but a quick Google research showed me more about the ignorance of the Google users and about the actual clichés about Denmark.
00:00:38	Verena Stingl	So, I thought about I will skip that and I will just talk about my personal hit list about things in Denmark. First, bikes. Most of the Danes use a bike as a very normal means of transportation. So, old people, young people, business people, dressed up ladies, you will really see all parts of society on their bike on the streets in Copenhagen, in Denmark. Basically all of my Danish colleagues, up to the head of the department, they use the bike as their means to transportation to come to work very often and it's not only meant for transporting one person but they transport everything on it, so their kids, their groceries, sometimes even furniture. You will see everything on bikes.
00:01:21	Verena Stingl	And in consequence the infrastructure is well adapted to that. So, there are broad bike lanes which really function as bike highways

		and also public transportation is well-equipped to deal with the bikers. So, actually, on trains you have the possibility to just take the bike with you in these designated departments for biking which actually can get super crowded during rush hour.
00:01:46	Verena Stingl	On the other hand, cars are very often quite small and you will also see a huge number of quite fancy electrical cars driving around which is most likely due to the high taxes that the Danish authorities impose on fossil-fuelled cars. So, actually, you pay up to 180% of the purchasing price again in taxes on it and that pushes everyone a little bit to the more sustainable direction, obviously.
00:02:10	Verena Stingl	And what's more, Danes, they bike during all weathers, come rain, come snow and, as you might know, because you're smarter than the common Google user, Denmark is up north and it's surrounded by the sea...
00:02:24	CAPTION	ca. 150 days with precipitation ca. 300 days with wind peaks > 19 m/s
00:02:24	Verena Stingl	...so the weather is pretty windy and pretty rainy quite often and it changes quickly. So, it took me one or two or three very wet bike rides until I learnt that sunshine now doesn't say anything about the weather in an hour. So, better be prepared. Take your rain jacket and maybe also a pair of rain pants.
00:02:46	Verena Stingl	And as it is quite a up north, it also gets quite dark in the winter, so although there are beautiful sunsets and sunrises, the days are just painfully short and this is maybe the reason why the Danes come up with yet another of my favourite things which is hygge.
00:03:05	CAPTION	HYGGE!

00:03:06	Verena Stingl	The Danes say that hygge is an untranslatable thing, yet it perfectly translates into something like cosiness but yet it is more. You can use it as a noun...
00:03:16	CAPTION	Julehygge - Cozy Christmas get together
00:03:17	Verena Stingl	...like in Julehygge.
00:03:19	CAPTION	Hygger sig - Cozyly enjoy oneself (possibly together with others)
00:03:18	Verena Stingl	You can use it as a verb, like in hygger sig and you can also use it as an...
00:03:23	CAPTION	Det er ret hyggelig! - This is quite cozy.
00:03:25	Verena Stingl	... adjective, like det er ret hyggelig.
00:03:30	Verena Stingl	On a side note, language. So, Danish grammar and vocabulary might not be the hardest. You actually get a lot of support through free classes that are offered to all the registered residents, thanks to the Danish taxpayer, but there is one problem, that every foreigner suffers through, which is pronunciation. So, very evil people, actually Danish people, said that, well, Danish sounds a little bit like a drunken Swede with a hot potato in their mouth and that might be true.
00:04:02	Verena Stingl	So, it's really hard to get a hang of the sound of it, of understanding it and also talking it yourself at the very beginning. Luckily almost everybody speaks near perfect English here, so it's easy to get by, especially at the beginning, but that also might tempt you from not learning the language at all which is just a mistake because through Danish, through learning Danish, you will also be able to approach Danes more and you will also probably understand the concept of hygge a little bit more.
00:04:34	Verena Stingl	So, coming back to hygge, the concept stretches from creating your cosy winter cave

		at home with candles and soft lighting to these cosy get-togethers with your friends, just relax, being together, joking, playing games, etc. And especially around Christmas this becomes hugely popular with something that is called julefrokost...
00:04:30	CAPTION	JULEFROKOST
00:04:57	Verena Stingl	...which literally translates to Christmas lunch. Usually it's the afternoon or evening occasion where you get up... get together with friends or also colleagues.
00:05:10	Verena Stingl	So, last week we had julefrokost with my division at university and this was everything but your regular Christmas party. So, basically we did a full set of Danish Christmas traditions, starting off with drinking Gløgg...
00:05:23	CAPTION	Æbleskiver = lit. "Apple slices" Do not contain apples. Are balls, not slices.
00:05:23	Verena Stingl	...and eating aebleskiver, then singing Christmas carols in five different languages.
00:05:34	CAPTION	This is where some general Danish pronunciation skills come in handy...
00:05:38	Verena Stingl	So, we had typical Danish Christmas food, so different types of herrings and meat pastry with rye bread. We got julebrus, so a typical Christmas beer, and finally we had Risalamande, which is rice pudding with one hidden almond in it to find out who's gonna be the lucky one next year.
00:05:58	Verena Stingl	And, finally, we played a very mean game called Pakkeleg...
00:06:03	CAPTION	Rules: 1) Bring a gift, don't tell anybody what's in it

		<p>2) Role two dice</p> <p>3) for every 6 take a present from the table (or one of the other players)</p> <p>4) open gifts only when clock runs out.</p>
00:06:03	Verena Stingl	...where it's all about snatching gifts from each other and this is possibly the only time, the only occasion where Danes can appear greedy or competitive in a social setting. It's all about just piling up as many gifts as possible as soon as the clock runs out.
00:06:26	Verena Stingl	But, finally, when everything was done and over, everybody helped together to clean up the place, so from the head of the division downwards, and this is actually the last item of the favourite things of Denmark list I have, which is the equality and the lack of visible hierarchy here. So, it took me a while to grow accustomed to it but there's very clear and direct communication with not tiptoeing around the ranks and hierarchies. This is something that is actually quite relaxing and good for me to live in.
00:06:58	Verena Stingl	So, bottom line, I actually enjoy my life here in Denmark and I can only recommend it for others. It's a good place both to live and to study and so this actually brings me to the end of my little video blog.
00:07:12	CAPTION	for humorous in-depth info on living in Denmark, I recommend: www.howtoliveindenmark.com
00:07:12	Verena Stingl	I hope you've enjoyed the last four weeks, you learnt a little bit that is interesting for you and so all that remains is for me to wish you all the best in your future potential PhD or your future potential move to Denmark. I wish you all the best and here I say bye bye and take care.

00:07:32	CAPTION	jobs.ac.uk Great jobs for bright people Find your ideal PhD at www.jobs.ac.uk/phd Subscribe to our youtube channel to follow our PhD Vloggers Watch, learn, share
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