Look to Norway?

Dag O. Hessen
Univ. Oslo, Dept. Biosciences, CEES
But evolution...?

• Understand group dynamics, trust, common goods, tragedy of the commons etc.
• Multilevel selections, from genes to society, including social evolutions (“memes” etc.)
• Supplement or framework for history, sociology, economy, social anthropology ...
• Multidisciplinary approach
Wilkinson & Pickett: equality as the key parameter

Health and social problems are worse in more unequal countries

Causation or correlation?
An increasingly happy population....
Tax: a positive attitude

Holdninger til skatt

Fløtten & Hippe 2013
But....

- Towards increasing inequality?
- Decreasing level of trust?
- Decreasing willingness to “dugnad”?
- From collective to individual attitudes (self-realization)?
- More of “we” versus “they”?
- Young people are happy, optimistic, believe in future – but do not want to vote...
- The Norwegian welfare model at risk?
Figure 1. *Income inequality increased in most, but not all OECD countries*
Gini coefficients of income inequality, mid-1980s and late 2000s

http://www.oecd.org/social/inequality.htm
Evolutionary constraints & environmental issues – the future

• Evolutionary geared for short-term solutions?
• How to avoid tragedy of the commons??
• Norway is probably no forerunner here!
Does sociality and group solutions have fertile grounds in Norway?

• Tragedy of the commons can be overcome in small societies (cf E. Oström), but how small?
• “We are all in the same boat”, tit-for-tat in a national context
• Is Norway an example of the largest entity where group selection can operate?

And does this imply “group selfishness” at the national level?
The Government Pension Fund

Avkastning

Netto petroleums-inntekter

Overføring tilsv. oljekorrigeret underskudd

Fund

Samlede inntekter

Budget

Utgifter

Handlingsregelen
Over tid bruke fondets real-avkastning (anslått til 4%)
Structure; Ministry of Finance, State Bank and Council of Ethics

**Finansdepartementet**
- Forskning
- Investeringsprogrammer
- Deltakelse i internasjonale initiativer

**Norges Bank**
- Fastsetter grunnleggende prinsipper for utøvelse av eierrettigheter
- Beslutter uttrekk av enkeltselskaper
- Utveksling av informasjon

**Etikkrådet**
- Kvartalsvis rapportering om eierskapsarbeidet
- Utøvelse av eierrettigheter i konkrete saker
- Gir råd om observasjon eller utelukkelse av selskaper fra fondet
- Fastsetter kriterier for filtrering og uttrekk av selskaper
Two major ethical concerns

Future generations shall benefit from today's income

The Fund shall respect the rights to those influenced by the investments

The Fund should provide good returns

The Fund should not be involved in sincere, unethical acts

To the best for Norway or the world?