APPLICATION FOR ETHICAL VETTING

For information concerning the application: see Appendix and Guidance, (www.epn.se)

IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO USE THE ENGLISH VERSION OF THE APPLICATION.
IT IS NOT PERMITTED TO FILL IN THE APPLICATION IN ENGLISH, ONLY SWEDISH.

To the Regional Ethical Review Board in:
State the Regional Ethical Review Board to which the entity principally responsible for the research belongs. For a list of boards see (www.epn.se)

Date fee paid:
Please note that an application is never complete (and thus able to be processed) until the form is correctly filled in and the fee has been paid.

Project title: Funding of Swedish climate deniers: where does it come from?

Information to be completed by the Regional Ethical Review Board

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Application complete:</th>
<th>Case number:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Request for additional information concerning the application:</td>
<td>Requested information received:</td>
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<td>Date of decision:</td>
<td>Date processed:</td>
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The application concerns (also applies when an advisory statement is requested):
research in which only one responsible research body participates (5 000 kr)
research in which more than one responsible research body participates (16 000 kr)
research in which more than one responsible research body participates, but in which all the researchers or subjects of research have an immediate link to only one of the responsible research bodies (5 000 kr)
merely processing personal data (5 000 kr)
research involving clinical trials of medicinal products (16 000 kr)
changes to a previously approved application in accordance with section 4 of Statute (2003:615) concerning the Ethical Review of Research Involving Humans (2 000 kr)

If the board decides that the legislation concerning ethical review is not applicable to the study/research project, is an advisory statement wanted?
Yes: X         No:
1. Information concerning the entity principally responsible for the research etc.

1:1 The entity principally responsible for the research

Name: Uppsala University
Address: Box 256, 751 05 Uppsala, Sweden

1:2 Qualified representative for the entity principally responsible for the research

Name: Eva Åkesson
Professional title: Vice-chancellor
Address: Box 256, 751 05 Uppsala, Sweden

1:3 Researchers who are primarily responsible for the completion of the project (principal contact)

Name: Per Ribbing
Professional title: PhD student
Address: Ångströmlaboratoriet, Lägerhyddsvägen 1, 752 37 Uppsala
E-mail: per.ribbing@angstrom.uu.se
Telephone: 0707494497
Mobile phone: 0707494497

1:4 Location
Institution of Engineering Sciences, Division of Electricity

1:5 Other participants

Name: Yashraj Kulkarni
Professional title: PhD student
Address: Uppsala BMC, Husargatan 3, 752 37 Uppsala
E-mail: yashraj.kulkarni@icm.uu.se
Telephone: 0764413540
Mobile phone: 0764413540

Name: Jaka Socan
Professional title: PhD student
Address: Uppsala BMC, Husargatan 3, 752 37 Uppsala
E-mail: jaka.socan@icm.uu.se
Telephone: 0765587315
Mobile phone: 0765587315
1:6 Applications/notifications to other authorities – Not Applicable

Clinical testing of medicinal products
Not applicable

Cases concerning some kinds of genetic research
Not applicable

Certain research involving the irradiation of research subjects
Not applicable

2. Information concerning the project

2:1 Summary of the research project (programme)

The Oxford dictionary defines a climate denier as a person who rejects the proposition of the occurrence of climate change as a result of human activity. The oil industry and free market think-tanks based primarily in the United States of America are known to fund climate deniers. A few prominent Swedish deniers, e.g. professors emeriti have started the Stockholm Initiative. Our research aims at finding any possible links or economic ties between the Stockholm Initiative and the oil industry and/or free market think-tanks. Through our research, we also aim to expose to the general public the nexus between the climate denier groups and oil companies. Research in this area has been carried out by e.g. Jonas Anshelm and Martin Hultman [1] at Linköping University and also by Bruce Tranter and Kate Booth [2] at the University of Tasmania.

The first step in this project would be to make a list of key figures of the Stockholm Initiative and learn about their history in propagating the ideas of climate denial. This would then be followed by two of our team members conducting in-depth interviews with these “selected” climate deniers to know the arguments they put forth to support their case. “The Climate Scam” was the predecessor to the Stockholm Initiative, and the person responsible for this web page Maggie Thauersköld would also be interviewed. This is particularly of great interest because she is no more actively involved in climate debates. If we get some leads, we could follow them to the funding bodies.

As the information we obtain will be extremely sensitive and could cause widespread public outrage if exposed by the media, we need to be absolutely certain about the facts that we would present to the public. This is one of the ethical risks that we as researchers could face.

[1] A green fatwa? Climate change as a threat to the masculinity of industrial modernity. 2014 NORMA

2:2 What is/are the primary scientific question(s) forming the basis of the design of the project?

1. Are they any funds given to the climate deniers / Stockholm Initiative by the oil companies?
2. Are there any demands posed by the funding sources to the climate deniers in return of the favours they provide to them?

2:3 State the results from relevant animal experiments
Not applicable
2:4 Give an overview of the examination procedures used, data collection and the nature of the data.

The primary source of data collection is through interviews. The first task would be to draft a list of questions aimed at extracting answers to the two scientific questions mentioned in section 2:2. This would ensure that we don’t miss out on any information while interviewing different people. We do understand that interviewing the climate deniers by asking direct questions about their funding sources is not going to be productive. Thus, we will ensure that the questions are phrased in a manner that indirectly extracts information about their funding sources. The questions will be tested on a control group, which will consist of a random sample of people at the university. Once the questions are refined enough, they will be used to interview the climate deniers. Also, the first in-depth interview will be held with Maggie Thauerskold, as she will probably have some insider information that we can use in creating the questions to the deniers.

2:5 Describe how biological material that has been collected is to be stored in a biobank

Not applicable

2:6 Account for the access to the resources needed during the implementation of the project

Computers, phones, audio recorders and travel reimbursements

2:7 Record-keeping, registering and processing of data

All interviews would be performed using an audio recorder after obtaining prior permission from the participant. The audio files will be digitally stored in a secure environment on the computers of each of the researchers. In addition to it, as a backup, copies of the recordings would also be stored in external hard drives.

Relevant answers from the recording would be noted and converted into text form and appended under the relevant question. These text format interviews would be properly indexed and stored. The same procedure will be applied to the interviews conducted on the control group and Maggie Thauerskold. All the researchers – Per, Yashraj and Jaka – would have access to the recordings. The master copies would contain the actual names of the participants, whereas the information made available outside the researchers would bear anonymity.

2:8 Describe previous experience (your own and/or others) of the procedure, technique or treatment used.

Approaching the leader figures in The Stockholm Initiative (http://www.klimatupplysningen.se/om-oss/stockholmsinitiativetsstyrelse/) is a delicate task. We must call for expert help from Martin Hultman. One leading climate denier is Lars Bern. He has his own blog at https://anthropocene.live/ There it is clear how the political dogma of libertarianism “free from all restrictions free market” aligns very well with the climate deniers negative view on taxation on Greenhouse gases.

Libertarianism (Latin: liber, “free”) is a collection of political philosophies and movements that uphold liberty as a core principle. Libertarians seek to maximize political freedom and autonomy, emphasizing freedom of choice, voluntary association, individual judgment, and self-ownership.
3. Information about the participants in the research

3:1 How are participants in the research chosen?

By interviewing the three leaders at The Stockholm Initiative: Per Welander, Lena Krantz and Ingemar Nordin as well as Lars Bern, all after the first interview with Maggie Thauersköld, we think we will have a good enough material but there are some other professors emeriti (e.g. Peter Stilbs, KTH) that we also could interview, if needed. More information can be found by asking The Uppsala Initiative which was founded in response to the climate deniers spreading pseudo science, especially The Climate Scam webpage.

3:2 State the relationship between the researchers/the leader of the research and those people participating in the research

Per Ribbing’s uncle, late professor emeritus C-G Ribbing, was one of the founders of The Stockholm Initiative.

3:3 State the statistical foundation with respect to the size of the population(s) and/or material(s) studied

Not applicable

3:4 State if participants in the research may be included in several studies, either simultaneously or in another study or other studies closely linked to this one. If so, what kind of research?

Not applicable

3:5 What insurance cover is there for research participants taking part in the project?

Not applicable

3:6 What financial remuneration or other benefits are participants in the research entitled to and when is this to be paid? (A more detailed description can be submitted as an annex)

Not applicable

4. Information and consent

4:1 The procedure involved and the content of the information that is given when subjects are asked to participate in the research

We will contact the persons and ask for an interview. We will be open with the fact that we are conducting research.

4:2 How is consent to be obtained and from whom?

From the persons we will ask to interview we will have a signed statement that they freely admit to take part in this research.

5. Considerations in the light of research ethics
5:1 Describe the risks that participation might entail and possible complications

The project might entail violation of personal integrity of the person when s/he is posed with questions that might extract information that is supposed to be kept confidential by them. Any accidental leak of information from the participants’ side could be detrimental to the interests of other stakeholders who have invested in them. This might lead to a complicated situation for the participants. However, the information that they would provide would be used for the greater good of human society by dismissing doubts on climate change in the minds of people. From this standpoint, we consider our actions to be ethical and in a way, beneficial to the participant too.

If and when the information obtained in the interviews is made available to the general public, anonymity will be strictly maintained to prevent the individuals from being targets of public outrage. Verified and trustworthy channels will be used for dissipation of information. This will be ensured by making legally binding agreements with the media channels.

5:2 Describe the predictable benefit for the people participating in the research who are part of the project

We don’t foresee a direct benefit to the people participating in the research, as what we would like them to do would go against their held beliefs and commitments. However, our work will indirectly benefit them by triggering support for the theory of climate change, which would henceforth lead to public awareness, policy shifts at governmental levels and a habitable planet for the future generations of the participants.

5:3 Carry out your own evaluation of the relationship between risk and benefit for participating research subjects

We do see a risk for public outrage against the climate deniers, The Stockholm Initiative, Klimatsans, Anthropocene and other web pages. When we uncover the ties between Swedish climate deniers and the US oil industry – if our research can show there are any – media might out of ‘self guilt’ go after these deniers. That can happen and it is not our responsibility. They have chosen to deny science and spread pseudoscience. We are trying to defend science. That is the main benefit: restoring the public trust in climate science and science as a whole.

The risk of us being persecuted by the oil lobby we find very small. It’s worth it.

5:4 In a broader perspective, identify and specify which ethical problems, such as risk versus benefit, can arise as a part of or as a result of the project

In the broader perspective this research aims to restore public faith in published science and helping to educate media and policy makers. Journalists, reporters, bloggers, celebrities and politicians must learn that there is a huge difference between a published scientific article – and any other article, Op Ed or other.

This knowledge, this fact, has gone lost thanks to the climate deniers.

6. Presenting the results

6:1 How are both the entity principally responsible for the research and research collaborators guaranteed access to data (to be stated when the research is an assignment) and who is responsible for processing data and writing reports?

The data obtained from interviews carried out by principal investigating body Per Ribbing and his associates will be published in anonymized format, unless the interviewee would grant a permission to publish their full name. The names of societies and companies in question will be published in full.
6:2 How will the results be made publicly available? Will the study be sent for publishing in a journal or published in some other manner?

Due to the nature of investigation, the results are not planned to be published in a scientific peer reviewed publication. We aim to make the information obtained available to the broadest audience possible, by publishing the article in a high volume newspaper or popular science magazine (in Sweden or abroad).

In case enough conclusive data would be obtained, a follow-up scientific publication would be published describing the impact foreign funding of Swedish climate sceptic societies has on public opinion in Sweden.

6:3 In what manner will the right to integrity of those participating in the research be guaranteed when the material is made public or is published?

In case any particular interview is granted to be published with a full name of the interviewee disclosed, they would be given a chance to clarify the audio recording in case they disagree with our interpretation.

7. Reporting the financial circumstances and dependencies

The purpose of the accounts to be given in points 7:1 - 7:3 is to clarify all direct or indirect circumstances that could possibly affect the researcher's relationship to the persons participating in the research (during the process of information, consent or implementation, for example).

7:1 When the research is an assignment

Name: Uppsala University
Principal contact: Per Ribbing
Address: Ångströmlaboratoriet, Lägerhyddsvägen 1, 752 37 Uppsala
Telephone/mobile phone: 0707494497

The principal contact responsible for the research and the participating members is employed by Uppsala University as a PhD student.

7:2 Give an account of any financial agreements with a principal or any other financiers (Name, amount)

The financial compensation will cover all the expenses incurred in procuring a computer, mobile phones, recording devices for the interviews, insurance and travel reimbursements.

7:3 Give an account of the interests of the entity principally responsible for the research, the principal researcher and of participating researchers

The principal researcher and participating researchers are employed as PhD students at Uppsala University. There are no financial interests in this project. This project is being carried out basically for the welfare of human society by educating them about the anti-science brigade which works for self-aggrandising or economic benefits.

8. Signatories

Authorized representative for the entity principally responsible for the research who is the applicant in accordance with p. 1:2.
The undersigned researcher who is carrying out the project (principal contact) in accordance with p.1:3 hereby certifies that the research will be carried out in accordance with the application.

### 9. List of annexes

Documents which, in appropriate cases, are to be appended if corresponding information is not on the form, are marked with an x. Mark those annexes that are to be submitted with this application.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Send with application</th>
<th>Annex nr</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Clinical testing of pharmaceuticals</th>
<th>Other research</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>The participating entity principally responsible for the research and collaborating researchers (principal contacts) for research involving the participation of more than one entity principally responsible for the research. For information see p. 1:5</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>Research plan intended for specialists. Also an annex intended for laymen, if needed. For information see p. 2:1 and Guidance to the research plan/protocol (programme).</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>Advertising material for the recruitment of research participants For information see p. 3:1 and Guidance to the application p. 3:1.</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<td>Written information for those who have been asked. For information see p. 4:1 and Information for research participants.</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>Questionnaire. For information see p. 2:4</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<td>Standard EU form (as of 1 May 2004). Also applicable</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Summary of the protocol in Swedish</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>User's handbook or product insert/product summary/IB</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Testimonial from operations manager or equivalent concerning resources and the safety of those participating in the research. For information see p. 2:6.</td>
<td>X X</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>CV of researcher (same as p. 1:3) with primary responsibility for completion (give an account of the competence of the researcher(s) that is of relevance to the study. Information in Guidance to the application p. 1:3.)</td>
<td>X X</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Description of remuneration given to research participants. For information see p 3:6 and Guidance to the application p. 3:6</td>
<td>X X</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Agreements with principals/financiers concerning, for example, terms of employment, grants/compensation awarded to the place where the research is conducted, to the principal responsible for health care, to the entity principally responsible for the research or to the researcher. For information see p. 7:2 and 7:3</td>
<td>X X</td>
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**Other annexes appended to the application:**