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# **Master Thesis**

BI Norwegian Business School

# Between a rock and a hard place

A national representative survey study of Norwegian middle managers

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This thesis marks the last milestone for our Master of Science in Leadership and Organizational Psychology at BI Norwegian Business School. Completing a master's degree during a global pandemic has presented challenges with digital teaching, guidance, and homeschooling. However, we would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to all the people who have supported us over the last two years of studies at BI, especially in completing this task. First, we want to thank our supervisor, Professor Stig Berge Matthiesen. Thank you for your time, help, valuable insights, advice, and interest in the thesis topic. This task would not have been completed without your support, detailed instructions, and dedicated time with us. We are grateful to have you as our mentor and motivator throughout this project. Secondly, we would also like to thank others who have contributed with thoughts and ideas and our colleagues, families, and friends for all the love, motivation, and support during these two quite demanding years at BI Norwegian Business School.

Thank you so much! Tusen takk alle sammen!

# **ABSTRACT**

This study examines the extent of middle managers' experience of role stress and the factors associated with this type of job stress. The research aim of the study is divided into two parts. The first part explores how widespread role stress is among Norwegian middle managers. The second part builds on the first one. In the second part, we investigate which psychosocial factors trigger role stress. Five hypotheses and a research model are utilized to illuminate the interconnections. A quantitative methodological approach is applied. The basis for the project is a national representative survey conducted in 2011 by AFF at the Norwegian School of Management, to which we were granted access.

We have applied stress theory to illuminate our dependent variable role stress. Role conflict constitutes an essential part of the role stress concept. Furthermore, leadership orientations were linked to role stress. We picked two classical ones to connect with stress: people-oriented and task-oriented management, alongside the management theory LMX (leader-member exchange leadership). Finally, we assessed the importance of loneliness and social support connected to role stress.

Our results show that some work factors may have a more substantial impact on role stress than other work qualities from the perspective of a middle manager. In particular, we found that the dyadic relationship between the middle managers and their followers, as mapped in LMX leadership, may play a crucial part in role stress. Loneliness may also influence the level of role stress, but this interconnection seems to be more complex. The loneliness measure reflects that role stress can reduce the middle managers' level of well-being, even if they feel professionally and socially supported by management and employees.

The study should be considered a valuable research effort to gather knowledge about middle managers and their job situations, at least in a Norwegian context. The empirical findings shed light on factors that may affect a middle manager's experience of role stress. Role stress that exceeds one's control can cause a mental breakdown in a long-term perspective, such as burnout or lowered mental well-being.

Keywords: LMX, loneliness, role stress, stress, role conflict, social support, leadership, peopleoriented leadership, task-oriented leadership, leadership orientations, middle manager, AFF, Leadership Survey

# **SAMMENDRAG**

Denne studien undersøker omfanget av mellomlederes opplevelse av rollestress og faktorene knyttet til denne typen jobbstress. Forskningsmålet for studien er delt i to deler. Den første delen utforsker hvor utbredt rollestress er blant norske mellomledere. Den andre delen bygger på den første delen og undersøker hvilke psykososiale faktorer som utløser rollestress. Problemstillingen vil bli undersøkt og analysert ved hjelp av fem hypoteser og en forskningsmodell. For å besvare forskningsspørsmålet har vi brukt en kvantitativ metodisk tilnærming. Grunnlaget for prosjektet er en nasjonal representativ undersøkelse gjennomført i 2011 av AFF ved Norges Handelshøyskole, som vi fikk tilgang til.

Vi har brukt stressteori for å belyse vår avhengige variable rollestress. Rollekonflikt, sammen med rolleklarhet, utgjør en vesentlig del av rollestressbegrepet. Videre ble lederorienteringer knyttet til rollestress, hvor vi valgte de to klassiske: relasjonsorientert og oppgaveorientert ledelse, sammen med ledelsesteorien LMX (leader-member exchange leadership). Til slutt har vi viktigheten av ensomhet og sosial støtte knyttet til rollestress da våre funn viser at alle disse er relatert til opplevd rollestress.

Våre funn underbygger at noen faktorer kan ha en mer betydelig innvirkning på rollestress enn andre egenskaper sett fra en mellomleders perspektiv. Spesielt fant vi at det dyadiske forholdet mellom mellomlederne og deres følgere, slik det er kartlagt i LMX-ledelse, kan spille en avgjørende rolle knyttet til rollestress. Ensomhet kan også påvirke nivået av rollestress, men denne sammenkoblingen ser ut til å være mer kompleks. Videre fant vi at rollestress kan redusere den enkeltes mellomleders trivsel, selv om de føler seg faglig og sosialt støttet av ledelse og ansatte.

Studien bør betraktes som en verdifull forskningsinnsats for å samle kunnskap om mellomledere og deres jobbsituasjon. De empiriske funnene belyser faktorer som kan påvirke en mellomleders opplevelse av rollestress. Rollestress som overskrider ens kontroll kan gi et psykisk sammenbrudd i et langsiktig perspektiv, som utbrenthet eller nedsatt psykisk velvære. Denne negative påvirkningen kan være ødeleggende både på individ- og organisasjonsnivå, og vi har med denne studien presentert et bidrag til teorien blant norske mellomledere.

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# INTRODUCTION

This present thesis covers the topic of middle managers and their work situation. A Nationally representative study comprises the basis for the project. The many scientific journal articles and books about leadership show great interest within the management field. With an everincreasing amount of literature dealing with middle managers' importance in the organization, many different descriptions of the middle manager's role, position, and areas of responsibility can be found. The study should gain some interest, as very little empirical research has been carried out that has paid particular interest in the middle leader position in general.

The "middle manager" is a widely understood and broadly defined term in the literature. Through our master's degree, we have gained insight into the management subject that has been developing over many years. Our interest in investigating the middle manager role has been challenging due to the lack of previous research in this field in the Norwegian context, however, we see that it is described as a complex role (Hope, 2015). Previous studies have underlined that the middle manager is the link between top management and the employees in the organization, where they should have an overview combined with their daily operations. According to the literature, the "middle manager" position has significantly increased in status in recent years. Moreover, the middle manager has traditionally been seen as an administrative leader and has not consistently been recognized in the literature as a vital role in an organization's strategy (Van Rensburg et al., 2014). However, this has changed, and the middle manager has gained greater recognition for their significant strategic role as a mediator between top management and the operational levels of the organization. To understand the complexity, we want to look closely at middle managers' roles in this study.

Role stress is the other central topic of this thesis. Such strain can be linked to the leadership role, not the least among middle managers. Top management's requirements and expectations of the middle manager can vary from the wishes and expectations of the other operational levels (Floyd & Lane, 2000). Conflicting expectations from surrounding groups can cause the middle manager to experience role stress. However, we are uncertain about the factors that have the most prominent connection with perceived role stress for middle managers, at least within a Norwegian context, and the extent to which middle managers experience role stress. We know, as aforementioned, that middle managers are essential for strategy and operations. In addition, middle managers are everywhere, they perform crucial work in small and large companies but also public and private organizations. This study aims

to contribute with increased knowledge about middle managers' everyday work and identify which factors impact middle managers' experience of role stress.

# What is leadership?

As the first step, we will present the leadership topic more in general. Leadership and leaderand employee relations have gained widespread interest in recent decades. Donald Trump
became president of the US in 2016, Elon Musk achieved tremendous success as the CEO of
companies like Tesla and SpaceX, and Vladimir Putin instigated a terrible war against
Ukraine. The examples Trump, Putin, and Musk, have in common are that these leaders have
triggered an expanded interest in the leadership domain. Leaders within an organization
impact individuals' behavior across work positions and hierarchical levels. The leadership
level within a company strongly influences the organizational culture with its norms and
values.

According to Huczynski & Buchanan (2019), *leadership* can be defined as "the process of influencing the activities of an organized group in its effort toward goal setting and goal achievement" (p. 695). Arnulf (2012) also defines leadership and clarifies it as: "leadership is to create support for targeted cooperation by making it meaningful" (p. 13). As we can see, Arnulf (2012) underlines the social process that embeds leadership. Within an organization, Arnulf claims, the purpose of management is to settle that employees collaborate to achieve specific goals. A leader should, therefore, enhance motivation among the subordinates, ensure that the employees perform as well as possible, and create job satisfaction among the followers. Leaders aim to influence others, whereas the concept of leadership is about building support from people. This support separates leadership from the ideas of governance, power, and authority, and with such an approach, leadership will provide a basis for a significant degree of goal achievement (Jacobsen & Thorsvik, 2013).

Leadership is linked to at least two parties and the relationship between these, most typically leaders and followers. Therefore, one can assume that a leader is dependent on followers and their connections. Furthermore, a manager's role expectation will depend on how the environment views the role and expectations from, among others, superiors, managers at the same level, and the employees. Other requirements concerning tasks and feedback on one's behavior also affect a leader's perception of his role. These expectations, needs, and feedback will affect a leader's behavior and how the individual leader copes with

them, which again affects the leader's choices. Burns (1978) pointed out that the connection between two parties constitutes one of the biggest problems in leadership research because one point of view examines leaders/managers, and the other looks at those who follow, the employees. Hence, leadership does not occur in a vacuum but results from an interconnection between at least two parties. In other words, leadership should be regarded as a process. It is also important not to separate management from administration but to consider managers as administrators and administrators as managers (Mintzberg, 2013).

According to Hiller, DeChurch, Murase, & Doty (2011), we can distinguish five types of orientations within leadership theories. The five theoretical orientations can be split into leadership traits, Leader Membership Exchange Theory (LMX), strategic leadership, leadership behavior, and transformational leadership. Avolio, Walumbwa, & Weber (2009) states that LMX and transformational leadership, established in the late 1970s and early 1980s, are two essential theories in modern research. Both of these perspectives have gathered a lot of attention from research scholars. LMX and transformational leadership are based on how the manager can promote change in business or among the employees (Northouse, 2010). Therefore, both LMX leadership and transformational leadership can potentially be transformative.

From the very beginning of studies concerning leadership, research has been conducted on the qualities and abilities of leaders. Research has addressed whether one is born with qualities that give greater opportunities to become a leader and, in addition, whether someone has qualities that give them better conditions for success as a leader (Hassan et al., 2013). In research and theory of leadership behavior, the starting point was two main qualities that stood in opposition to each other, where one was about caring for their employees and the other about structuring the work. However, developing good leaders is important for the success of a business. Hence, the goal is to create a culture that promotes leadership where one tries to build and value strong leadership.

# Norwegian leaders and culture

Globalization has led to many leaders working across national borders. Norwegian culture that has previously been "taken for granted" in the workplace may no longer be unique. Employees with different backgrounds and nationalities bring different norms and cultures to the workplace (Rønning, Brochs-Haukedal, Glasø & Matthiesen (2013). The Norwegian

leaders and culture differ significantly from other national cultures with its feminine traits and collective society.

Hofstede, Hofstede, and Minkov (2010) define culture as a "collective programming of the mind that distinguishes the members of one group or category of people from others" (p. 6). Hofstede's research on cultural differences has been applied to comprehend specific organizational behaviors. Moreover, the Global Leadership and Organizational Behavior Effectiveness program (GLOBE) includes further research on Hofstede's dimensions of culture. It may be complementary to Hofstede's seminal research (Thomas & Peterson, 2018). Norway was not part of the latest research effort looking into culturally adapted leadership in different countries in the GLOBE program. However, several studies of other Nordic countries have been carried out. The Hofstede and the GLOBE study revealed a cluster of Nordic countries, implying similarities between the cultures and leadership behavior. However, Sund (2016), conducting a study on Norwegian leadership, argues that there are essential cultural differences between the Scandinavian countries. One example of a cultural difference is that leaders in Denmark tend to delegate more to subordinates, requiring employees to be more independent. Whereas Norwegian leaders often focus more on wellbeing and job satisfaction. Besides, Swedish leadership tends to focus even more on coaching (Vangrud, 2019). Hence, the Danish administration is often seen as "targeted leadership". On the other hand, Norwegian leadership is often linked more closely to "democratic leadership".

Given the lack of empirically-based knowledge of leadership within the Norwegian cultural context, especially among middle managers, the present study aims to offer empirical findings that may contribute to the overall general understanding of Norwegian leadership characteristics. It should be mentioned that Hofstede, Hofstede, and Minkov (2010), who have conducted extensive cultural research globally, find some prominent features in Norwegian culture and leadership. Looking at, for example, masculinity versus femininity, individualism versus collectivism, and the power distance dimensions of Hofstede's study, we can find apparent features of Norwegian culture and leadership (Hofstede, 1980; Hofstede, 2001). Norwegian culture scores low on power distance. The flat Norwegian leadership hierarchy with a small distance between the levels means that many have direct access to top management and that the flow of direct contact often goes across leadership levels (Colbjørnsen, 2004). Hence, Hofstede's research discovered that Norwegian culture is characterized by a significant degree of equality and a low degree of hierarchical space due to

the low power distance between managers and employees (Thomas & Peterson, 2018). The Norwegian society is also considered highly feminine, meaning that softer aspects of culture are valued. An effective leader in a feminine community is supportive, and decision-making is reached through involvement (Hofstede, 2001). Norway is also considered an individualistic society, meaning that the individual is highly essential and that personal opinions are valued.

Sund and Lines (2014) argue that Norwegian leadership is expected to be colored by the Norwegian culture due to experiential learning and institutional and leader acculturation processes. Sund and Lines also state the Norwegian leadership style is typically described as soft, with little focus on hierarchy and more focus on democracy and participation. The ideal Norwegian leader can be seen as the prototype of the group they are to lead. Prototypical leaders are usually perceived as attractive and socially attractive - almost charismatic - to others. They are often trusted and thus are given leeway (Barreto & Hogg, 2017). A prototypical leader can symbolize and realize the professional values and identity of the employee group they lead. However, a manager's everyday work is not just about realizing the employees' professional ambitions. Administration, conflict management, meetings, helping employees in difficult situations, creating motivation among employees, following up on sick leave, and providing positive future images during change and adjustment are just some of the actual management tasks that await managers.

Now that we have looked at leadership in general, it will be necessary for our research aim to look at research and theory related to middle management and middle managers' role.

# Middle managers

In an organization, one will rarely find people with the "middle manager" job title, although the term is well established and known in the literature (Van Rensburg et al., 2014). However, a broad interpretation of the term middle manager exists as they have a central role in the link between the strategic and the operational level in organizations. Moreover, according to recent research, the middle manager is considered one of the organization's most influential leaders with their complex role (Hope, 2015). The complexity is linked to the different organizational stakeholders expected to get assistance or be led by a middle manager.

A *middle manager* can be defined based on the employee's job descriptions, while others describe a middle manager based on the manager's position in the organization chart (Floyd & Lane, 2000; Van Rensburg et al., 2014). Wooldridge et al. (2008) argue that a

middle manager is any manager positioned below the top leaders and above the lowest level of managers in the organization. As the top management's "top hand," the middle manager is a critical player in the implementation and design of, among others, strategy (Hope, 2015). Furthermore, middle managers are often between those who make the decisions and those who implement them (Mintzberg, 2013). With that said, one may argue that the management is dependent on the middle managers' competence to keep the business going. With their knowledge of the processes, they have a unique power. The middle manager is an essential resource when changes and organizational strategies are implemented (Hope, 2015).

The middle manager's role has been the subject of research over decades but has recently gained a more nuanced perspective. This function is emphasized to a greater extent today concerning the flow in the organization. In addition, as organizations have become more knowledge-based, they will require different functions and qualities from a middle manager. In addition, it has previously emerged that the middle manager is under pressure, has a stressful position, and exercises a different type of management than other managers. The middle manager's role is crucial in, among others, change processes, where the middle manager's communication often can be needed to make adjustments along the way. In addition, middle managers' knowledge and familiarity with employees and their situations can be essential in decision-making and change processes.

Furthermore, responsibility can be connected to information sharing and communication between levels (Floyd & Wooldridge, 1992). Based on this, the middle manager develops a deep and broad network over time, where they more easily get information (Huy, 2001). However, many middle managers are skilled professionals and need training in good communication, as they are an essential part of the communication channel. For the middle manager as a link, it is central to what extent the flow of information and the clarity of this goes within the organization to be able to put this into practice. Kaufman & Kaufman (2009) emphasize that a middle manager must manage to communicate upwards, downwards, and horizontally in the organization.

Being a manager requires skills and knowledge. As the immediate manager in the daily work, many middle managers also have personnel responsibilities, which can be demanding and stressful. In addition, more organizations today are organizing more *in* and *around* groups and teams, hence, a different way to approach and lead organizations.

Moreover, a middle manager can be the closest to the day-to-day operations (Huy, 2001).

Furthermore, a prerequisite for implementing changes is that middle managers actively participate in the processes. This participation depends on a clear division of roles, as middle managers must navigate between different and partly competing roles in a change process.

According to Olsen & Stensaker (2013), middle managers often experience uncertainty when they have to learn new skills in connection with changes in work tasks and leadership roles. Lack of leadership support deals with such as the experience of loneliness, stress, and insecurity, as well as the opportunity to obtain support in difficult situations. That being said, focusing on middle management can strengthen the organization, and a more nuanced view of middle management versus top management can result in a healthier organizational structure (Hope, 2015). However, a middle manager is not always a straightforward or protected title. Depending on the organization's size, structure, and business area, the content of a middle manager's job will vary.

In the next section, we will look closely at several conditions that can be predictive factors in middle managers' experience of role stress.

# Psychosocial factors linked to leadership

In the next section, we will address the issues that we will link to middle manager leadership. First, we will elaborate on the dependent variable, role stress, in addition to role conflict and general job stress. Furthermore, we will look at the leadership orientations, people and task-oriented leadership, and further the LMX management theory. And finally, in the last part of the result section of the thesis, we will take a closer look at social support and loneliness. Both these psychosocial conditions may be important for leaders in their daily lives.

### Stress

Stress can be defined as "any kind of stimulation, internal or external, that triggers the physiological stress response" (Selye, 1956). Stress, psychological or in the form of workload, can be experienced differently from person to person, and there can be multiple causal triggers of stress. For example, stress can be caused by a single event that resolves quickly or a single extreme event that affects a violent mental strain and chronic stress that lingers for a long time (Rønning et al., 2013). Some researchers suggest that stress plays an essential part in motivating employees, while others argue that stress in organizations leads to various problems (McGowan, Gardner & Fletcher, 2006; Ongori & Agolla, 2008).

Job stress. Job stress is a type of stress that can be caused by any workplace conditions that negatively affect an individual's performance, overall well-being, and in turn, productivity. According to the National Institute of Safety and Health (NIOSH), *job stress* can be defined as the harmful physical and emotional responses that occur when the requirements of the job do not match the capabilities, resources, or needs of the worker, which leads to poor health and even injury (NIOSH, 1999; Rehman, 2008). Work-related stress is often the result of a conflict between the role and needs of an individual employee and the demands of the workplace. It is widespread that nearly everyone agrees that job stress results from the interaction of the worker and work conditions. However, one can distinguish between the worker characteristics versus working conditions as the primary cause of job stress. Whether it is worker characteristics, or working conditions causing the stress, it will require different ways to prevent job stress.

Vulnerable workers, e.g., due to lack of competency, or the work environment being distressing, may require various intervention techniques. Different events can provoke job stress. For example, middle managers might feel pressure due to the demands of their role, such as tasks or responsibilities that exceed what they comfortably can manage. Further, these demands can result from middle managers' roles becoming increasingly essential and changing. Today, middle managers are sometimes asked to take on extra functions, such as a coaching role or a role model and a talent developer. Thus, the middle management role is more versatile than before.

Role stress. Role stress is based on the assumption that all people play a particular role in an organization and that this role is shaped by expectations from different quarters (Kahn, Wolfe, Quinn, Snoek & Rosenthal, 1964; Rizzo, House & Lirtzman, 1970). Kahn et al. (1964) defined *role stress* as the pressure individuals face when they cannot learn or understand the relevant rights and obligations related to their work and perform their roles well. Subsequently, Hardy & Conway (1988) believed that role stress is an imbalance of status caused by some external factors. With that as a basis, Lambert & Lambert (2001) described role stress as a consequence of deviant or conflicting expectations assigned to a role compared to the actions performed in the position. In other words, role stress arises when expectations for a role do not correspond to the fundamental work requirements.

Furthermore, individuals who do not experience mastering the role or struggle to meet the environment's demands for efficiency, punctuality, or profitability can get stressed and burnt out due to the burden, which can reinforce the feeling of loneliness (Rønning et al., 2013). Thus, role stress can be triggered by role uncertainty, role conflict with oneself or with others, conflict with others' roles, or conflict with one's own role. As leaders encounter difficulties, such as the performance of their jobs, they can experience role stress. Leaders and employees may experience this type of stress regardless of their position in the organization. The leader's implicit leadership theories, i.e., the (partially unconscious) thoughts about what leadership should look like, can also influence leaders' increased role stress. However, the level of role stress can depend on the perception of situations, opportunities, threats, or constraints an individual encounters while trying to fulfill their responsibilities and tasks (Sinha & Subramanian, 2012). That being said, the stress can stem from, among others, overload of work, responsibility, inadequate authority, non-cooperation from subordinates, hostile bosses, poor working conditions, and other conflicts in the organization (Khetarpal & Kochar, 2006). The conditions that cause stress are called *stressors*.

Particular attention has been paid to the idea that middle managers may be extra exposed to stressors (Sinha & Subramanian, 2012). This exposure can be connected to the fact that middle managers are often met by different demands and expectations from different directions within the organization. Further, the different expectations of the middle manager, which can often be conflicting, require great complexity in the flow of information and cooperation between the management levels to avoid adverse outcomes of stress. Moreover, it is stated that a significant amount of stress can place constraints on people, lowering their performance levels. Further, a moderate level of high stress and pressure can also negatively affect performance in the long run, as it can wear down the individuals and drain their energy, according to Sinha & Subramanian. Therefore, developing a supportive, encouraging, and helpful management style can be essential in alleviating middle managers' stress and, ultimately, ensuring the well-being of the individual and the entire organization.

Role conflict and role ambiguity. There are two primary perspectives on the dimension of role stress. One view holds that role stress can be classified into two dimensions; role conflict and role ambiguity (Rizzo, House & Lirtzman, 1970). Further, through an in-depth study of role stress, another view deems that role stress can be divided into three dimensions where role overload is included (Kahn et al., 1964). However, as role

overload is not studied as frequently as the first two, we will mainly focus on the two dimensions; role conflict and role ambiguity.

Role conflict can be described as "incompatibility in requirements and perceived lack of resources" (Rizzo, House, & Lirtzman, 1970; Ashill & Rod, 2011; Wilberg & Matthiesen, 2017). According to Jacobsen & Thorsvik (2013), role conflict arises when a manager's performance of his or her work does not correspond to the expectations others in the organization have of the manager's behavior. As a middle manager, there will sometimes be conflicting wishes and interests from the top and bottom of the organization. Therefore, it can be assumed that middle managers have a higher risk of experiencing role conflict than the other organizational management levels (Floyd & Lane, 2000). Role ambiguity, on the other hand, refers to employees' feelings when they are unclear or lack a proper understanding of their role and cannot obtain clear role expectations at work (House & Rizzo, 1972). Thus when managers are faced with tasks and information conveyed by several role requirements, it is difficult to predict how they can balance the requirements for different roles, which might cause role conflict.

Regardless of the context or situation, the top and operational managers will each have their expectations of the middle manager role (Floyd & Lane, 2000; Mintzberg, 1973). Expectations can be conflicting, which will require great complexity in the flow of information and cooperation (Floyd & Lane, 2000). Such conflicts can arise, among other things, from middle managers receiving ambiguous signals or being exposed to ethical dilemmas.

An organization should seek to minimize role conflicts as several studies show that role conflicts are closely linked to job satisfaction (Keller, 1975; McConville, 2006). Floyd and Lane (2000) state that role conflicts are an inevitable consequence of change and cannot be avoided. However, by being aware of them, it can be minimized. To do so, Mantere (2008) believes that it is essential for top managers to make the middle manager feel respected, experience trust and responsibility, and feel included and recognized. Furthermore, Mantere believes that if all these factors are present in the organization, it will give the middle manager an optimal room for maneuver and minimize the risk of role conflict.

#### Leadership orientations

The starting point in research and theory of leadership behavior determines two main factors in this field. One is about taking care of their employees, and the other is about structuring the work. The main difference between relationship-oriented and task-oriented leadership was identified through the Ohio and Michigan studies in the 1950s and 1960s (Bass & Bass, 2008). Furthermore, the Ohio- and Michigan studies have created great interest and engagement among experts in the field of leadership behavior.

Furthermore, Blake and Mouton's Leadership Grid consists of a study in leadership behavior, describing the two main categories: relationship-oriented and task-oriented leadership (Garg & Jain, 2013). Oh & Berry's (2009) study also supports that effective leadership involves these two main aspects. We find it interesting to link them to the middle managers' role stress. Burke et al. (2006) argue that task-oriented behaviors facilitate understanding task requirements, information, and operating procedures. Further, task-oriented management behavior is about structure, which involves organizing the work, developing systems and creating effective communication channels, and rewarding targeted work (Garg & Jain, 2013). On the other hand, people-oriented behavior focuses on employees' inclusion, support, and development, and the leaders often trust two-way communication, relying on the employees. Burke et al. (2006) state that people-oriented behaviors are "those that facilitate the behavioral interactions, cognitive structures, and attitudes that must be developed before members can work effectively as a team" (p. 291).

Examining leadership orientation in more detail is relevant as effective leadership can make organizations more successful. One can assume that middle managers either appear to be internally oriented and concerned with the relationships between themselves and employees or have a more external focus and look at the role from a more general perspective, emphasizing achieving results. However, Blake and Mouton's (1962) "managerial grid" refers to the fact that effective managers should focus on both taking care of employees and structuring work. Although there was previously a shift away from research on leadership traits and to research on leadership behavior, it turns out that they are closely related. In other words, the leader's behavior will be influenced by both the situation the leader is in and also the leader's personality.

#### LMX (Leader-Member Exchange Theory)

Leader-Member Exchange Theory, also referred to as LMX theory, prescribes leadership and conceptualizes leadership as "a process that is centered on the interactions between leaders and followers" (Northouse, 2019, p. 230). According to Graen & Uhl-Bien (1995), the essence of LMX leadership is that "effective management processes take place when managers and employees have the opportunity to develop mature leadership relationships (partnerships) and through these gain access to many benefits such as these relationships entails" (p. 225). The leader-member exchange theory is widely discussed and proven to be one of leadership psychology's most tenable management theories (Ilies, Nahrgang, & Morgeson, 2007). It is widely discussed because the conditions in the workplace, and relationships with employees and superiors, in particular, are essential in all organizations.

LMX theory stands out because it is based on the fact that the manager does not treat all employees equally. Over time, the leaders may develop different relationships with their followers. The quality of the association may vary. The theory presents what is called ingroup and out-group. Early research of exchange studies (LMX), called vertical dyad linkage theory (VDL), focuses on the nature of vertical relations and two different types of relationships. The first group is founded on expanded and negotiated role responsibilities called in-group. This group is characterized by high trust, respect, and commitment beyond the job descriptions. The second group is based on the formal employment contract, called the out-group (Northouse, 2019), characterized by low trust, respect, and little commitment. Followers become part of one of these groups, depending on how sufficiently they work with the leader, and the other way around (Graen & Uhl-Bien, 1995). Thus, the establishment is based on their involvement in expanding their role and responsibilities.

Further development of the LMX theory changed the focus from in-group and outgroup to developing effective leadership relationships between manager and employee. Thus, the purpose was to work with and create a partnership with each employee more sufficiently. Doing so makes it possible to evolve high-quality interactions with all followers rather than just a few. Understanding the relationship between leaders and their employees is seen as most important in management theory. By doing so, the management theory becomes fairer for employees and more appealing in terms of principles of justice, and the potential for partnerships with a high exchange rate increases (Graen & Uhl-Bien, 1995).

Several aspects characterize the Norwegian leader. We find the Norwegian leader to be inclusive, trusting, democratic, and informal. In addition, in line with their low power distance, Norwegian leaders are concerned with having short distances to create good relations with their employees. We believe these are unique qualities Norwegian leaders possess and provide a good starting point for exercising good leadership and achieving a high degree of LMX.

# Social support

Social support can be defined as "supportive interactions or exchanges of resources between people in formal and informal relationships" (House, 1981). Further, social support can be described as the experience of support or the feeling that someone is taking care of you. However, in the workplace, it can be referred to as a working condition that reduces the negative impacts of job-related stress (Karasek & Theorell, 1992). There is a widespread agreement within the scientific field of social support that deep and meaningful relationships play an essential role in human flourishing (Feeney et al., 2015). Social support has been defined and measured in numerous ways. Thus, one criticism of research connected to social support is often linked to the lack of consensus on a clear definition and how to measure it correctly/adequately (Uchino, 2004).

Social and professional support does not always appear clear-cut. Employees can periodically experience a lack of control and high demands on the job. Most people do not get sick when such an experience occurs, but the risk of illness may increase if it persists over time. Employees who experience social support at work are likely to have a lower risk of illness than those who do not (Ozbay et al., 2007). This assumption is supported by studies connected to social support in the workplace, which show that people who experience more supportive and rewarding relationships with other employees are more socially integrated, experience higher levels of subjective well-being, score lower on morbidity rates and have better mental health (Feeney et al., 2015). Therefore, it is likely to believe that social support at work protects the individual employee against adverse health effects. Social support can be given by colleagues by, for example, sharing common challenges or providing each other feedback and recognition.

Social support is considered extra important in challenging situations with high-stress levels. It is likely to believe that middle managers, who are to influence strategic choices at a higher level, need a great degree of social support in their everyday life. This assumption is,

among others, because social support can help reduce, for example, role conflict and role ambiguity (Stamper & Johlke, 2003). Further, it is likely that organizations that promote employees' well-being focus more on social and professional support. Research indicates that being part of a genuine social system leads to a better identification with the group or organization, and eventually, this increases the work's meaningfulness (Rodin & Salovey, 1989). Moreover, as social support may contribute to employees feeling more socially integrated and experiencing higher levels of well-being, leaders, middle managers, and employees should experience social support in the workplace, as it leads to positive relationships.

#### Loneliness

A leader may experience loneliness, for instance, when they experience a lack of social support and at the same time are expected to make critical decisions. Further, loneliness can occur when experiencing a discrepancy between desired and actual social involvement. Perlman and Peplau (1981) define loneliness as "the unpleasant experience that occurs when a person's network of social relations is deficient in some important way" (p. 31). De Jong-Gierveld (1987) also argues that loneliness is "a situation experienced by the individual as one where there is an unpleasant or inadmissible lack of (quality of) certain relationships" (De Jong Gierveld, 1987, p. 120). Hence, both definitions agree that loneliness can result from deficiencies in one's social relationships and illustrate that loneliness involves unpleasant and distressing feelings (De Jong Gierveld, 1987; Perlman & Peplau, 1981).

Loneliness can be classified into emotional loneliness and social loneliness. Emotional loneliness happens when one lacks relationships with a confidential figure or an essential close person, for example, a partner or best friend. On the other hand, social loneliness stems from the absence of interactions with broader groups or social networks such as groups of friends, colleagues, volunteer clubs, or other clubs (Weiss, 1973). Lack of belonging and experience being on the outside of the organizational environment can lead to loneliness. However, working in teams and having close contact with customers and colleagues counteract loneliness. On the other hand, this close contact does not always guarantee positive relationships, and the risk of experiencing loneliness may be present as many experience conflict-filled work environments with internal competition and social stress (Burt, 2002). Further, research shows that negative social relationships directly threaten the need for belonging.

International research shows that as many as two-thirds of leaders report that the most challenging thing about the leadership role is the feeling of being on the side of the community in the organization (Rønning et al., 2013). A leader's experience of loneliness can be linked to organizational and individual conditions. Further, a leader's loneliness can affect their decisions, relational behavior, and leadership style. The feeling of loneliness can also create stress, negatively affecting the work environment and the interaction with their subordinates (Rønning et al., 2013).

Lonely leaders may be considered bad for the employees because they have a leadership style characterized by emotional, cognitive, and behavioral consequences, lack of belonging, and community representation (Rønning et al., 2013). Being a leader can sometimes lead to feeling lonely or unpopular because one has to make decisions that the subordinates can perceive as challenging to follow. As a middle manager, it can also be challenging to find the balance to follow the subordinates and the top management simultaneously, where one can sometimes feel stuck in between. Furthermore, Rønning et al. (2013) conclude that some leaders may be mistakenly considered not to care, while in reality, they are lonely people who potentially lack adequate communicative relational skills. Rønning and associates further point to loneliness as why a leader can be perceived as having passive leadership behavior.

Middle managers are often described in theory as a lonely role, and McConville (2006) explains how many middle managers often tend to miss their colleagues. The middle managers also report a lack of experience in co-understanding with surrounding managers and employees. That said, loneliness can be a negative factor affecting decreases of, among others, well-being, depression, and sleeping problems (De Jong Gierveld, 1998). The experience of loneliness among leaders can impact the leader's ability to make decisions, relational behavior, and leadership style. At the organizational level, this can also have consequences for their employees. Therefore, it has been essential for us to investigate which underlying factors may be related to perceived loneliness among Norwegian middle managers and to what extent this affects management and employee relations.

#### Research aim

This master's thesis focuses on role stress among Norwegian leaders. We have had the opportunity to investigate this research focus through obtained data from AFF's Leadership Survey 2011. This comprehensive 25-page leadership survey contains inventories that map the different topics related to role stress, as well as other factors that we want to see the theory in connection to. The sample is nationally representative, and the group selected are middle managers (n = 876).

Middle managers are traditionally known for meeting expectations and pressures from both leaders and followers, hence, different teams or parties (Sinha & Subramanian, 2012; Wilberg & Matthiesen, 2017). Therefore, we find it particularly interesting to focus on role stress in our study of middle managers. To gain a better and more in-depth understanding of the concept, we have divided our research focus into two parts. The first part deals with the extent of role stress, while the second looks at the specific origin of perceived role stress. Part 2 will be investigated more closely with five hypotheses, in addition to a research model. Thus, the following research focuses will form the basis for our master's degree:

# Part 1: How widespread is role stress among Norwegian middle managers?

Organizational stressors can negatively impact the employee in the long run, and we assume that role stress does have organizational and administrative consequences that may negatively influence, among others, the relationship between manager and employee. That said, we find it decisive to investigate the extent of perceived role stress within middle managers in our data set. Several demographic variables will be of interest and be analysed to examine the scope of role stress among Norwegian middle managers. Further, to test if there are differences in the sample, two of the demographic variables, age, and gender, will be used as our control variables. The analysis from part 1 will contribute to part 2 to better understand the origin of role stress.

# Part 2: What psychosocial conditions predict role stress?

The present survey will investigate factors that we assume predict role stress. In this part, the problem will be investigated and analysed using the following hypotheses:

- 1. The classical leadership dimensions of the person and task orientation are related to role stress. Hypothesis 1: We assume that person orientation leadership is negatively related to role stress and conversely that task-orientation leadership is positively associated (direct effect).
- 2. An important form of leadership style in person-oriented management is LMX leadership, which deals with the dyadic connection between the manager and each employee. In these relationships, the manager is primarily responsible for obtaining high-quality relationships. Hypothesis 2: We assume that LMX leadership is negatively associated with leadership role stress (direct effect).
- 3. Lack of social support may be an essential part of experiencing role stress. Hypothesis3: We therefore assume that perceived social support among the middle management leaders is negatively associated with role stress (direct effect).
- 4. Loneliness may constitute a complicating and stress-enhancing issue in the life of a middle manager. Felt loneliness can disturb the leaders in their jobs. Hypothesis 4: We assume that loneliness among leaders is positively associated with role stress (direct effect).
- 5. It is well-known that psychosocial factors also can interact, that is, the combined effect of two conditions can add something to the prediction of a third dependent variable, in addition to the original direct effect of each of the independent variables. Thus, in line with this, we predict an interaction between social support, LMX management, and loneliness related to role stress among middle managers (Hypothesis no. 5). We will test the interaction between social support and LMX management, between social support and loneliness, and between LMX management and loneliness (two-way interaction effects). Finally, we will investigate whether the overall interaction between social support, LMX, and loneliness contribute significantly to role stress prediction (three-way interaction effects).

In Figure 1, we have created a visual overview of all the five hypotheses addressed and how they are linked to the dependent variable of role stress. As can be seen in the figure, all the arrows are numbered in accordance with the hypotheses that we propose.

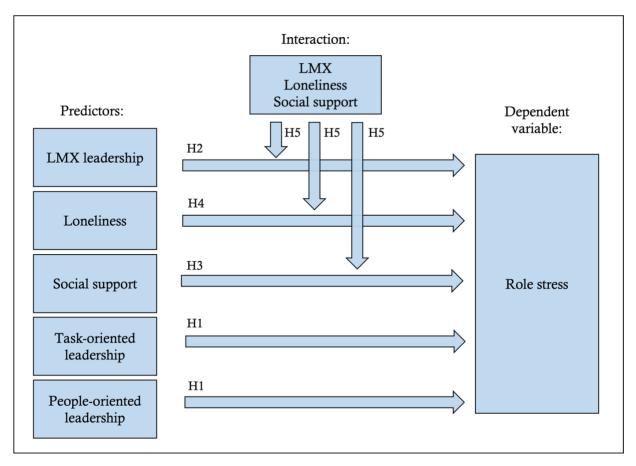


Figure 1. Research model

# **METHOD**

In this section, we will describe the method we have used to answer the research aim. We will explain the choice of research design, sample, and representation of the study and the data collection.

# Research design

This thesis is based on data material from the "AFF Leadership Survey 2011" and consists of responses to questionnaires from Norwegian leaders. As the research aim in this thesis focuses on middle managers, our collected data from the AFF Leadership survey is based on the focus group of 876 middle managers who responded to the study. The data material is

collected and organized by Synovate under the auspices of AFF, which owns the data on which we base our thesis and analysis.

The AFF Leadership survey conducted in 2011 had 2,910 respondents, representing a unique contribution to Norwegian management studies. Moreover, this survey has also shown improvements since the previous AFF surveys carried out in 1999 and 2002 using established inventories or scales, which measure critical conditions around managerial themes and constructs.

### Sample

The AFF Leadership Survey 2011 is a nationally representative sample of Norwegian leaders (N=2910). In the sample, 1994 (68,5%) of the respondents are men, and 916 (31.5%) are women. The average age is 48,8 years, with the youngest respondents being 22 years old and the oldest respondents being 90 years old. Furthermore, 18.7% of the respondents were between 22 and 40 years old, 72.3% were between 41 and 60 years old, and 9.0% were between 61 and 90 years old. As the response rate to the survey is 70.8%, it can be classified as an excellent rate in such a survey.

Narrowing the data to middle managers, 876 respondents, the sample indicated that 550 (62.8 %) of the respondents are men, and 326 (37.2 %) are women. Furthermore, a more in-depth analysis of middle managers has been done to understand the study's dataset better. A complete overview of the demographic variables of interest is presented in Table 1.

*Table 1: Demographic characteristics of participants (N= 876)* 

Characteristic	n	%
Gender		
Male	550	62.8
Female	326	37.2
Age		
22-40 yrs	185	21.1
41-60 yrs	620	70.8
61 or more	71	8,1
Marital status		
Partner/Married	757	86.4
Other	113	12.9
Education		
High school or less	318	36.3
1-4 higher education	304	34.7
More than 4 years higher ed	251	28.7
Yrs as leader in current co.		
Up to one yrs	105	12
2-3 yrs	155	17.7
4-5 yrs	146	16.7
6-10 yrs	174	19.9
11-19 yrs	192	21.9
20 or higher	96	11
Yrs as leader in previous co.		
Up to one yrs	275	31.4
2-3 yrs	69	7.9
4-5 yrs	64	7.3
6-10 yrs	105	12
11-19 yrs	75	8.6
20 or higher	47	5.4
Note. Totals of percentages are	not 100 fo	r every
characteristics because of round		-

# Representation

The AFF's management survey sample consists of a national representative across industries, genders, and sectors. The sample in the survey consists of extensive data collection and should, with its selection criteria, be representative of the Norwegian population. The sample is collected randomly in each company, and it is desirable that one of three middle managers, at least one in each company, have participated.

#### Data collection

The data collection took place between the 30th of March 2011 and the 11th of November 2011 and was collected by Synovate through the survey feedback method. The sample consists of companies from previous similar surveys and recruitment of new ones. Of the total respondents, 28 % participated in the AFF study in 2002 and 20 % both in 1999 and 2002.

The survey was conducted by sending a paper version of the questionnaire to each respondent, then answered and returned. Measures were also introduced to increase the number of responses. These measures included that respondents who spent a long time were first contacted by email before they were called. The questionnaire is 25 pages long and contains 75 main questions, where each main question includes several sub-questions. For example, the main question that maps three types of leadership consists of 36 items. The sheer length makes the survey very comprehensive, and the respondents were encouraged to take breaks or only answer parts of the study at a time.

#### **Research ethics and GDPR**

Respondents, demographic data, and identification are anonymized in the AFF survey. In other words, the privacy considerations of the individual respondent are taken care of carefully. Furthermore, the respondents were informed about the purpose behind the survey and were aware that the study would be analysed and reported in book form. In addition, all the participants received a summary of the survey's main results before completion.

# **Analysis**

In our analysis, we used the statistics program IBM SPSS Statistics and the additional program JASP. We started by getting the file from our supervisor, Stig, made by Synovate, and loaded it directly into SPSS and later in JASP. The raw data got named and systematized when analysing the data, and we re-created all the index variables with full reliability inquiry. We used correlation analysis and hierarchical multiple regression analyses to perform our analysis. The choice and implementation of analysis in SPSS were mainly justified by Pallant (2010).

#### Measures

This section will present the questionnaire used in the survey, i.e., the inventories and questions used. Under each measured variable, we will refer to references on the inventory and the number of paragraphs/statements and response categories used. The full questionnaire is attached to the Appendix for the sake of clarity.

Role stress. The survey maps stress in the form of role stress. In literature, it is common to distinguish between role conflict and role ambiguity when it comes to role stress (Rizzo, House & Lirtzman, 1970). It is also possible to add role conflict and role ambiguity to create an operationalized measure of role stress. This procedure was followed by Rønning and associates in their previous AFF report (Rønning et al., 2013). To measure role stress was, for example, the question, "How often do you find that the job places demands on you that go beyond your ability to nurture friendships?", see also question number 53 in the questionnaire attached in Appendix 1. The answer categories related to the questions go from 1 ("never") to 5 ("all the time"). In addition, there is a "not applicable" category. We found Cronbach Alpha for the role stress scale to be 0.80.

Demographic variables. The first eleven questions in the survey are about demographics. We checked for demographic variables, such as gender, age, marital status, how many years one has been a leader, and the number of years the manager had worked in the current company. These demographic variables can be seen as control variables. Gender was measured with the question "Are you male or female? "and had the answer options 1, male, and 2, female. In addition, age was measured with the question "How old are you?" and we sorted the answers into categories "22-40 years", "41-60 years", and "60 or more years". A complete overview of the demographic variables applied is presented in Table 1, and the questionnaires are attached in Appendix 1 (questions 1 and 2).

**People and task-oriented leadership.** Perspectives for assessing people and task-oriented management go back to the classic Ohio and Michigan studies in the United States in the 50s and 60s (Bass & Bass, 2008). In our research, the classic leadership dimensions have been mapped by Stogdill's (1963) inventory "Leadership Questionnaire" (task orientation) and using a measure of "empowerment", developed by Ahearne and co-workers (Ahearne, Mathieu, & Rapp, 2005), which maps people-oriented management (Rønning et al., 2013).

Stogdill's inventory, which maps task-oriented leadership, consists of six statements. Examples are "I decide what to do and how it is done" and "I assign certain tasks to the group members". On the other hand, people-oriented management was measured by applying the inventory of Ahearne and employees through four claims. Examples of items in this part are "I help the employees to understand how their goals and purposes relate to the company" and "I express great faith that the employees can perform demanding tasks".

In both inventories that measure task-oriented and people-oriented management, the response categories range from 1 (Strongly disagree) to 5 (Strongly agree). In addition, there was a "can not answer" category, see also question number 67 and 68 in the questionnaire attached in Appendix 1. The Cronbach Alphas for the two measures mapping classical leadership dimensions were 0.74 for task-oriented and 0.66 for people-oriented leadership.

LMX. LMX management was assessed using Graen and Uhl-Bien's (1995) scale "LMX7", also presented in the Northouse (2010) textbook about leadership. Examples of questions measuring LMX-leadership are "The trust in my employees is so great that I would have defended and justified their decisions in their absence" (1 "strongly agree" to 5 "strongly disagree") and "How would you describe your working relationship with your employees?" (1 "very bad" to 5 "very good"), see also questions number 35-41 in the questionnaire attached in Appendix 1. Furthermore, the response alternatives followed the Likert scale build-up and had five numbered options, but also coved a sixth one ("can not answer"). The Cronbach Alpha was found to be 0.78.

Social support. The variable consists of two simple questions or statements that map the leaders' perceived degree of social support. The links included in the inventory are inspired by general literature on social support by, among others, Cohen & Syme (1985). The only two statements included in the inventory are "I have colleagues who can come up with dangerous advice when I need it" and "I know the resource persons outside the company who can give me new and fruitful professional approaches", see also question number 50 in the questionnaire attached in Appendix 1. The response categories range from 1 (Strongly disagree) to 5 (Strongly agree). In addition, there is a "can not answer" category. Furthermore, the vulnerability of only having two questions in this variable is considered.

**Loneliness.** Loneliness was assessed through the loneliness scale developed by Kraft & Loebe (1997). In the study, Norwegian leaders were asked to what extent they experience

loneliness based on six questions included in the scale. The loneliness scale is based on the UCLA Loneliness Scale and has earlier been reported as the most widely used international measure of loneliness (Russell, Pelau & Cutrona, 1980).

It is vital to isolate situations that trigger loneliness in work-related cases since factors that lead to and affect loneliness in individuals are individually and empirically conditioned (Rønning et al., 2013). Examples of questions measuring loneliness are "I often feel lonely", "I think I have enough contact with people who care about me", "I find it difficult to talk to people that I have never met before", and "I feel lonely even when they are with others". The answer options went from "Completely Agree" (value 5) to "Completely Disagree" (value 1). In addition, a "can not answer"-option was included, see also question number 58 in the questionnaire attached in Appendix 1. We found the Cronbach Alpha to be 0.70 on the Loneliness scale.

Preliminary analysis and descriptive statistics. The first step in the preliminary analysis and descriptive statistics was to review the data material for errors and omissions according to the guidelines in Pallant (2010). We discovered that some of the questions included in the indices we would use had some "missing's." Furthermore, we read the questions thoroughly. It did not seem unnatural regarding more missing on the questions than others, as some of the questions with a lot of missing may seem somewhat more personal or poorly adapted to Norwegian cultural conditions. However, Tabachnick & Fidell (2007) explain that missing > 5 % of N can be considered too much. Therefore, we used MEAN substitution to create the sum score variables on LMX, loneliness, people-oriented, task-oriented, role stress, and social support. In the aftermath, descriptive analysis of these variables shows that missing, after MEAN substitution for up to 20 % of the joints, ends up within 5 % and can therefore be considered acceptable.

All negative formulated terms were reversed using the recode command during further analysis. We instantly saw the importance of all variables with high scores showing an equal degree of frequency, quantity, or agreement with the statement. This was especially necessary for the questions of loneliness, as high responses needed to correspond to a high degree of perceived loneliness.

#### Correlation coefficient analysis

Correlation analysis is the first step in an analysis setup where multivariate analyses follow. Ideally, the correlations between the variables included in the regression analysis should be between r=0.30 and r=0.70. The problem with too strong intercorrelations between constructs that overlap too much is that they may be measuring the same, which is a methodological flaw. In a hierarchical multiple regression analysis, it is impossible to determine which of the two correlated variables is the main predictor related to the dependent variable. Pallant (2010) pinpoints that correlations above r=0.90 indicate multicollinearity. Multicollinearity can increase the variance of the coefficient estimates and affect the statistical significance of independent variables. In other words, the coefficient estimates become unstable and sensitive to minor changes in the model (Pallant, 2016). That said, VIF and Tolerance values in the data were checked and are within values Pallant (2010) states are unproblematic (tolerance values of 0.8 are acceptable).

Furthermore, multicollinearity likely exists if VIF values are above 10 (Pallant, 2016). In our research, VIF values are below 10, and tolerance values are above 8. Therefore, we can conclude that no multicollinearity exists in our data set (see Appendix 1).

#### RESULTS

In this section, we have summarized the main findings from each research question. The analysis results will follow the build-up consistent with parts 1 and 2. We will start with part 1, which addresses an analysis of the demographic variables to answer the main problem about role stress. We will briefly discuss these variables in terms of normality, average, and percentage distribution to understand whether role stress is widespread among middle managers. Part 2 will follow the layout of the five hypotheses in the same order. Further, we will explain the correlation and regression analysis performed to respond to the initial hypotheses.

Part 1: How widespread is role stress among Norwegian middle managers?

# **Descriptive analysis**

Using descriptive analyses, we can better clarify how widespread role stress is among Norwegian middle managers. Descriptive statistics is helpful to get an overview of what the data material looks like, how different groups are distributed, what level we have on the

dependent variable, and how it is spread. To test the general variables of role stress within descriptive statistics, we used both SPSS and JAPS as a tool.

The 12 sub-questions (items) related to role stress are tested to see which variables stand out. Looking at the 12 questions in Table 2, two variables particularly stand out, revealing high levels of role stress. The question "superiors and subordinates make different demands of you" indicates an exceptionally high level of role stress compared with the other items (Mean 3.19, scale range 1-5). A high mean value on this item was expected as middle managers are positioned between top-management and organizational operation.

The question "daily chores lead to long-term tasks not getting enough attention" indicates the highest level of role stress in this study (Mean 3.54, scale 1-5). Because middle managers work under the top manager's strategic goals, daily work content can be affected by more sporadic tasks, which will impact long-term task priority. With that being said, the findings were expected in context to present theory within the middle managers' position in organizations. Furthermore, the descriptive statistics show that Norwegian leaders acknowledge stress related to demands and long-term chores and tasks.

Table 2: Descriptive statistics, role stress

	Valid	Missing	Mean	Std. Deviation
Item 1	865	11	3.193	1.026
Item 2	848	28	2.551	0.915
Item 3	827	49	2.339	0.991
Item 4	841	35	1.996	0.995
Item 5	862	14	3.544	0.985
Item 6	853	23	2.272	0.970
Item 7	813	63	2.387	1.053
Item 8	859	17	2.496	0.927
Item 9	861	15	1.816	0.870
Item 10	864	12	1.855	0.966
Item 11	832	44	2.748	1.248
Item 12	861	15	2.761	1.173

The histogram of role stress among Norwegian middle managers (Figure 2) shows normally distributed data. However, we see some reported low values and some reported high values. As can be seen, the Mean value of the summarized scale of role stress is 2.50 (SD = 0.58).

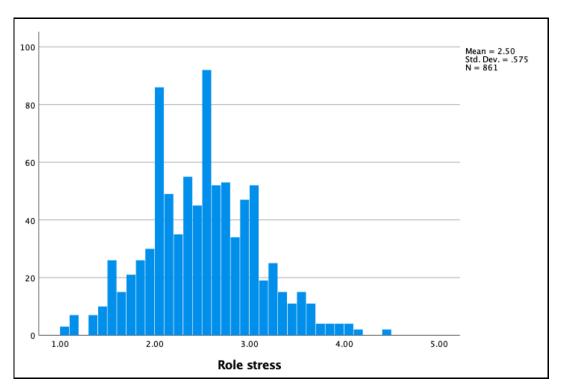


Figure 2: Histogram of role stress

# Relationship between role stress and age

Role stress is significantly associated with age. First, since the age range goes from 19 to 90 years in the dataset (there are some middle manager outliers exceeding the normal retirement age of 70), we started by categorizing and systematizing the age range. According to Table 3, several variables stand out concerning age, where several of the variables are significant. The first variable of particular interest is related to "requirements for you that go beyond your marriage/relationship", p < .001. This variable also stands out, and we see that the young group, 35-44 years, experiences role stress the most, Mean = 3.24, while the oldest group experiences it the least, Mean = 3.03. These are expected results because the younger group may be in a different family situation than the older generation, who often have a more established family life. However, the finding of this study is interesting.

Furthermore, another variable of importance and interest relates to whether "superiors and subordinates make different demands on you" (Mean = .019). Again, Table 4 shows that the oldest group experiences a lower level of stress (Mean = 3.03), while the youngest group (under 35 years) experiences role stresses the most (Mean = 3.41). This was also an expected result in advance because "generational achievement" has become a familiar concept when we talk about today's young generation. Today, "generational achievement" has become a general term for legitimizing a somewhat unhealthy young culture (Bakken, Sletten & Eriksen, 2018). The youngest generation in today's society rebels against themselves in many ways, where they put enormous pressure on themselves to be perfect and consistently perform at the top. With that being said, the youngest group (under 35 years) confirms this by showing that this age group experiences the most significant demands for the environment in this study.

Finally, the question "you should go to work even when you feel sick" is also significantly associated with age, p = .004, and again shows that the youngest group (under 35 years) experiences this the most, Mean = 3.16, while if the oldest group (55 or higher) experiences this the least, Mean = 2.76. Again, this was somehow expected because the youngest group is allegedly exposed to pressure in so many areas that it becomes difficult to handle and master the totality of the demands and expectations they meet. Therefore, it is likely that the younger generation feels that they have to go to work despite illness, compared to the older group who reports otherwise.

Table 3: Relationship between role stress and age

Age cathegorized		Item 1	Item 2	Item 3	Item 4	Item 5	Item 6	Item 7	Item 8	Item 9	Item 10	Item 11	Item 12
Under 35 yrs	Mean	3,41	2,79	2,36	2,21	3,57	2,25	2,32	2,46	2,05	1,97	3,05	3,1
	N	59	58	58	56	58	59	57	59	57	58	56	5
	Std. Deviation	0,967	1,022	0,986	1,004	1,011	0,975	1,003	0,916	0,934	1,025	1,285	1,19
35-44	Mean	3,24	2,52	2,35	2,12	3,58	2,28	2,3	2,46	1,8	1,91	2,56	2,8
	N	246	243	236	239	241	239	229	244	245	246	236	24
	Std. Deviation	1,024	0,883	0,98	0,997	0,928	0,909	1,072	0,895	0,828	0,996	1,228	1,1
45-54	Mean	3,24	2,59	2,43	2,04	3,63	2,32	2,47	2,54	1,85	1,93	2,81	2,7
	N	327	318	313	315	330	326	309	325	328	329	317	32
	Std. Deviation	0,987	0,927	0,972	1,049	0,976	0,972	1,024	0,937	0,876	0,991	1,198	1,1
55 yrs or older	Mean	3,03	2,46	2,19	1,76	3,39	2,19	2,38	2,47	1,72	1,67	2,78	2,
	N	233	229	220	231	233	229	218	231	231	231	223	23
	Std. Deviation	1,078	0,896	1,019	0,87	1,036	1,025	1,085	0,95	0,88	0,857	1,311	1,15
Total	Mean	3,19	2,55	2,34	2.00	3,54	2,27	2,39	2,5	1,82	1,86	2,75	2,7
	N	865	848	827	841	862	853	813	859	861	864	832	86
	Std. Deviation	1,026	0,915	0,991	0,995	0,985	0,97	1,053	0,927	0,87	0,966	1,248	1,17

#### Relationship between role stress and gender

Role stress has also been shown to be significant concerning gender. Table 4 shows that some role stress items stand out concerning gender. Two of the gender associations are significant. Firstly, the variable related to "that daily chores leads to long-term tasks not receiving enough attention" shows a significant value of p = .010. In addition, we see that 19 % of women report that they experience this "all the time" (Mean = 3.66), while only 13 % of men share the same "all the time" (Mean = 3.48). Thus, there is a clear difference between gender when it comes to the item mapping "daily chores that have an impact on long-term tasks".

Furthermore, the variable related to "that you should go to work even when you feel sick" shows a significance level of <.001, thus, there is a difference between gender within this. As shown in Table 5, women report that they, to a more significant degree, feel they should go to work despite illness (Mean = 2.93), while men with a minor degree feel like they have to (Mean = 2.66). According to Appendix 2, we also see that there are more women (8%) than men (4%) who feel that they have to go to work even though they are ill "all the time". This gender difference may be related to women going sick at work to a greater degree than men because they are afraid to make their immediate leader angry or disappointed. In addition, we can assume that female workers pay more attention to their colleagues by going to work a little sick rather than disappointing their colleagues. Other than these group differences, there were no other significant findings related to role stress and gender.

Table 4: Relationship between role stress and gender

Are you male or female?		Item 1	Item 2	Item 3	Item 4	Item 5	Item 6	Item 7	Item 8	Item 9	Item 10	Item 11	Item 12
Male	Mean	3,14	2,57	2,38	2,04	3,48	2,27	2,33	2,47	1,77	1,84	2,71	2,6
	N	543	531	522	533	539	537	513	537	539	542	522	53
	Std. Deviation	1,051	0,905	0,99	1,001	0,984	0,967	1,04	0,908	0,833	0,932	1,256	1,15
Female	Mean	3,28	2,51	2,27	1,92	3,66	2,28	2,48	2,54	1,89	1,89	2,8	2,9
	N	322	317	305	308	323	316	300	322	322	322	310	32
	Std. Deviation	0,977	0,933	0,991	0,98	0,979	0,976	1,071	0,957	0,926	1.020	1,235	1,17
Total	Mean	3,19	2,55	2,34	2.00	3,54	2,27	2,39	2,5	1,82	1,86	2,75	2,7
	N	865	848	827	841	862	853	813	859	861	864	832	86
	Std. Deviation	1,026	0,915	0,991	0,995	0,985	0,97	1,053	0,927	0,87	0,966	1,248	1,17

# Part 2: What psychosocial conditions predict role stress?

#### **Correlations coefficient analysis**

The correlation coefficient analysis is a helpful tool to measure the strength of the bivariate relationship between variables separately. It is also a convention to present bivariate interconnections before conducting multivariate statistics. Our research is based on Pearson's r, which concerns both magnitude-strength and an aspect of either positive or negative linear relationship results between two variables (Pallant, 2016). Furthermore, Pearson's r statistics are among the most widely used statistics to measure bivariate correlation coefficients (Tabachnick & Fidell, 2007). Our analysis may provide insightful information that can be seen as a supplement to the multivariate presentation of the research model outlined in Figure 1, of which role stress comprises the dependent variable.

*Table 5: Correlations between the variables in the study (Pearson's r)* 

Variable	Mean	SD	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1-Role stress	2.50	.57	1							
2-Gender	1.37	.484	.058	1						
3-Age	47.97	8.999	081*	186**	1					
4-Task oriented	3.5566	.60506	.001	026	.003	1				
5-People oriented	4.1750	.51112	044	.164**	.068*	.135**	1			
6-LMX	3.9925	.54216	229**	.087*	.167**	.064	.398**	1		
7-Social support	4.2296	.79588	057	.035	.000	.017	.212**	.221**	1	
8-Loneliness	4.3129	.65163	168**	.056	.018	146**	117*	.065	.048	1

As can be seen, the correlation table presents all possible combinations of bivariate correlation between the research variables in the present project. Mean values and standard deviation are also part of the table. Some specific associations stood out as interesting. One of the most interesting findings between the independent variables is the strong link between LMX leadership and whether the leaders report experiencing themselves to be people-oriented (r = 0.40, p < 0.001). We can also see that LMX is associated with age (r = 0.17, p < 0.01) and that social support correlates substantially with people-oriented leadership (r = 0.21, < 0.01). Correspondingly, there is a link between social support and LMX (r = 0.22, p < 0.01).

It should be noted that the correlation model (shown in Table 3) is based on the correlations found in the multiple regression output statistics. Due to many missing data in

terms of loneliness (it was a blunder of the original AFF researchers to allow the respondents to report the response category "not relevant" on each of the loneliness items), we created a variable to split between the entire middle-manager sample. The subsample contains leaders that also reported their level of loneliness. We inspected the correlation matrix for the loneliness sample, compared it with the whole sample of middle managers, and found that the correlations were approximately identical.

#### **Regression analysis**

The final exploration of the research model and its hypotheses are conducted using a series of multiple regression analyses. The analysis results are shown in number format in Table 6. Multiple regression, blockwise designs, were performed in SPSS. By doing so, it is possible to enter the variables into the regression equations in a specific order, or in other words, to follow a rational build-up. After the control variables in block 1 (gender, age) have been entered and block 2 (task-oriented, people-oriented leadership), the regression equation explains 0.3 % (adjusted R square = .003, p not significant) of the variance in role stress. After block 3 variable (LMX) has been included, the model explains 5,6 % of the variance (adjusted R square = .056, p <0.001). When the regression equation adds social support and loneliness, the block 4 model explains 9,1 % of the variance (adjusted R square = .091, p <0.001).

Lastly, after the final block, block 5, when one sole interaction term is included (the interaction between social support and loneliness), the entire model with role stress as the criterion variable is predicted with 10,8 % explained variance (adjusted R square = .108, p <0.001). This bivariate interaction was the only one that significantly contributed to the regression of role stress (the other interaction terms, various combinations of loneliness, social support, and LMX leadership, did not contribute, nor did the three-wave interaction term between the predictor variables). Next, we will investigate the regression equations to clarify the proposed hypotheses.

*Table 6: Results of regression analyses, five blocks of predicting Role Stress.* 

		Beta w	eights		
Measure	block 1	block 2	block 3	block 4	block 5
Gender	.041	0.33	0.37	.044	.049
Age	074	078	059	059	058
Task oriented		.078	.072	.060	.050
People oriented		.028	.130**	.102	.091
LMX			256***	225***	207***
Social support				042	040
Loneliness				196***	183**
Int Soc Supp x					.143**
Loneliness					
Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	.002	.003	.056	.091	.108
$\Delta R^2$	.009	.007	.055	.040	.020
F	1.373	1.278	4.813***	5.578***	5.859***
$\Delta F$	1.373	1.181	18.669***	7.030***	7.070***

Note: Standardized regression coefficients are shown. \* p <.05. \*\* p<.01. \*\*\* p<.001.

# Hypothesis testing results

The first hypothesis predicted that person-oriented leadership is negatively related to role stress and that task orientation is positively associated. We conducted multiple regression analyses to clarify this hypothesis (Table 6). As shown in the table (step 5), the two leadership dimensions only corresponded with standardized betas of 0.05 and 0.09 related to the criterion variable. Both were non-significant contributions to the explained variance of role stress. Thus, hypothesis 1 should be rejected.

The second hypothesis addresses whether a high degree of LMX leadership directly affects leadership stress. When LMX was included in the block 3 regression equation, with control for demographic variables and the two leadership variables respective people-oriented leadership and task-oriented leadership, a beta weight of 0.26 was obtained. In the final model (block 5), LMX was found with a beta of 0.21 (p < 0.001). The beta weight is negative, indicating that a high level of role stress is connected with a lower level of LMX. Hence, hypothesis 2 is confirmed.

The third hypothesis proposed that social support among leaders is negatively associated with role stress (cf. Table 6). Social support is added to the regression models as part of block number 4, along with loneliness. As can be seen, the direct effect of social support was modest regarding the prediction of role stress (beta = -0.04, both in blocks 4 and 5, p not significant). Thus, the hypothesis that social support predicts role stress directly can be rejected.

The fourth hypothesis addressed that loneliness is positively associated with role stress. This predictor was also added as part of block 4 among the regression models. As Table 3 demonstrates, the link between loneliness and role stress is significant when controlled for the other predictor variables. Beta was found to be -0.20 in block 4, decreasing to -0.18 in block 5, with both beta weights being significant (p < 0.001). The minus sign of the coefficient signals a somewhat surprising result: the least lonely leaders report the highest level of role stress. Although the strength of the interconnection is significant, the direction is opposite of what we predicted. Thus, the hypothesis must be rejected.

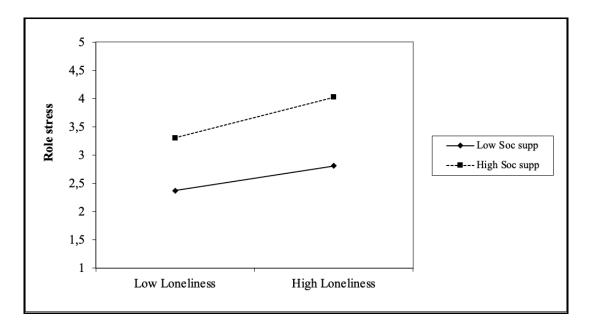


Figure 3. The interaction between loneliness and social support, with role stress as the dependent variable.

Various interaction terms were established to verify hypothesis five, stating that significant interactions exist between social support, loneliness, and LMX. The regression equations revealed that only one of these interaction terms significantly contributed to the prediction of role stress when controlled for the different direct effects of the variables. The significant term is included in block 5 among the regression models. The combination of loneliness and social support increased the amount of explained variance from 9,1 % to 10,8 %. The interaction is significant (p <0.01). In Figure 3, we can inspect the interaction more thoroughly. The expected direction in the interaction calculations was that the most lonely leaders would simultaneously report the lowest level of social support. This prediction was, however, not found. Instead, the figure shows that middle managers with a high level of loneliness but access to higher support levels report the most elevated level of role stress.

# **DISCUSSION**

#### **Main findings**

We could use the AFF Leadership Survey 2011 to highlight several exciting questions that instigated our study. We primarily wanted to investigate the influencing factors for role stress among Norwegian middle managers, as no similar studies have been performed studying this group, as we know. Even though the data was collected over ten years ago, the data is perceived as highly relevant as it is such a comprehensive survey that was carried out.

# Relationship between leadership theory and leadership orientations

We made two hypotheses concerning leadership orientations and LMX theory based on the present studies and empirical data. In hypothesis 1, we assumed that people-oriented leadership is negatively related to role stress and conversely that task-oriented leadership is positively associated with role stress. Furthermore, in hypothesis 2, we thought LMX leadership is negatively associated with leadership stress. Based on theory, we have presumed a direction of the connections, where we believe that the manager's orientation and relationship with the employees impact role stress. Our study found that only the manager's relationship with employees positively correlates with perceived role stress.

The two leadership orientations, people- and task orientation, and LMX leadership, can be said to explain parts of the managers' experience of role stress. There is, however, a difference between the two leadership dimensions concerning to which extent they affect the

role stress of managers. According to our research, LMX leadership affects role stress more than leadership orientations. While leadership orientations explain 0.3 % of the degree of role stress variance, LMX management explains 5.6 % of the variance. In other words, the leader's social exchange relationship with the employees seems to have a more significant effect on role stress than different types of leadership behavior. Several arguments can shed light on why there is such a difference. For example, leaders might involve their employees more through LMX relationships. Thus, the contact between manager and employee seems to be central in whether role stress can be found.

Furthermore, our findings show that leadership orientation affects role stress, whether people-orientation or task-orientation. Both leadership orientations yielded non-significant contributions to the explained variance of role stress. The results were surprising as we expected task-oriented managers to experience more role stress in tasks, results, and achievements in everyday work. Moreover, people-oriented management is concerned about communicating and actively listening to understand what others are experiencing. We assumed together with LMX that people-orientation management would reduce the amount of role stress because people-oriented management, together with LMX, likely promotes good relations in the workplace. This assumption was rejected. Our findings explain that leaders who hold a task or a people-oriented focus in statistical terms will experience an equal amount of role stress regardless of their orientation focus. Therefore, our studies show that it does not matter the leader's orientation, as no orientation affects role stress more than the other.

It has previously been explained how LMX management describes the manager's impact on its employees and how LMX management is more about forming a partnership between manager and employee (Graen & Uhl-Bien, 1995). Hypothesis 2 assumes that LMX leadership is negatively associated with leadership stress, which results in a significant outcome. The findings align with the theory that role stress can lead to harmful consequences that are less obvious and can be devastating both for the leader personally and for the organization as a whole. In addition, the findings support the theoretical notion that a high degree of role stress could lead to a lower quality of the leader-employee relationship (Davis & Gardner, 2004, cited in Sonnentag & Pundt, 2016). However, most studies have been based on the fact that LMX leadership has a negative impact on various stress factors, but one can not ignore that the effect can also happen the other way around; thus, it can simply also be stress factors affecting manager-employee relationships (Sonnentag & Pundt, 2016). Our research, therefore, supports this assumption.

Managers who experience a high degree of role stress may be less motivated and less able to build social relationships with their employees. Sinha & Subramanian (2012) found in their study that a significant amount of stress can place limitations on people and that high stress can have an adverse effect on performance in the long run. Leader-employee relationships are characterized by long-term reciprocity and feelings of mutual commitment, trust, and respect (Martin et al., 2010). Role stress among leaders can contribute to causing the employees to doubt the reciprocity of the manager. Thus, the quality of the relationship will be reduced. With that being said, our study is in line with previous empirical findings and confirms the notion that a high degree of LMX leadership may reduce role stress within middle managers. In this case, this may support the idea that leaders who feel a sense of belonging to their followers and nurture relationships exercise better leadership and feel better about themselves.

The connection between leadership orientations and LMX leadership has also been investigated more closely in our study. The demographic variable, gender and age, were used as control variables. In general, our findings show no significant effect of task-oriented leadership style on the self-oriented dimension of LMX. On the other hand, we found a significant impact of people-oriented leadership style on the self-oriented dimension of LMX. Thus, We can conclude that middle managers should examine each leadership style's effects thoroughly if they intend to get their employees to work more effectively.

Furthermore, our study shows a significant positive correlation between peopleoriented leadership and gender, where the increasing value indicates women (Appendix 4). We can not use the research in this study to conclude within this area. However, it may show a slight indication of some truth in previous stereotypes of management orientations, i.e., that women are more people-oriented than men.

Our studies also show that female middle managers score higher on LMX leadership than men (Appendix 5). There might be several reasons for a potential difference within this area. One possible explanation may be that female leaders often have a desire to know their employees and establish relationships with them. Such a desire can lead to the manager forming personal relationships with each one of their employees. According to the LMX theory, this is a characteristic of high-quality dyads. However, it is essential to point out that this does not mean that male managers lack a desire to establish relationships with their employees.

The ability to see the individual can also be a potential reason for the difference in scores between female and male leaders in the leadership orientation and LMX leadership. As female managers are considered to have a higher degree of holistic understanding, this may cause them to be good at seeing the individual employee - the ability to see the individual might come as a result of their caring role in life. On the other hand, one can see from the results that male leaders are perceived to be not as good at socializing as women (Appendix 6).

Finally, our study and studies on other populations seem to have a relatively good agreement.

# Relationship between social support and loneliness for perceived role stress

Entrenched in our study, we find two hypotheses about social support and loneliness among Norwegian middle managers. In hypothesis 3, we assumed that social support among leaders is negatively associated with role stress. Further, in hypothesis 4, we assumed that loneliness among leaders is positively associated with role stress in our research question. Moreover, when testing hypothesis 3, we found that the direct effect of social support was modest regarding the prediction of role stress, indicating that social support does not directly predict role stress among middle managers. Based on our assumptions in hypothesis 4, we have presumed a direction of the connections, where we believe that loneliness is an essential buffer concerning role stress. Our study found that the least lonely leaders report the highest level of role stress.

Based on theory, we find that social support reduces the negative impacts of job-related stress (Karasek & Theorell, 1992). However, our study found a weak direct effect of social support in predicting role stress among Norwegian middle managers. Therefore, the findings show that role stress can affect middle managers regardless of the degree to which they experience support. We believe that the middle manager's role highly influences the experience and, in turn, the influence of social context and various disturbances.

As the study reflects that middle managers who experience a higher degree of social support may experience role stress, we believe this may be related to the fact that middle managers usually act as a link between top management and employees. As a result, they have to balance living up to the expectations of their employees and managers, which can sometimes be demanding (Wilson, 2011, cited in Kras, Rudes & Taxman, 2017). Moreover, middle managers must sometimes make unpopular decisions, such as dismissal and changes, resolve staff conflicts, and justify different organizational guidelines for employees or the

public. When balancing the expectations of their employees and managers, middle managers' decision-making can be complex, regardless of their degree of social support.

Furthermore, theory and research reflect that social support may contribute to employees feeling more socially integrated and experiencing higher levels of well-being. Thus, leaders, middle managers, and employees must experience social support in the workplace, which leads to positive relationships. As middle managers have a highly socially integrated role between managers and employees, we believe our study's findings can be affected by this. Thus, middle managers have employees who report to them and must report to managers at a higher level. We believe that the information sharing and communication flow between management and organizational levels affect middle managers' role stress. Their position is in the center of communication. We believe that the two-way communication channel leads to a higher possibility of different stress moments and disturbances than if they were only reported to one level.

Hypothesis 4 addresses whether loneliness among managers is positively associated with role stress, that is, loneliness is a buffer for role stress. We found the link between role stress and loneliness based on previous research. That is, loneliness may act as a buffer for role stress. However, our study surprisingly shows that the least lonely leaders report the highest level of role stress, which signals the opposite of what we predicted. Again, we believe this relates to the middle manager's position between the top level and their subordinates. A greater degree of social interaction may lead to more demands and expectations.

In the fourth hypothesis, we assumed that the most lonely middle managers would report the highest level of role stress, as loneliness can be connected to a lack of professional and personal support, leading to loneliness. Our assumption is also related to the fact that loneliness can create stress and, in turn, negatively affect the work environment and interactions (Rønning et al., 2013). Moreover, the middle manager's position between the management and subordinates can also lead to a lack of attachment, as a lack of belonging within one of the groups can occur. We assumed that middle managers would feel less belonging due to their position, however, the results showed the opposite.

Further, feeling lonely can be affected by the unpleasant experience when a person's network of social relations is not present. The network of social relations indicates that the

middle manager's position can make them less lonely, as the interaction between the various links makes it necessary to communicate across levels to a greater extent. We, therefore, believe that the result is related to the fact that a middle manager acts as a link and, therefore, is at the center of various communication channels. Being a leader means being on the front line, making middle managers vulnerable in the leadership position.

Furthermore, we believe that a middle manager's intention can sometimes be misunderstood. By that, we mean that a leader who has good intentions to be an inclusive and supportive leader through social relationships may experience being misinterpreted and thereby feel lonely. Even though middle managers report somewhat low levels of loneliness in our study, the results may indicate that middle managers become extra vulnerable when demands and expectations from different organizational levels arise. Thus, role stress can occur and be experienced despite a low sense of perceived loneliness within the workplace. That said, even though the middle manager is often part of a large section with many employees, one can still perceive role stress because they often have to adapt to a leadership style and behavior based on who they relate to at work.

Being a middle manager may imply making changes that can affect the employees. Further, in the event of top-down organizational change, management may encounter employee disagreements, creating conflicts. Therefore, the middle manager can be exposed to problematic situations where the administration has decided to put through a change. The middle manager's job is to implement the change. However, they can struggle to meet the employees' demands or involvement, and middle managers tend to be exposed to conflicting demands from management and employees' expectations. Thus, role stress can occur even though the middle manager seems to have supportive management and employees.

Hypothesis 5 examines two-way and three-way interactions. The results were surprising as the interaction analyses found a significant association between loneliness and social support, but not in an expected direction. The regression statistics showed that the most lonely leaders reported the most role stress, but it was not the group with the least social support that yielded the highest level of distress. Thus, middle managers with a high degree of loneliness with access to a higher level of support reported the highest role stress. One possible explanation can be that highly role-stressed middle managers can feel a bit lonely due to the pressure. Still, they do not feel very strongly that they lack social support, as they have much social contact with their surroundings as middle managers are more socially

exposed than other leaders. The association should be regarded as complex, a link that should be investigated further.

#### Other findings

Finally, we find it interesting to highlight differences between gender and loneliness, as we see some interesting findings in the AFF's Leadership Survey when comparing women and men within this field. In detail, our results show that male leaders report higher loneliness than female leaders (Appendix 6). There may be several reasons for this, which may be connected to the fact that women in our study score higher than men on both people-oriented and LMX management (Appendix 4 and Appendix 5). Women seem to be more concerned about relationships with others.

Further, our study shows that the younger group of men report higher loneliness, i.e., they perceive more loneliness than the older respondents of men. We think this can be related to demanding family situations, for example, having small children at home, and thus, an inability to balance leadership requirements and consideration for their private life/privacy. Furthermore, we find that managers who experience that they have a good relationship with their employees experience a lower degree of loneliness. And in turn, the managers reporting a higher degree of loneliness have an experience that role stress as a trigger to loneliness (Rønning et al., 2013). However, leaders are often expected to be distant from their subordinates, and long working days do not create much room for nurturing their social networks (Wright, 2013). With that being said, we believe this may sometimes cause middle managers to feel lonely and alone in the leadership role.

#### Theoretical contribution

The findings from this study can be argued to have valuable theoretical contributions, at least in a Norwegian context. The study should be regarded as a national representative. The findings shed light on the relationship between leaders and middle managers and middle managers and their employees in Norwegian organizations that have not been studied in the academic literature earlier, as far as we know. The study is supported by statistical and quantitative data collected by several researchers within leadership and organizational psychology (Rønning et al., 2013). The findings, thus, contribute to filling a gap in the study on leadership and middle managers literature in Norwegian organizations.

The study found a significant positive relationship between role stress and LMX and role stress and loneliness. Middle managers are a binding link between top managers and their employees. Hence, they play an essential role in organizations. Furthermore, the research contributes to a whim from the middle managers' perspective and factors affecting their leadership. However, countless factors and variables can affect the relationship between middle managers and leaders/followers.

The findings from our research, in this conjunction, can arguably be relevant for leaders, the public, Norwegian organizations, and researchers that might want to examine and explore this issue further. Hence, conclusively, this research forms a springboard for further study in the scientific field of leadership, middle managers, and organizational psychology.

#### Methodological issues

There are methodological strengths and weaknesses in all studies, and there are also in this study. Several limitations can be found in this research and need to be addressed. This section will go through some of the main elements that we think may be critical concerning the study.

Firstly, as the survey is done as a self-completion interview and reflects how the leader himself looks at his achievements, it will be able to influence the answers given. Therefore, it is likely to believe that, for example, the answers would have been somewhat different if the employees had reported how the dam's manager performed. The same can apply to communication between managers and employees; when a manager feels that they have good two-way communication with his employees, the employees feel that they do not get through with what they want. One factor that comes into play in this study is the difference in the leaders' self-awareness, which could affect the survey. However, a large selection is possible to counteract this effect (Atwater & Yammarino, 1992). One of the strengths of this study is that it contains a large sample of 2,910 Norwegian managers, which should be seen as representative of all Norwegian managers across industries and management levels (cf. Rønning et al., 2013). The robust sample enhances the likelihood that the study reflects some essential issues about Norwegian leaders.

Secondly, to investigate role stress, the inventory is taken from previous AFF surveys (Rønning et al., 2013). It may be argued that a more well-known inventory could have been used, such as the inventory of Rizzo et al. (1970). Doing so could have contributed to greater

generalization and increased accuracy compared to other studies. The inventory used is also stated to measure role conflict basically. Elements that are part of role stress but, however, not part of role conflict, will not be measured. Although a strong correlation can be assumed with a complete measurement of role stress, this must nevertheless be regarded as a source of inaccuracy.

Thirdly, when loneliness was measured, the response alternatives went from "Strongly agree" (value 5) to "Strongly disagree" (value 1). In addition, "Can not answer" (value 6) was added, which may have caused some issues for the dataset and further analyses. By adding a value of 6 ("Can not answer"), we found that respondents who have selected this option were categorized as "missing" in the dataset. Thus, there are 529 missing respondents within the variable "loneliness," and our analysis only takes 347 of the total 876 respondents into account. The missing loneliness data was a limitation we were aware of and considered when analysing the data. However, the inspection of the correlation matrix with the loneliness sample compared with the whole sample was found to be almost identical. It was therefore considered not decisive in this specific context but should be kept in mind.

Lastly, reliability and validity are essential in proving and ensuring that the data material obtained has been as valid and reliable as possible (Askheim & Grenness, 2018). To ensure a high degree of validity, we have coded our data material to ensure that the data obtained is consistent. Reliability is also considered critical for a test to be valid, and high reliability does not guarantee validity. However, a test can be regarded as reliable and inaccurate; hence, it cannot be considered valid without being reliable. During our data research, both reliability and validity have been taken into account and carefully considered.

#### **Conclusion**

For our master's thesis with data from AFF Leadership Survey 2011, we had several elements of the survey we wanted to shed light on. The work on this thesis has been based on the research aim of middle managers' experience of role stress, as perceived role stress tends to be an obstacle for Norwegian managers in their everyday work life. This gave us a twofold purpose. The first part of this goal deals with whether role stress is widespread among Norwegian leaders. In context, the second part deals with the specific psychosocial conditions that may contribute to predicting role stress. One should remember that both parts are seen from the leader's point of view.

Our findings support our assumption that role stress has both organizational and administrative - and individual - consequences that can negatively affect. Our results show that some factors cause role stress more than others among Norwegian middle managers.

We found that role stress can, among others, reduce individuals' well-being and occur even if they feel professionally and socially supported by management and employees. Furthermore, our findings support the theory that a high degree of role stress could lead to a lower quality of the leader-employee relationship. The critical leadership style in LMX leadership, dealing with the dyadic connection between the manager and employee, is significant. We can see that those middle managers who experience a high degree of role stress may be less motivated and less able to build social relationships with their employees. Hence, there is a connection between role stress and the quality of LMX within the workplace. On the other hand, our findings show that neither of the two leadership orientations affects role stress, as both leadership orientations were non-significant contributions to the explained variance of role stress. In addition, our findings surprisingly showed that the least lonely leaders report the highest level of role stress.

Nevertheless, we see that Norwegian leadership is expected to be colored by the Norwegian culture due to institutional and leader acculturation processes. The low power distance affects, among other things, how leaders behave and how subordinates treat their superiors. Further, it is interesting to look deeper into, for example, if there is more significant pressure on Norwegian middle managers than in other cultures due to the low power distance. On the other hand, as Norway is a relationship-oriented society, some might think that middle managers' role can be less demanding due to the population being more educated, thus, having a greater understanding of why managers must act and behave the way they do.

This study has revealed several interesting aspects and nuances of the middle managers' challenging position, characterized by the experience of role stress among Norwegian middle managers. Because of this, we can say that this study contributes to a whim from the perspective of Norwegian middle managers and factors that affect their leadership role and everyday work. In addition, their role makes the study extra attractive, as they act as a link between two organizational levels. There are several topics within the field of middle managers we find little research on; however, we believe our findings could be exciting and valuable to investigate further.

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# **APPENDICES**

# **Appendix 1: AFF Survey**

+

#### AFFs Lederundersøkelse 2011

88241	Prosjekt	
	Skjemanummer	

Undersøkelsen omfatter et representativt utvalg av ledere i offentlige eller private virksomheter med 10 eller flere ansatte, som har underordnede som rapporterer til seg.

Dette spørreskjemaet bruker benevnelsen virksomhet som fellesbetegnelse på bedrifter, etater og organisasjoner i offentlig såvel som i privat sektor. Når det i spørsmålene refereres til virksomheten, menes altså den bedriften, etaten eller organisasjonen som du er ansatt som leder i.

Besvar samtlige spørsmål ved å sette et kryss i ruten som står ut til høyre eller rett under svaralternativene som passer best for deg. Følg ellers instruksjonene i skjemaet.

Skjemaet har fire hoveddeler, og vi anbefaler at du tar en pause i utfyllingen mellom hver av disse.

Er du mann eller kvinne?	
	Mann
Hva er din alder?	
	SKRIV ANTALL ÅR
Sivilstand	ETT SVAR
	Samboende/ gift/ registrert partner
eller offentlig etat. Eksempelvis er Hy lokale NAV-kontorer er selvstendige v Vi vil at du skal oppgi din stilling med	og til tas i betraktning at en virksomhet er en del av et større konsern dro Karmøy en selvstendig virksomhet innenfor konsernet Hydro, og irksomheter innenfor Arbeids- og velferdsetaten. utgangspunkt i den selvstendige virksomheten, og ikke eventuelt hel omhet skal regnes som en selvstendig enhet, bør den som en
eller offentlig etat. Eksempelvis er Hydlokale NAV-kontorer er selvstendige v Vi vil at du skal oppgi din stilling med konsernet eller etaten. For at en virkst tommelfingerregel ha egen henvisning.  Dersom du eksempelvis hadde jobbet toppleder, selv om du ikke var topplet toppleder dersom du ledet et selvsten	og til tas i betraktning at en virksomhet er en del av et større konsern dro Karmøy en selvstendig virksomhet innenfor konsernet Hydro, og irksomheter innenfor Arbeids- og velferdsetaten.  utgangspunkt i den selvstendige virksomheten, og ikke eventuelt hele omhet skal regnes som en selvstendig enhet, bør den som en g i telefonkatalogen.  i Hydro Karmøy og vært øverste leder der, skulle du krysset av for der for hele Hydro-konsernet. Tilsvarende skulle du krysset av for del NAV-kontor, selv om du ikke var leder for hele etaten.
eller offentlig etat. Eksempelvis er Hydlokale NAV-kontorer er selvstendige v Vi vil at du skal oppgi din stilling med konsernet eller etaten. For at en virkst tommelfingerregel ha egen henvisning.  Dersom du eksempelvis hadde jobbet toppleder, selv om du ikke var topplet toppleder dersom du ledet et selvsten	og til tas i betraktning at en virksomhet er en del av et større konsern dro Karmøy en selvstendig virksomhet innenfor konsernet Hydro, og irksomheter innenfor Arbeids- og velferdsetaten. utgangspunkt i den selvstendige virksomheten, og ikke eventuelt hele omhet skal regnes som en selvstendig enhet, bør den som en g i telefonkatalogen.  It Hydro Karmøy og vært øverste leder der, skulle du krysset av for der for hele Hydro-konsernet. Tilsvarende skulle du krysset av for dig NAV-kontor, selv om du ikke var leder for hele etaten.  Seser best for din stilling i virksomheten. Kryss av for det eller de ENDE for din lederjobb.
eller offentlig etat. Eksempelvis er Hydlokale NAV-kontorer er selvstendige v Vi vil at du skal oppgi din stilling med konsernet eller etaten. For at en virkst tommelfingerregel ha egen henvisning.  Dersom du eksempelvis hadde jobbet toppleder, selv om du ikke var topplet toppleder dersom du ledet et selvsten.  Sett kryss ved det alternativet som pas	og til tas i betraktning at en virksomhet er en del av et større konsern dro Karmøy en selvstendig virksomhet innenfor konsernet Hydro, og irksomheter innenfor Arbeids- og velferdsetaten. utgangspunkt i den selvstendige virksomheten, og ikke eventuelt hele omhet skal regnes som en selvstendig enhet, bør den som en g i telefonkatalogen.  i Hydro Karmøy og vært øverste leder der, skulle du krysset av for der for hele Hydro-konsernet. Tilsvarende skulle du krysset av for dig NAV-kontor, selv om du ikke var leder for hele etaten.

Hvis virksomheten du er ansatt som leder i er e etat e.l., hva slags stilling har du i <u>HELE</u> konse	en del av et større konsern, en større offentlig forvaltningse	nhet/
etat e.i., iiva siags stilling har du i <u>lieee</u> konse	FLERE SVAR MU	LIG
	-	
	Toppleder/ daglig leder i virksomheten	∐1, □-
	leder Leder for stab/ rådgivningsenhet Prosjektleder	□ 2, □ 3, □ 4,
	Mellomleder	□ <sub>5</sub> ,
	Det er flere enn én leder mellom meg og øverste leder	6,
	Ikke aktuelt/ er ikke leder i en del av et større konsern e.l	7.
Hva slags organisasjonsform har den virksoml		<b>44.</b> D
	ETT S\	/AK
	Statlig forvaltningsenhet/ etat	01
	Fylkeskommunal/ kommunal forvaltningsenhet/ etat	o:
	Stiffelse	0
	Statlig selskap med begrenset ansvar	<b>⊢</b> º
	Heleid statlig aksjeselskap	
	Heleid kommunalt/ fylkeskommunalt aksjeselskap	H
	Aksjeselskap heleid av private eierinteresser	
	Aksjeselskap med både private og offentlige eiere	
	Annen privateid virksomhet	H
	Samvirkeorganisasjon	1
	Forening/ interesseorganisasjon	1
	Annet	1
Hvilken bransje jobber du innenfor?	FLERE SVAR MU	LIG
	Primærnæring og relatert industri	Ц0
	Olje, utvinning, energi	
	Industri	
	Handel, hotell/restaurant	
	Transport, post, tele	
	Finansielle tienester	
	Annen tjenesteyting	
	Offentlig adm., undervisning	
	Helse og sosiale tjenester	
Hvor mange år har du vært leder - dvs. hatt und		
	SKRIV ANTALL ÅR, INGE	N=0
	Antall år som leder i nåværende virksomhet?	
	Antall år som leder i annen virksomhet?	
Hva er den høyeste fullførte utdannelsen din?		•
	ETT S\	/AR
	Folkeskole, 9-årig skole eller tilsvarende	$\Box$
	Videregående skole	
	Fagutdannelse, yrkesskole eller lignende	
	Opp til og med 4 års utdannelse ved høyskole, universitet	•
	e.l.	
	Lengre enn 4 årig utdannelse ved høyskole og/ eller	
	universitet	5
20©11 Synovate	4398 002	

Juss	Hva er det <u>MEST</u> sentrale fagområdet i utdann	elsen din?					
Ingenierfag eller andre teknologiske fag							
Håndverksfag						E	TT SVAR
Juss		Ingeniørfag	eller andre	teknologisk	æ fag		🔲 01
Naturvitenskap			•				
Realfag							
Okonomi og administrasjon							
Psykologi   Samfunnsvitenskap   06   Samfunnsvitenskap   06   Samfunnsvitenskap   06   Samfunnsvitenskap   06   Samfunnsvitenskap   07   07   07   07   07   07   07   0			_				
Samfunnsvitenskap   08   Kultur   09   Kultur   09   Kultur   09   Kultur   09   10   10   10   10   10   10   10		_	•	•			
Kultur   Humaniora							
Sikkerhetsfag (millitær utdanning, politi o.l.)   12   19gen spesiell fagorientering   13   4   14   14   14   14   14   14							
Ingen spesiell fagorientering							
Annet							
Norge			_	-			
Norge	Hvor har du din utdanning fra?						
Andre nordiske land (Sverige, Danmark, Finland, Island)   0.2.   2.2.   2.3.   4.5.   6.4.   6.5.   6.4.   6.5					GJE	RNE FLEF	RE SVAR
Andre nord-europeiske land		•					
Øst-europeiske land					-		
Sør-europeiske land							
Sør-Amerika							
Asia							=,
Afrika							= '
Nedenfor følger endel påstander om dine verdier i jobbsammenheng. Vi ber om at du tar stilling til hver av påstandene ved å angi dine svar på en skala fra 1-5, hvor 1=helt uenig og 5=helt enig.    ETT SVAR I HVER LINJE							= '
påstandene ved å angi dine svar på en skala fra 1-5, hvor 1=helt uenig og 5=helt enig.  ETT SVAR I HVER LINJE  1=Helt 2 3 4 5=Helt Kan ikke uenig  Det er viktig at jobbkrav og jobbforventninger er detaljerte og klare slik at ansatte alltid vet hva de skal gjøre		Oceania/ Au	ıstralia				🗌 10.
ETT SVAR I HVER LINJE  1=Helt 2 3 4 5=Helt Kan ikke enig svare  Det er viktig at jobbkrav og jobbforventninger er detaljerte og klare slik at ansatte alltid vet hva de skal gjøre							
Det er viktig at jobbkrav og jobbforventninger er detaljerte og klare slik at ansatte alltid vet hva de skal gjøre	3					stilling til l	hver av
detaljerte og klare slik at ansatte alltid vet hva de skal gjøre	påstandene ved å angi dine svar på en skala f	ra 1-5, hvor 1 1=Helt	1=helt uen	ig og 5=hel	t enig.		
de skal gjøre	påstandene ved å angi dine svar på en skala f	ra 1-5, hvor 1 1=Helt	1=helt uen	ig og 5=hel	t enig.	5=Helt	Kan ikke
Regler er viktige fordi de viser ansatte hva virksomheten forventer av dem	påstandene ved å angi dine svar på en skala f  ETT SVAR I HVER LINJE  Det er viktig at jobbkrav og jobbforventninger e	ra 1-5, hvor 1 1=Helt uenig	1=helt uen	ig og 5=hel	t enig.	5=Helt	Kan ikke
virksomheten forventer av dem	påstandene ved å angi dine svar på en skala f ETT SVAR I HVER LINJE    Det er viktig at jobbkrav og jobbforventninger e detaljerte og klare slik at ansatte alltid vet hva	ra 1-5, hvor 1 1=Helt uenig	1=helt uen 2	ig og 5=hel	t enig.	5=Helt	Kan ikke svare
ansatte	påstandene ved å angi dine svar på en skala f ETT SVAR I HVER LINJE  Det er viktig at jobbkrav og jobbforventninger e detaljerte og klare slik at ansatte alltid vet hva de skal gjøre	ra 1-5, hvor 1 1=Helt uenig	1=helt uen 2	ig og 5=hel	t enig.	5=Helt	Kan ikke svare
Detaljerte instruksjoner er viktige for de ansatte	påstandene ved å angi dine svar på en skala f ETT SVAR I HVER LINJE  Det er viktig at jobbkrav og jobbforventninger e detaljerte og klare slik at ansatte alltid vet hva de skal gjøre  Regler er viktige fordi de viser ansatte hva	ra 1-5, hvor 1  1=Helt uenig	1=helt uen 2	ig og 5=hel	t enig.	5=Helt	Kan ikke svare
Jeg forventer at ansatte følger instruksjoner og prosedyrer nøyaktig	påstandene ved å angi dine svar på en skala f ETT SVAR I HVER LINJE  Det er viktig at jobbkrav og jobbforventninger e detaljerte og klare slik at ansatte alltid vet hva de skal gjøre  Regler er viktige fordi de viser ansatte hva virksomheten forventer av dem	ra 1-5, hvor 1  1=Helt uenig	1=helt uen 2	ig og 5=hel	t enig.	5=Helt	Kan ikke svare
prosedyrer nøyaktig	påstandene ved å angi dine svar på en skala f ETT SVAR I HVER LINJE  Det er viktig at jobbkrav og jobbforventninger e detaljerte og klare slik at ansatte alltid vet hva de skal gjøre  Regler er viktige fordi de viser ansatte hva virksomheten forventer av dem  Rutiner er nyttige fordi de letter arbeidet til de	ra 1-5, hvor 1 1=Helt uenig	1=helt uen 2	ig og 5=hel	t enig.	5=Helt	Kan ikke svare
Velferden til arbeidsgruppen er viktigere enn	påstandene ved å angi dine svar på en skala f ETT SVAR I HVER LINJE  Det er viktig at jobbkrav og jobbforventninger e detaljerte og klare slik at ansatte alltid vet hva de skal gjøre  Regler er viktige fordi de viser ansatte hva virksomheten forventer av dem  Rutiner er nyttige fordi de letter arbeidet til de ansatte	ra 1-5, hvor 1 1=Helt uenig	1=helt uen 2	ig og 5=hel	t enig.	5=Helt	Kan ikke svare
	påstandene ved å angi dine svar på en skala f  ETT SVAR I HVER LINJE  Det er viktig at jobbkrav og jobbforventninger e detaljerte og klare slik at ansatte alltid vet hva de skal gjøre  Regler er viktige fordi de viser ansatte hva virksomheten forventer av dem  Rutiner er nyttige fordi de letter arbeidet til de ansatte  Detaljerte instruksjoner er viktige for de ansatte  Jeg forventer at ansatte følger instruksjoner og	ra 1-5, hvor 1 1=Helt uenig	1=helt uen 2	ig og 5=hel	t enig.	5=Helt	Kan ikke svare
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individuell suksess	påstandene ved å angi dine svar på en skala f ETT SVAR I HVER LINJE  Det er viktig at jobbkrav og jobbforventninger e detaljerte og klare slik at ansatte alltid vet hva de skal gjøre  Regler er viktige fordi de viser ansatte hva virksomheten forventer av dem  Rutiner er nyttige fordi de letter arbeidet til de ansatte  Detaljerte instruksjoner er viktige for de ansatte  Jeg forventer at ansatte følger instruksjoner og prosedyrer nøyaktig  Velferden til arbeidsgruppen er viktigere enn individuell belønning  Arbeidsgruppens suksess er viktigere enn individuell suksess  Det er viktig å bli akseptert som medlem av	ra 1-5, hvor 1 1=Helt uenig  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1	1=helt uen 2	ig og 5=hel 3  3	4 4	5=Helt	Kan ikke svare
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						18
						16
						17
						18
						19
						20
						2
						22
lse. Vennl	igst angi	dine svar p	å en skal	a fra 1-5, h	ivor	
=Helt enig	2	3	4	5=Helt enig	Kan ikke svare	
1	2	3	4	5	6	
						2
						:
	se. Vennli	se. Vennligst angi c	se. Vennligst angi dine svar p			

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Jeg er reservert	uenig	2	3	4	5=Helt enig	Kan ikke svare
		2	3	4	5	6
Jeg er tillitsfull						
Jeg er lat						
Jeg er avslappet og takler stress godt						
Jeg har få kunstneriske interesser						
Jeg er utadvendt og sosial						
Jeg har en tendens til å finne feil ved andre						
Jeg utfører en krevende jobb						
Jeg blir fort nervøs						
Jeg har en frodig forestillingsevne						
Har du en lønnsavtale som innebærer årlig	resultatbonus	eller aksje	opsjoner s		av din avla LERE SVAF	
	Ja, årlig res	ultatbonus				
	Ja, aksjeop	sjoner				2,
	Nei					🔲 3.
Eier du aksjer i det selskapet du arbeider i	?				ET	T SVAR
	Ja					🗆 1
	Nei					🗆 2
	Ikke aktuelt	(arbeider il	kke i privat a	aksjeselska	ap)	🏻 з
Har du en avtale om økonomisk kompensa	ısjon dersom du	ı må fratre	din stilling	med øyel	_	kning? T SVAR
	Ja					🗀 1
	Nei					🔲 2

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eg har glede av arbeidet i seg selveg synes arbeidet mitt er gøy			3	4	5=Helt enig	Kan ikke svare
eg synes arbeidet mitt er gøy	1	2	3	4	5	6
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·						
eg synes arbeidet mitt er engasjerende						
eg liker arbeidet mitt						
Dersom jeg skal legge inn en ekstrainnsats i obben min skal jeg ha betalt for det						
or meg er det viktig å ha en "gulrot" å strekke neg etter for å gjøre en god jobb						
Ökonomiske ekstragoder som bonus og orovisjon er viktig for hvordan jeg utfører obben min						
Dersom jeg hadde blitt tilbudt bedre okonomiske betingelser hadde jeg gjort en mye nedre jobb						
er motivert til jobben som leder						
ordi jeg ønsker å være til nytte for andre Ijennom arbeidet mitt						
ordi jeg ønsker å hjelpe andre gjennom rbeidet mitt						
ordi jeg ønsker å ha en positiv innvirkning på Indre						
ordi det er viktig for meg å gjøre det bedre for Indre gjennom arbeidet mitt						
er nå ferdig med del I. Del II starter <sub>l</sub>	på neste	side. Ta	a gjerne	en paus	se i utfyl	lingen.

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5=helt enig.	i dine s	svar på en	skala fr	a 1-5, hv	or 1=he	elt uenig	og
ETT SVAR I HVER LINJE 1=he ueni		2	3	4		Helt nig	Kan ikke svare
Omgivelsene til <u>virksomheten</u> jeg er ansatt i er preget av uforutsigbarhet		2	3	4		5	6
Omgivelsene til <u>enheten / gruppen</u> jeg leder er preget av uforutsigbarhet						П	
En virksomhet kan i større eller mindre grad bli utsatt og arbeidssituasjon. I hvilken grad har følgende hend månedene?							_
		1=lkke i det hele tatt	2	3	4	5=I meget stor grad	Kan ikke svare
Permitteringer		. 🗇	2	3	4	5	6
Budsjettnedskjæringer							
Teknologiske endringer (f.eks. endringer i utstyr, verktør metoder)							
Endringer med hensyn til hvem som utfører hvilke arbeidsoppgaver		. 🗆					
Innføring av nye systemer for lønn og belønninger		. 🗆					
Endringer i ledelsen (dvs. nye personer i viktige stilling	er)	. 🗆					
Endringer på eiersiden (dvs. nye eiere, oppkjøp av eiera mv.)							
Omstrukturering (sammenslåing/oppsplitting av avdelindivisjoner)							
Sammenslåing med andre virksomheter (fusjon) eller oppsplitting i flere virksomheter (fisjon)		. 🗆					
Omlegging av overordnede mål og strategier		. 🗆					
Lønnskutt eller lønnsstopp		. 🗆					
Endringer i sammensetning av arbeidstokken (flere deltidsansatte, flere innleide etc.)		. 🗆					
Benytter din virksomhet noe av det følgende?	IERK AV	V FOR DE	SOM RI	ENVTTES	S I DINI I	VIRKSO	MHET
av. • Ru • Sy: ikk	riksanal llerende stem for e-finans	stem (buds yser) budsjetter prestasjor sielle)	nsmåling	(finansie	lle og		

Nedenfor følger noen påstander om beslutning hver av påstandene ved å angi dine svar på en TT SVAR I HVER LINJE	er. realer o					
TT SVAR I HVER LINJE						ing til
THE STATE OF THE S	1=Helt uenig	2	3	4	5=Helt enig	Kan ikke svare
Lite skjer i denne virksomheten uten at en leder nar godkjent det	1	2	3	4	5	6
Personer oppmuntres ikke til å ta egne peslutninger						
Selv små saker må henvises til ledere høyere opp i virksomheten						
Medarbeidere må spørre sjefen før de gjør noe som helst						
Enhver beslutning medarbeidere tar må ha sjefens godkjenning						
/irksomheten har et stort antall skrevne regler og retningslinjer						
En "regel og prosedyre" manual finnes og er lett ilgjengelig i virksomheten						
Der finnes en komplett stillingsbeskrivelse for de fleste jobber i virksomheten						
/irksomheten har en skriftlig oversikt over nesten alle medarbeideres prestasjoner i obben						
Det finnes et formelt introduksjonsprogram for nye medarbeidere						
Hvor stor andel av virksomheten er lokalisert u	tenfor Norg	je?				
	SVARIPE	OSENT, IN	IGEN=0, VE	ET IKKE=B	LANK	
Er virksomheten du er leder i 100% utenlandske	eid?				F	TT SVAR
	Ja Nei					🔲 1
Hvordan vil du karakterisere ditt forhold til din						
						TT SVAR
	1=Meget då					
	34					
	5=Meget go	dt				5
	Kan ikke sva					6

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+							+
Nedenfor følger en del påstander om hvordan m Vennligst ta stilling til hver av påstandene når d skala fra 1-5, hvor 1=helt uenig og 5=helt enig.							
ETT SVAR I HVER LINJE	1=Helt uenig	2	3	4	5=Helt enig	Kan ikke svare	
Når jeg lykkes godt i jobben min blir dette verdsatt av mine overordnede	1	2	3	4	5	6	1
Når jeg ikke lykkes med noe i jobben tar mine overordnede initiativ til å ta tak i problemene							2
Dersom jeg ikke møter mine overordnedes forventninger risikerer jeg ganske raskt å bli satt på sidelinjen - i verste fall miste jobben							3
27 Rapporterer du til flere enn én overordnet i følge ETT SVAR I HVER LINJE	ende situ	asjoner?					
		Ja		Nei	lkke	aktuelt	
I din faste stilling?		1		2		3	1
Når du deltar i prosjekter i egen virksomhet?							2
Når du deltar i felles prosjekter med andre virksomheter?							3
Hvis du har svart nei eller ikke aktuelt på alt i spørsm	<u>nål</u> 27 <u>, ç</u>	jå til spørsm	<u>nål</u> 29				
TIL ALLE	1=lkke i do 2 3 3 4 5=l meget Kan ikke s	stor grad			E		
29 Hvor mange underordnede rapporterer DIREKTE	E III DEG	<u> </u>		NOTÉD AN	ITAL I		
30 Omtrent hvor mange prosent av de som rapport				NOTÉR AN	VIALL		1
Omtrent hvor mange prosent av de som rapport	erer til de		/AR I PROS	SENT. ING	EN=0.		
31 Vennligst angi omtrent hvor stor andel av de du høyskole eller universitet.	er leder			,		ira	┤
	CVADIE	DOCENT IN	IOEN A M		LANIZ		
	SVANIF	PROSENT. IN	IGEN=0, VI	I INNE=D	LAINN		1
+	4398 009	9			20©11 S	Synovate	+

Hvilken opprinnelig nasjonalitet har	de største gruppene blant dine underordnede?
	FLERE SVAR MULIG
	Norge
	Andre nordiske land (Sverige, Danmark, Finland, Island)
	Andre nord-europeiske land
	Øst-europeiske land
	Sør-europeiske land
	Nord-Amerika
	Sør-Amerika□□
	Afrika
	Oceania/ Australia
3 Vennligst angi omtrentlig fordeling n	ned hensyn til alder på dine underordnede:  SVAR I PROSENT PR. ALDERSGRUPPE. INGEN=0.
	Under 25 år
	25-35 år
	36-45 år
	46-55 år
	56-65 år
	65 år og eldre
	oo al og eldie
Har du observert noen av dine under ETT SVAR	rordnede bli utsatt for mobbing i løpet av de siste 6 månedene?
	Nei
	En sjelden gang 📙 Av og til
	Av og til Omtrent en gang i uken
	Flere ganger i uken
	Vil ikke svare
Hvor ofte er dine medarbeidere forna	øyd med hva du gjør på jobb?
	1=Nesten aldri
	3
	4 📙
	5=Svært ofte
6	<del>_</del>
	ere forstår dine problemer og behov knyttet til dine arbeidsoppgaver og
din arbeidssituasjon?	ETT SVAR
	1=Forstår ikke

37	I hvor stor grad ser dine medarbeidere hva	t du er god for, det vil si ditt potensiale?    ETT SVAR
38		1=lkke i det hele tatt
8		2
8		2
8		3
8		• =
8		4
8		5=I meget stor grad
8		Kan ikke svare $lacksquare$
		e medarbeiderne dine har: Hvor sannsynlig er det at dine telse for å hjelpe deg med å løse dine problemer i ditt arbeid? ETT SVAR
		1=lkke sannsynlig
		2
		4
		5=Meget sannsynlig
		Kan ikke svare
9	Uavhengig av makt og innflytelse: Hvor sa er i en "knipe"?	nnsynlig er det at dine medarbeidere vil ta "støyten" for deg hvis d ETT SVAR
		1=lkke sannsynlig
		3
		4
		5=Meget sannsynlig
		Kan ikke svare
)		t jeg ville ha forsvart og rettferdiggjort deres beslutninger i deres
	fravær.	
	navær.	ETT SVAR
	navær.	1=Helt uenig
		1=Helt uenig
1	Hvordan vil du beskrive ditt samarbeidsfor	1=Helt uenig
1		1=Helt uenig
1		1=Helt uenig
1		1=Helt uenig
ı		1=Helt uenig
		1=Helt uenig
	Hvordan vil du beskrive ditt samarbeidsfor	1=Helt uenig
1	Hvordan vil du beskrive ditt samarbeidsfor	1=Helt uenig
	Hvordan vil du beskrive ditt samarbeidsfor	1=Helt uenig
	Hvordan vil du beskrive ditt samarbeidsfor	1=Helt uenig
	Hvordan vil du beskrive ditt samarbeidsfor	1=Helt uenig
	Hvordan vil du beskrive ditt samarbeidsfor	1=Helt uenig

-							+
Rapporterer dine underordnede til flere ledere e ETT SVAR I HVER LINJE	enn deg i fø	olgende sit	uasjoner?				
		Ja		Nei	Ikke	aktuelt	
I sin faste stilling?		1		2		3	
Når de deltar i prosjekter i egen virksomhet?							
Når de deltar i felles prosjekter med andre		_		_			
virksomheter?		111	. 41 45	Ш		Ш	-
TVIS OU HAT SVAFT HET EHET IKKE AKTUER PA AIT I SPØFSI	<u> 11181 45 , ga</u>	i ili spørsii	<u>iai</u> 43				
14 I hvilken grad fører slik rapportering til at din m	nyndighet s	vekkes?					٦
					ET	T SVAR	
	1=Ikke i det 2					=	
	3 4					=	
	5=I meget s Kan ikke sv	•					
TIL ALLE							
Nedenfor følger endel påstander om dine unde ved å angi ditt svar på en skala fra 1-5, hvor 1=				lling til hv	er av påsta	ndene	
ETT SVAR I HVER LINJE	1=Helt	2	3	4	5=Helt	Kan ikke	
	uenig				enig	svare	
Mine underordnede			2	4	-		
fremmer ideer overfor andre	<u> </u>	2	3	4			
viser kreativitet på jobben når anledningen byr seg	П		П			П	
utvikler gode planer for gjennomføring av nye					ш	ш	
ideer							
har ofte nye og innovative ideer	_						
foreslår nye måter jobbene kan utføres på							
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.						
Påstandene nedenfor omhandler kjennetegn ved din del av virksomheten. Vi ber deg ta stilling til påstandene ved å angi dine svar på en skala fra 1-5, hvor 1=helt uenig og 5=helt enig.						
ETT SVAR I HVER LINJE	1=Helt uenig	2	3	4	5=Helt enig	Kan ikke svare
nin del av virksomheten						
tar vi oss ofte tid til å tenke ut hvordan vi ka forbedre arbeidsprosessene våre		2	3	4	5	6
går vi ut og skaffer all tilgjengelig informasj fra andre, slik som kunder eller andre deler virksomheten	av					
søker vi ofte fram informasjon som gjør at v gjennomfører viktige forandringer						
får alltid noen oss til å stoppe opp og reflek over våre arbeidsprosesser						
tar ofte noen ordet for å etterprøve antakels som ligger under temaene som drøftes						
inviterer vi ofte folk utenfra til å presentere informasjon eller diskutere med oss						
Nedenfor finner du noen pastander om dir	ne medarbeidere	e. Vennligs	t angi dine	svar på e	n skala fra	1-5, hvor
1=helt uenig og 5=helt enig. ETT SVAR I HVER LINJE	1=Helt uenig	2	3	4	5=Helt enig	Kan ikke svare
ne medarbeidere	-					
gir av sin egen tid for å hjelpe andre som ha problemer på jobben		2	3	4	5	6
er villige til å gi av sin tid til å rekruttere elle lære opp nyansatte	_					
informerer berørte godt før de tar initiativ so påvirker andre						
tar grep for å unngå at det skapes probleme andre						
oppmuntrer andre når de er nedfor						
oppinantier unare nar ac er nearer			П			
megler mellom andre som er uenige			ш	Ш	Ш	
••						
megler mellom andre som er uenige	står 🗌					
megler mellom andre som er uenige er en stabiliserende kraft når konflikter opp	står 🗌					
megler mellom andre som er uenige er en stabiliserende kraft når konflikter opp	står 🗌	uke?	sĸ		∐ □	

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<u> </u>							-	+
50	Påstandene nedenfor omhandler tilgang på ressurser som kan være viktige for en leder. <u>Vennligst ta stilling</u> til hver av påstandene ved å angi dine svar på en skala fra 1-5, hvor 1=helt uenig og 5=helt enig.							
	ETT SVAR I HVER LINJE	1=Helt uenig	2	3	4	5=Helt enig	Kan ikke svare	
•	Jeg har kollegaer som er i stand til å stille opp med faglige råd når jeg trenger det	1	2	3	4	5	6	1
•	Jeg kjenner ressurspersoner utenfor virksomheten som kan gi meg nye og fruktbare faglige innfallsvinkler							2
51	Nedenfor følger en del påstander om kjennetegn som kan tenkes å beskrive din lederjobb. Med utgangspunkt i <u>DIN</u> lederjobb/ arbeidssituasjon ønsker vi at du skal ta stilling til hver av påstandene. Vennligst angi dine svar på en skala fra 1-5, hvor 1=helt uenig og 5=helt enig.							
	ETT SVAR I HVER LINJE	1=Helt	2	3	4	5=Helt	Kan ikke	
	I min iakk kan an askuralna annasurna asm	uenig				enig	svare	
•	I min jobb kan en selv velge oppgavene som skal gjøres	<u></u>	2	3	4	5	6	1
•	I min jobb kan måten jeg utfører oppgavene på velges uavhengig av andre							2
•	I min jobb har en selv stor frihet til å tenke og handle uavhengig av andre							3
•	Min jobb inneholder mange varierte arbeidsoppgaver							4
•	Min jobb preges lite av gjentakelser i arbeidsoppgavene							5
•	Min jobb gir muligheter for å gjøre mange forskjellige ting							6
•	I min jobb er det lett å finne ut av hvor bra arbeidet er utført							7
•	For meg er det enkelt å finne ut hvor bra jeg gjør det på jobben							8
•	Jeg føler at jeg vet når jeg har gjort en god jobb							9
•	I min jobb har jeg gode muligheter for å gjøre en oppgave fra begynnelse til slutt							10
•	I min jobb er det gode muligheter for å ferdigstille arbeidsoppgavene som påbegynnes							11
•	I min jobb er det lett å se sluttresultatet av arbeid jeg er involvert i							12
•	Generelt sett er jobben min både betydningsfull og viktig							13
•	Mange andre personer blir påvirket av hvor godt min jobb blir utført							14
•	Min jobb er svært viktig, sett i en større sammenheng							15

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1=Aldri	2	3	4	5=Hele tiden	Kan ikke svare
. 🗆	2	3	4	5	6
. 🗆					
. 🗆					
. 🗆					
. 🗆					
	ere kan ko	mme opp i.	Hvor ofte	e opplever o	du <u>DU</u>
asjon? 1=Aldri	2	3	4	5=Hele	lkke aktuelt
. 🗓	2	3	4	5	6
. 🗆					
. 🗆					
. 🗆					
. 🗆					
. 🗆					
r 🗆					
r . 🗆					
. 🗆					
. 🗆					
	asjoner lederasjon? 1=Aldri  .	1	1		tiden    1

Så noen påstander som omhandler prestasjons resultater, omsetning, arbeidsinnsats e.l. som d ved å angi ditt svar på en skala fra 1-5, hvor 1=1	lu blir vurd	ert etter. V	ennligst ta				
ETT SVAR I HVER LINJE	1=Helt uenig	2	3	4	5=Helt enig	Kan ikke svare	
Prestasjonsmål hjelper meg til å forstå virksomhetens visjon og strategi	<u>1</u>	2	3	4	5	6	1
Prestasjonsmål gir meg konkrete mål å arbeide mot							2
På grunn av prestasjonsmål ser jeg en klarere sammenheng mellom eget arbeid og avdelingens/ kontorets resultater							3
Prestasjonsmål hjelper meg til å forstå hva som forventes av meg for at virksomheten skal nå sine mål							4
Prestasjonsmål hjelper meg til å prioritere mitt daglige arbeid							5
Prestasjonsmål gir meg informasjon om virksomhetens mål							6
Gjennom å oppnå mine prestasjonsmål får jeg anerkjennelse når jeg gjør noe bra							7
<ul> <li>Prestasjonsmål gir meg informasjon om hvor jeg står i forhold til avdelingens/kontorets mål</li> </ul>							8
Jeg føler at de tilbakemeldingene jeg får via prestasjonsmål stemmer godt overens med hva jeg faktisk har prestert							9
Påstandene nedenfor omhandler hvor sterk tilh til disse. Angi dine svar på en skala fra 1-5, hvo				din, og v	i ber deg ta	stilling	
ETT SVAR I HVER LINJE	1=Helt uenig	2	3	4	5=Helt enig	Kan ikke svare	
Jeg tilbringer veldig gjerne resten av karrieren min i denne virksomheten	1	2	3	4	5	6	1
Jeg føler virkelig at denne virksomhetens problemer er mine egne							2
Jeg føler meg ikke som en "del av familien" i denne virksomheten							3
Jeg er ikke "følelsesmessig knyttet" til denne virksomheten							4
Denne virksomheten betyr mye for meg rent personlig							5
Jeg har ingen sterk følelse av tilhørighet til denne virksomheten							6

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Nedenfor finner du noen p\u00e4stander om deg selvskala fra 1-5, hvor 1=helt uenig og 5=helt enig.	v som vi øn	sker at du	skal ta sti	lling til. A	ngi dine sv	ar på en
ETT SVAR I HVER LINJE	1=Helt uenig	2	3	4	5=Helt enig	Kan ikke svare
Jeg er sikker på at jeg får den suksessen jeg fortjener her i livet	1	2	3	4	5	6
Noen ganger føler jeg at jeg har liten kontroll over mitt arbeide						
Jeg bestemmer hva som skjer i mitt liv						
Jeg føler at jeg har liten kontroll over hvorvidt jeg lykkes i min karriere						
Nedenfor finner du endel ord som beskriver uli til hvordan du har hatt det på jobben de siste to og 5=helt enig.		•		•	•	
ETT SVAR I HVER LINJE	1=Helt uenig	2	3	4	5=Helt enig	Kan ikke svare
På jobben har jeg i løpet av de siste to ukene hatt en opplevelse av å være						
oppskaket	1	2	3	4	5	6
fiendtlig						
• årvåken						
skamfull						
• inspirert						
nervøs						
besluttsom						
oppmerksom						
• redd						
aktiv						
Vi ber deg ta stilling til påstandene nedenfor ve 5=helt enig. Ta utgangspunkt i hvordan du vanl			en skala fi	ra 1-5, hvo	r 1=helt ue	nig og
ETT SVAR I HVER LINJE	1=Helt uenig	2	3	4	5=Helt enig	Kan ikke svare
Jeg synes jeg har nok kontakt med mennesker som bryr seg om meg	1	2	3	4	5	6
Jeg føler meg ofte ensom						
Jeg synes det er vanskelig å snakke med mennesker jeg ikke har møtt før						
mennesker jeg ikke har møtt før  • Jeg føler meg ensom selv når jeg er sammen						

	- 1-1-1-1-1-1	40				
59 Omtrent hvor mange dager har du vært borte fr arbeidet?	a jobb siste	e 12 mane	der pa grur	in av stre	ss og belas	stninger i
SKRIV AN	NTALL DAG	ER. INGEN	I=0, HUSKE	R IKKE=E	BLANK	
Du er nå ferdig med del III. Ta gjerne en	pause i	utfylling	gen før d	du start	er på de	I IV.
DEL IV: Hva gjør ledere?						
Hvilke av de følgende deloppgavene i lederrolle	n bruker di	u mest tid	pâ?	F	LERE SVAF	R MULIG
	• Sette i g	ang nye tir	ng			01,
	<ul> <li>Håndter</li> </ul>	e forstyrrel	ser og avvik	·		02,
	<ul> <li>Fordele</li> </ul>	ressurser				03,
			ke interesse er etc			
	<ul> <li>Skaffe ti</li> </ul>	il veie infori	masjon			05,
	<ul> <li>Spre inf</li> </ul>	ormasjon				06,
	<ul> <li>Være ta</li> </ul>	lsmann for	egen enhet	i		🗆 07,
	<ul> <li>Stille op</li> </ul>	p som galli	ionsfigur			08,
	<ul> <li>Være fo</li> </ul>	rbindelsesl	edd			09,
	<ul> <li>Være ar</li> </ul>	nfører for a	ndre			🔲 10,
	Andre o	ppgaver				🗆 11.
Det er mange hensyn å ta i lederrollen. Hvor en som leder? Angi dine svar på en skala fra 1-5, h					ITT daglige	arbeid
ETT SVAR I HVER LINJE	1=Helt uenig	2	3	4	5=Helt enig	Kan ikke svare
mitt daglige arbeid tar jeg hensyn til						
global konkurranse	1	2	3	4	5	6
hendelser i det politiske miljøet						
	П					
kunder/ brukere/ publikum	ш					
kunder/ brukere/ publikum     konkurrenter						
konkurrenter						
konkurrenter      det jeg vil oppnå i forhold til mål og strategier						
konkurrenter      det jeg vil oppnå i forhold til mål og strategier      virksomhetens samarbeidspartnere						

ETT SVAR I HVER LINJE	1=Helt uenig	2	3	4	5=Helt enig	Kan ikke svare
mitt daglige arbeid tar jeg hensyn til						
virksomhetens økonomiske situasjon						
arbeidsmiljøet i virksomheten						
virksomhetens omdømme i media						
uskrevne regler for hvordan man gjør tingene i virksomheten						
andre avdelinger i virksomheten						
formelle arbeidsinstrukser og prosedyrer						
innspill fra egne underordnede						
trivselen til mine medarbeidere						
tillitsvalgte og fagforeninger						
konsulenter og virksomhetsrådgivere						
mitt ekteskap/ parforhold						
min framtidige karriere						
mitt faglige omdømme i bransjen						
mitt personlige omdømme i media						
De følgende påstandene handler om hvordan du påstandene ved å angi ditt svar på en skala fra					ı skal ta sti	lling til
ETT SVAR I HVER LINJE	1=Helt uenig	2	3	4	5=Helt enig	Kan ikke svare
år jeg utfører lederskap så forsøker jeg alltid å alansere:	3				3	
interessene til eierne og de jeg leder	1	2	3	4	5	6
kortsiktige mot langsiktige konsekvenser						
bedriftens interesser mot samfunnsinteresser .						
hva som er godt for meg personlig mot hva som er godt for andre interessenter						
bedriftsøkonomiske hensyn mot menneskelige						
hensyn						
Når jeg utfører lederskap forsøker jeg alltid å finne løsninger som balanserer interesseforskjeller mellom grupper av						

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<del>-</del>							+
Nedenfor har vi listet opp en rekke strategier m følger du som leder følgende strategier?	an kan følg	je for å håi	ndtere konf	fliktsituas	oner. Hvor	ofte	
ETT SVAR I HVER LINJE	1=Aldri	2	3	4	5=Hele tiden	Kan ikke svare	
Når du er uenig med dine underordnede, foreslår du at dere jobber sammen for å finne løsninger?	1	2	3	4	5	6	1
Når du er uenig med dine underordnede, forsøker du å ta hensyn til begge parters anliggende for å finne en felles løsning?							2
I situasjoner hvor du er uenig med dine underordnede, insisterer du på at ditt standpunkt aksepteres?							3
I situasjoner hvor du er uenig med dine underordnede, holder du fast ved dine egne synspunkter?							4
Unngår du diskusjoner med dine underordende når konfrontrasjoner er sannsynlig?							5
Når du er uenig med dine underordnede, holder du dine synspunkter for deg selv?							6
Når du er uenig med dine underordnede, foreslår du kompromisser for å nå en løsning på middelveien?							7
Når du er uenig med underordnede, inngår du et kompromiss for å nå en akseptabel løsning?							8
Når du er uenig med dine underordnede, tilpasser du deg deres ønsker?							9
Når du er uenig med dine underordnede, gir du etter for deres forslag?							10
De samme strategiene for konflikthåndtering ka		ges av and	lre i virksor	mheten. H	vor ofte op	pfatter du	1
at <u>dine underordnede</u> følger følgende strategier ETT SVAR I HVER LINJE	1=Aldri	2	3	4	5=Hele tiden	Kan ikke svare	
Når dine underordnede er uenig med deg, foreslår de at dere jobber sammen for å finne løsninger?	1	2	3	4	5	6	1
<ul> <li>Når dine underordnede er uenig med deg, forsøker de å ta hensyn til begge parters anliggende for å finne en felles løsning?</li> </ul>							2
I situasjoner hvor dine underordnede er uenig med deg, insisterer de på at deres standpunkt aksepteres?							3
I situasjoner hvor dine underordnede er uenig med deg, holder de fast ved sine egne synspunkter?							4
Unngår dine underordnede diskusjoner med deg når konfrontrasjoner er sannsynlig?							5
						₩	

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ETT SVAR I HVER LINJE	1=Aldri	2	3	4	5=Hele tiden	Kan ikke svare	
Når dine underordnede er uenig med deg, holder de sine synspunkter for seg selv?							
Når dine underordnede er uenig med deg, foreslår de kompromisser for å nå en løsning på middelveien?							
Når dine underordnede er uenig med deg, inngår de et kompromiss for å nå en akseptabel løsning?							
Når dine underordnede er uenig med deg, tilpasser de seg dine ønsker?							
Når dine underordnede er uenig med deg, gir de etter for dine forslag?							
Hvordan oppfatter du din egen lederstil? Neden hvor ofte du gjør hver enkelt av disse.	for har vi	istet opp	endel utsag	ın, og vi be	er deg ta sti	lling til	
ETT SVAR I HVER LINJE	Ikke i det hele tatt	En sjelden gang	Av og til	Ganske ofte	Svært ofte, om ikke alltid	Kan ikke svare	
Jeg stiller opp for dem som gjør en innsats	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Jeg revurderer kritiske forutsetninger for å se om de er hensiktsmessige							
Jeg unnlater å gripe inn før problemene blir alvorlige.							
Jeg fokuserer på uregelmessigheter, feil, unntak og avvik fra standarder.							
Jeg unngår å involvere meg når viktige saker kommer opp							]
Jeg snakker om mine viktigste verdier og overbevisninger							
$\bullet$ Jeg er ikke til stede når det er behov for meg $\dots$							
Jeg prøver å få fram forskjellige perspektiver når problemer skal løses							
Jeg snakker optimistisk om fremtiden							
Jeg gjør andre stolte over å være forbundet med meg							
Jeg diskuterer hvem som er ansvarlige for å oppnå ulike resultater							
Jeg venter med å gripe inn til jeg ser at det går galt							
Jeg snakker entusiastisk om hva som må oppnås							
Jeg understreker betydningen av å være målbevisst							
- Jeg bruker tid på opplæring og veiledning $\ldots$							
Jeg gir tydelig uttrykk for hva man kan forvente å få igjen når prestasjonsmål er oppnådd							
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ETT SVAR I HVER LINJE	Ikke i det hele tatt	En sjelden gang	Av og til	Ganske ofte	Svært ofte, om ikke alltid	Kan ikke svare	
Jeg viser at jeg tror fast på at det ikke er vits i å endre på noe som fungerer							17
Jeg lar gruppens beste gå foran egne interesser							18
Jeg behandler andre som mennesker og ikke bare som medlemmer av en gruppe							19
Jeg viser at problemer må bli varige før jeg griper inn							20
Jeg handler på en måte som gjør at andre respekterer meg							21
Jeg vier all min oppmerksomhet til å ta meg av feil, klager og svikt							22
Jeg vurderer moralske og etiske konsekvenser av beslutninger.							23
Jeg holder rede på alle feil.							24
Jeg utstråler en slags myndighet og selvsikkerhet							25
$\bullet$ Jeg uttrykker en inspirerende fremtidsvisjon. $\dots$							26
Jeg retter oppmerksomheten mot manglende innfrielser av standarder.							27
Jeg unngår å ta beslutninger.							28
<ul> <li>Jeg anser enkeltmennesker for å ha behov, ferdigheter og mål som skiller dem fra andre</li> </ul>							29
Jeg får andre til å se problemer fra mange forskjellige synsvinkler							30
$\bullet$ Jeg hjelper andre til å utvikle sine sterke sider							31
• Jeg foreslår nye måter å løse oppdrag på							32
$\bullet\;$ Jeg utsetter å svare på spørsmål som haster. $\dots$							33
Jeg legger vekt på betydningen av å ha en felles målsetning.							34
Jeg gir uttrykk for tilfredshet når andre innfrir forventninger.							35
Jeg uttrykker tillit til at målsetninger blir nådd							36
Jeg er åpen for andres behov i forbindelse med arbeidet.							37

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'	1=Helt uenig	2	3	4	5=Helt enig	Kan ikke svare
Jeg uttrykker klare fremtidsvisjoner for mitt ansvarsområde	. 🗆	2	3	4	5	6
Jeg sørger for at målsetningene vi skal nå, er tydelige for medarbeiderne	. 🗆					
Jeg bidrar til at medarbeiderne mine kan utvikk seg i den retning de ønsker						
Jeg viser mot i beslutningssituasjoner	. 🗆					
Jeg markerer tydelig at det er jeg som er sjefen						
Jeg setter min egen karriereutvikling fremfor virksomhetens behov	. 🗆					
Så noen påstander om ditt forhold til arbeids uenig og 5=helt enig. Dersom du har din egen ledergruppe, ønske					r	or 1=helt
ETT SVAR I HVER LINJE	1=Helt uenig	2	3	4	5=Helt enig	Kan ikke svare
Jeg oppmuntrer til bruk av standardiserte prosedyrer	. 🗓	2	3	4	5	6
Jeg bestemmer hva som skal gjøres, og hvordan det blir gjort	. 🗆					
Jeg tildeler gruppens medlemmer bestemte oppgaver	. 🗆					
Jeg planlegger når arbeidet skal være ferdig	. 🗆					
Jeg opprettholder definerte standarder for ytelse	. 🗆					
	. $\square$					
Jeg forventer at gruppens medlemmer følger gjeldende regler og reguleringer				4.5.	r 1=helt uer	nig og
gjeldende regler og reguleringer		ne svar på	en skala fra	a 1-5, nvoi		
gjeldende regler og reguleringer		ne svar på o	en skala fra 3	a 1-5, nvoi 4	5=Helt enig	Kan ikke svare
gjeldende regler og reguleringer	ed å angi dir 1=Helt uenig s <u>1</u>					
gjeldende regler og reguleringer	ed å angi dir 1=Helt uenig s 1	2	3		enig	svare
gjeldende regler og reguleringer	ed å angi dir  1=Helt uenig s .  .	2 	3		enig	svare

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ETT SVAR I HVER LINJE	1=Helt uenig	2	3	4	5=Helt enig	Kan ikke svare
Jeg forsøker å jobbe så hardt som overhodet mulig	1	2	3	4	5	6
Arbeidet mitt er av ypperste kvalitet						
Jeg er svært opptatt av å gjøre en god innsats i jobben min						
Jeg legger ofte inn ekstra innsats i jobben min .	. 🗆					
Jeg yter nesten bestandig mer enn hva som kan betegnes som et akseptabelt innsatsnivå						
Jeg presterer bedre enn hva som kan forventes						
Nedenfor finner du noen påstander om hvorda med dine medarbeidere. Vi ønsker at du skal ta hvor 1=helt uenig og 5=helt enig.	a stilling til p	oåstanden	e ved å anç	ji dine sva	ar på en ska	ala fra 1-5,
ETT SVAR I HVER LINJE	1=Helt uenig	2	3	4	5=Helt enig	Kan ikke svare
Jeg uttrykker mine følelser på en åpen måte (f.eks. når jeg blir irritert)	1	2	3	4	5	6
Jeg skjuler eller undertrykker noen av mine følelser (f.eks. sinne eller utålmodighet)						
Jeg later jeg som om jeg har følelser jeg egentlig ikke har der og da (f.eks. at jeg er glad, takknemlig eller tålmodig)						
og ferdigheter. Hvor viktig mener du at det er f områder?	oi <u>Ded</u> a si	yike <u>DiNE</u>	Kulliskape	og letai	gneter park	algende
	1=lkke viktig	2	3	4	5=Meget viktig	Kan ikke svare
ETT SVAR I HVER LINJE	viktig	2	3	4	viktig 5	svare
ETT SVAR I HVER LINJE  Skaffe deg mer innsikt i andre lands kulturer	viktig	2	3	4	viktig 5	svare
Skaffe deg mer innsikt i andre lands kulturer Skaffe deg mer internasjonal erfaring Øke din kjennskap til hvordan du kan lede	viktig	2	3	4	viktig 5	svare
Skaffe deg mer innsikt i andre lands kulturer Skaffe deg mer internasjonal erfaring Øke din kjennskap til hvordan du kan lede endringsprosesser i virksomheten	viktig	2	3	4	viktig 5	svare
Skaffe deg mer innsikt i andre lands kulturer Skaffe deg mer internasjonal erfaring Øke din kjennskap til hvordan du kan lede endringsprosesser i virksomheten Ta videreutdanning innen ditt eget fagområde	viktig	2	3	4	viktig 5	6
Skaffe deg mer innsikt i andre lands kulturer Skaffe deg mer internasjonal erfaring Øke din kjennskap til hvordan du kan lede endringsprosesser i virksomheten Ta videreutdanning innen ditt eget fagområde Bedre din kjennskap til hvordan din væremåte virker på andre mennesker	viktig	2	3	4	viktig 5	svare
Skaffe deg mer innsikt i andre lands kulturer Skaffe deg mer internasjonal erfaring Øke din kjennskap til hvordan du kan lede endringsprosesser i virksomheten Ta videreutdanning innen ditt eget fagområde Bedre din kjennskap til hvordan din væremåte virker på andre mennesker	viktig	2	3	4	viktig 5	svare
Skaffe deg mer innsikt i andre lands kulturer Skaffe deg mer internasjonal erfaring Øke din kjennskap til hvordan du kan lede endringsprosesser i virksomheten Ta videreutdanning innen ditt eget fagområde Bedre din kjennskap til hvordan din væremåte virker på andre mennesker Bedre din innsikt i hvordan konflikter kan håndteres	viktig		3 	4	viktiğ	svare
Skaffe deg mer innsikt i andre lands kulturer Skaffe deg mer internasjonal erfaring Øke din kjennskap til hvordan du kan lede endringsprosesser i virksomheten Ta videreutdanning innen ditt eget fagområde Bedre din kjennskap til hvordan din væremåte virker på andre mennesker Bedre din innsikt i hvordan konflikter kan håndteres	viktig	inere som	3	4 	viktiğ	svare  6
Skaffe deg mer innsikt i andre lands kulturer Skaffe deg mer internasjonal erfaring Øke din kjennskap til hvordan du kan lede endringsprosesser i virksomheten Ta videreutdanning innen ditt eget fagområde Bedre din kjennskap til hvordan din væremåte virker på andre mennesker Bedre din innsikt i hvordan konflikter kan håndteres	viktig  1	iere som	3		viktiğ	svare 6
Skaffe deg mer innsikt i andre lands kulturer Skaffe deg mer internasjonal erfaring Øke din kjennskap til hvordan du kan lede endringsprosesser i virksomheten Ta videreutdanning innen ditt eget fagområde Bedre din kjennskap til hvordan din væremåte virker på andre mennesker Bedre din innsikt i hvordan konflikter kan håndteres	viktig	iere som	a significant sign		viktiğ	svare 6 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
Skaffe deg mer innsikt i andre lands kulturer Skaffe deg mer internasjonal erfaring Øke din kjennskap til hvordan du kan lede endringsprosesser i virksomheten Ta videreutdanning innen ditt eget fagområde Bedre din kjennskap til hvordan din væremåte virker på andre mennesker Bedre din innsikt i hvordan konflikter kan håndteres	viktig	iere som	aleder?  m  re Ledere		viktiğ	svare 6

+	<del>-</del>
73	Når du tar alle forhold i betraktning - synes du at det er så mange goder forbundet med å være leder at det er verdt innsatsen?
	ETT SVAR
	Ja □1
	Nei
	Usikker/ vet ikke
74	Det kan bli aktuelt å gjenta denne undersøkelsen om 3-5 år for å måle om det har funnet sted endringer i arbeidssituasjonen til norske ledere i perioden. I denne forbindelse vil det være ønskelig å intervjue flest mulig av dem som er med i årets undersøkelse.
	Tillater du at vi forsøker å kontakte deg for deltagelse i en eventuell ny undersøkelse om 3-5 år?
	Ja □1
	Nei □2
75	For å øke forståelsen av hvordan ledere virker inn på medarbeidere og virksomhetens resultater er det viktig å ha tilgang på informasjon fra medarbeidere.
	Tillater du at vi kontakter deg med hensyn på å innhente slik informasjon på et senere tidspunkt?
	Ja □1
	Nei □2
	TAKK FOR HJELPEN!
\	VENNLIGST SEND UTFYLT SPØRRESKJEMA I SVARKONVOLUTTEN TIL SYNOVATE

SNAREST. IKKE SETT NAVNET DITT PÅ SKJEMAET.

**Appendix 2: Questions – Role stress (middle managers)** 

			Ma	nn	Kvi	nne	TOTAL	
			%	(n)	%	(n)	%	(n)
1.	At overordnede og	1=Aldri	6	(35)	4	(12)	5	(47)
	underordnede	2	22	(120)	17	(54)	20	(174)
	stiller ulike krav til	3	30	(161)	37	(120)	32	(281)
	deg	4	34	(186)	33	(105)	34	(291)
		5=Hele tiden	8	(41)	10	(31)	8	(72)
2.	At kunder og	1=Aldri	9	(49)	11	(36)	10	(85)
	brukere har ønsker	2	42	(224)	44	(140)		(364)
	og krav som dine	3	32	(171)	27	(87)	30	(258)
	medarbeidere er	4		(79)		(50)		(129)
	lite villige til å imøtekomme	5=Hele tiden		(8)		(4)		(12)
3.	At eierne stiller	1=Aldri	19	(100)	24	(73)	21	(173)
	krav til driften som	2	40	(211)	39	(120)	40	(331)
	dine underordnede motsetter seg	3	25	(133)	23	(70)	25	(203)
		4	13	(70)	13	(40)	13	(110)
		5=Hele tiden	2	(8)	1	(2)	1	(10)
4.	At jobben stiller	1=Aldri	36	(191)	43	(131)	38	(322)
	krav til deg som går utover ditt ekteskap/ parforhold	2	36	(191)	32	(99)	34	(290)
		3	17	(92)	17	(52)	17	(144)
		4	11	(56)	8	(24)	10	(80)
		5=Hele tiden	1	(3)	1	(2)	1	(5)
5.	At daglige	1=Aldri	3	(15)	3	(9)	3	(24)
	gjøremål fører til at langsiktige oppgaver ikke får nok oppmerksomhet	2	14	(76)		(30)	12	(106)
		3		(157)		(85)		(242)
		4	41	(219)	43	(138)	41	(357)
		5=Hele tiden	13	(72)	19	(61)	15	(133)
6.	At ulik faglig	1=Aldri	22	(116)	22	(69)	22	(185)
	spisskompetanse	2		(238)		(133)		(371)
	blant dine	3		(113)		(75)		(188)
	underordnede gjør	4		(64)		(34)		(98)
	det vanskelig å få dem til å jobbe som et team	5=Hele tiden		(6)		(5)		(11)

7.	At du må forsvare virksomheten mot kritikk fra kunder,	1=Aldri	24	(123)	20	(61)	23	(184)
		2	36	(184)	33	(100)	35	(284)
		3	25	(127)	27	(80)	25	(207)
	media, o.l., også	4	14	(70)	17	(52)	15	(122)
	når du er enig i kritikken	5=Hele tiden	2	(9)	2	(7)	2	(16)
8.	At du må være	1=Aldri	13	(72)	11	(37)	13	(109)
	med å	2	41	(219)	42	(135)	41	(354)
	gjennomføre	3	32	(174)	30	(96)	31	(270)
	beslutninger som	4	12	(67)	14	(46)	13	(113)
	strider mot dine egne faglige synspunkter	5=Hele tiden	1	(5)	2	(8)	2	(13)
9.	At du må tidvis	1=Aldri	43	(233)	40	(130)	42	(363)
	foreta	2	41	(222)	38	(123)	40	(345)
	disposisjoner som	3	11	(61)	14	(44)	12	(105)
	strider mot din etikk og dine verdier	4	4	(20)	7	(24)	5	(44)
		5=Hele tiden	1	(3)	0	(1)	0	(4)
10.	D. At jobben stiller krav til deg som går utover din mulighet til å ta vare på vennskap	1=Aldri	45	(243)	45	(146)	45	(389)
		2	34	(184)	32	(103)	33	(287)
		3	15	(81)	12	(40)	14	(121)
		4	5	(29)	9	(29)	7	(58)
		5=Hele tiden	1	(5)	1	(4)	1	(9)
11.	At politikerne tar	1=Aldri	21	(110)	17	(52)	19	(162)
	beslutninger som	2	25	(131)	27	(84)	26	(215)
	gjør det	3	24	(125)	25	(79)	25	(204)
	vanskeligere for	4	21	(110)	20	(63)	21	(173)
	virksomheten å arbeide effektivt	5=Hele tiden	9	(46)	10	(32)	9	(78)
12.	At du bør gå på	1=Aldri	19	(100)	13	(43)	17	(143)
	jobb selv når du	2		(159)		(82)		(241)
	føler deg syk	3		(122)		(83)		(205)
		4		(133)		(90)		(223)
		5=Hele tiden		(22)		(27)		(49)

Appendix 3: Coefficients table with Tolerance and VIF values (Dependent variable: Role Stress)

		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients			Collinearity Statistics	
Model		В	Std. Error	Beta	t	Sig.	Tolerance	VIF
1	(Constant)	2.839	.201		14.136	<.001		
	Er du mann eller kvinne?	.046	.065	.041	.710	.478	.946	1.057
	Hva er din alder?	004	.003	074	-1.293	.197	.946	1.057
2	(Constant)	2.465	.339		7.275	<.001		
	Er du mann eller kvinne?	.037	.067	.033	.562	.574	.910	1.099
	Hva er din alder?	005	.003	078	-1.350	.178	.940	1.064
	OppgSUM	.077	.056	.078	1.386	.167	.984	1.016
	PerSUM	.030	.061	.028	.490	.624	.946	1.058
3	(Constant)	2.980	.351		8.499	<.001		
	Er du mann eller kvinne?	.042	.065	.037	.649	.517	.909	1.100
	Hva er din alder?	003	.003	059	-1.059	.291	.935	1.070
	OppgSUM	.072	.054	.072	1.318	.188	.984	1.017
	PerSUM	.139	.065	.130	2.147	.033	.802	1.247
	LMXSUM	259	.060	256	-4.321	<.001	.835	1.198
1	(Constant)	3.961	.433		9.137	<.001		
	Er du mann eller kvinne?	.050	.064	.044	.787	.432	.908	1.101
	Hva er din alder?	003	.003	059	-1.065	.288	.934	1.070
	OppgSUM	.059	.053	.060	1.110	.268	.978	1.022
	PerSUM	.109	.065	.102	1.682	.094	.769	1.301
	LMXSUM	227	.060	225	-3.808	<.001	.814	1.229
	SosStSUM	030	.039	042	766	.444	.950	1.053
	EnsSUM	191	.053	196	-3.608	<.001	.959	1.043

Appendix 4: Relationship between people-oriented and gender

Group Statistics							
	Er du mann eller kvinne?	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean		
Jeg hjelper de ansatte til å forstå hvordan deres	Mann	523	3.83	.774	.034		
nål og formål relaterer seg til selskapet	Kvinne	305	4.00	.827	.047		
Jeg tar mange beslutninger sammen	Mann	541	4.06	.747	.032		
ned de ansatte	Kvinne	320	4.31	.704	.039		
eg uttrykker stor tro på at de ansatte kan utføre krevende oppgaver	Mann	543	4.42	.611	.026		
	Kvinne	322	4.57	.566	.032		
eg tillater ansatte å gjøre	Mann	542	4.11	.745	.032		
jobben på sin måte	Kvinne	322	4.24	.758	.042		

Appendix 5: Relationship between LMX and gender

	Er du mann eller kvinne?	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Hvor ofte er dine medarbeidere fornøyd	Mann	512	4.03	.704	.031
med hva du gjør på jobb?	Kvinne	302	4.20	.684	.039
Hvor godt synes du dine medarbeidere forstår dine problemer og behov	Mann	534	3.74	.806	.035
knyttet til dine arbeidsoppgaver og din arbeidssituasjon?	Kvinne	310	3.83	.851	.048
l hvor stor grad ser dine medarbeidere hva du er	Mann	516	3.88	.709	.031
god for, det vil si ditt potensiale?	Kvinne	305	3.98	.725	.042
Uavhengig av hvor mye makt og innflytelse medarbeiderne dine har: Hvor sannsynlig er det at dine medarbeidere vil	Mann	536	4.11	.865	.037
enytte seg av sin nflytelse for å hjelpe eg med å løse dine oblemer i ditt arbeid?	Kvinne	316	4.23	.901	.051
Uavhengig av makt og innflytelse: Hvor sannsynlig er det at dine	Mann	518	3.07	1.109	.049
edarbeidere vil ta tøyten" for deg hvis du i en "knipe"?	Kvinne	307	3.18	1.154	.066
Tiltroen til mine medarbeidere er så stor at jeg ville ha forsvart og	Mann	539	4.23	.788	.034
ettferdiggjort deres eslutninger i deres avær.	Kvinne	321	4.33	.772	.043
Hvordan vil du beskrive ditt samarbeidsforhold til	Mann	545	4.54	.554	.024
dine medarbeidere?	Kvinne	320	4.57	.599	.033
I hvilken grad har dine underordnede uttrykt tydelige forventninger til	Mann	532	3.43	.969	.042
deg om hva som skal til for at du skal være en god leder?	Kvinne	316	3.63	1.045	.059

Appendix 6: Relationship between loneliness and gender

Group Statistics								
	Er du mann eller kvinne?	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean			
Jeg synes jeg har nok kontakt med mennesker	Mann	542	2.24	1.026	.044			
som bryr seg om meg	Kvinne	324	1.94	1.012	.056			
Jeg føler meg ofte ensom	Mann	272	4.28	.922	.056			
	Kvinne	134	4.28	.888	.077			
Jeg synes det er vanskelig å snakke med mennesker	Mann	303	4.24	.945	.054			
jeg ikke har møtt før	Kvinne	160	4.26	.928	.073			
Jeg føler meg ensom selv	Mann	224	4.41	.923	.062			
år jeg er sammen med ndre	Kvinne	117	4.49	.784	.072			
Jeg føler ofte at andre ikke forstår meg eller min	Mann	344	4.36	.927	.050			
situasjon	Kvinne	170	4.50	.732	.056			
Jeg føler at andre bryr	Mann	544	1.96	.855	.037			
seg om meg	Kvinne	324	1.64	.926	.05			