

# Where the invisible pandemic becomes visible

– what discarded face masks can say about human behavior

This article describes how we, in the duration of a month, registered discarded face masks in conjunction of four different metro stations in the Copenhagen area. The investigation was supplemented by interviews with passengers in the Metro. On one station particularly, the amount of discarded face masks was ten-fold greater than any assemblies at the other stations. The difference could not be explained directly. Through the article, we attempt to discuss the large assembly of discarded face masks as an expression of resistance to the power exerted by society. The large assembly of discarded face masks is used as an ethnoarchaeological analogy to shed light on possible patterns of behavior in the Eastern Roman urban center Elusa. Finally, we try to use these observations as an archaeological argument for the existence of specific epidemics in the past..