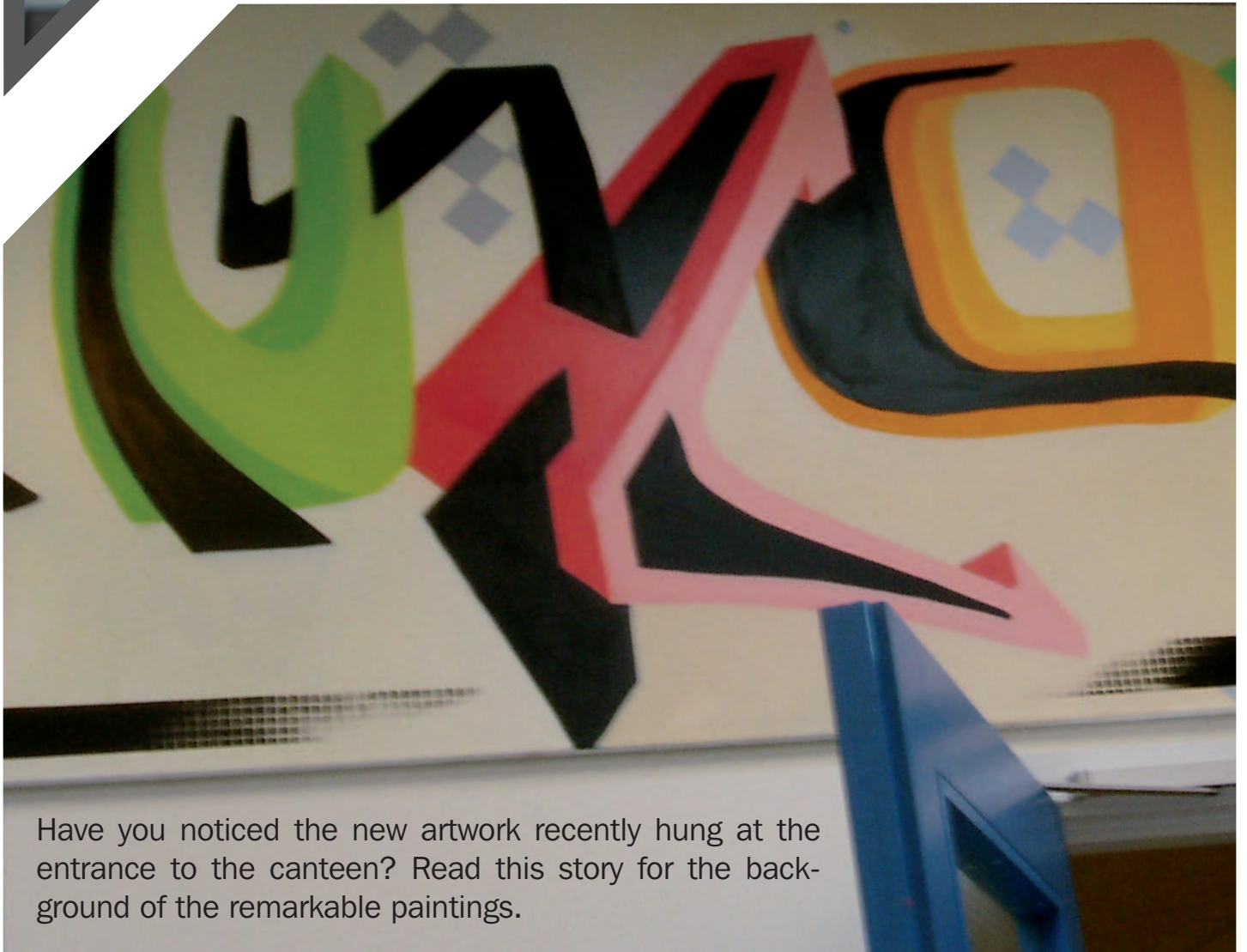


Universitetspladsen

# RUglobal

Information and debate from Roskilde University

Number 09 · 15. March - 12. April 2010



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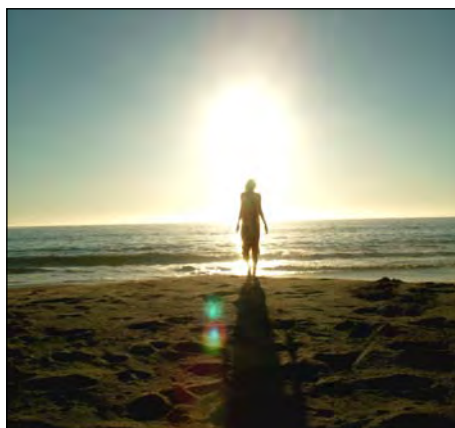
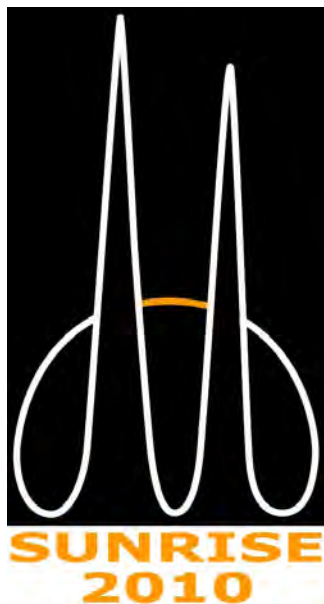
## Career prospects

To get an impression of what careers an RU degree can lead to, RUglobal has corresponded with former RU students.



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## Publishing information

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- at 12 noon on the assigned date



# Career prospects

To get an impression of what careers an RU degree can lead to, RUglobal has corresponded with former RU students.

*By Thomas Humle and Anne Frida Christiansen, RUglobal*

## **Bjørn Borre – Local Government Denmark (LGDK)**

*What did you study at RU and when did you complete your programme?*

I studied Public Administration and graduated in 2003.

*What is your job now?*

I am a project manager at LGDK where in collaboration with the Danish municipalities I work to prioritise and focus our efforts on digitalisation to be able to benefit from it.

Too few citizens communicate digitally with public authorities. Throughout the 'e2012' project where focus is on strategic management, competence building and marketing, we are now looking into this issue. For more information, please visit [www.kl.dk/e2012](http://www.kl.dk/e2012) which forms the basis of quite a few RU projects. :-)

At strategic management level and at joint public level, I collaborate with the municipalities to formulate channel strategies, determine ambitious, measurable targets and develop activities underpinning digitalisation. My job helps me develop my insight into municipal factors and the network across state and municipalities.

LGDK is a fantastic workplace which offers interesting times. We can clearly sense that efficiency improvement is now an item on the public sector agenda, and we work hard to exploit the potentials in a way that helps keep the municipalities the main entry into the public sector.

*How do you make use of your RU degree in your present job?*

Saying that RU graduates have a good analytical approach to different problems is not

just an empty phrase. My job requires that I can work with anyone, anywhere and about anything, and RU graduates are good at that.

The teaching methods and work processes at RU should be better at supporting innovation, which is seriously needed, among other places, in the municipal sector. I promote innovation and dare challenge existing state of things. Doing that has involved some bruises along the way. However, it has still been important to my success and has allowed me to work with a string of interesting projects.

## **Jens Jonatan Steen – Cevea**

*What did you study at RU and when did you complete your programme?*

I started at the Basic Studies in the Social Sciences (SAMBAS) in 2002, graduated in 2005 as a bachelor in the first class having done EU Studies and finally earned an MSc in Public Administration in June 2008. I was also a member of the Academic Council for a period of time, where through Frit Forum (free forum) I fought to implement new teaching concepts and the option of project-free semesters, among other things.

*What is your job now?*

I am director of the centre-left think tank, Cevea. My job involves in-depth work with the political system, and I particularly seek to strengthen the development of the modern centre-left in terms of politics of ideas. The think tank has existed for eighteen months and publishes its own periodical, runs a credited programme, a summer university, a market research company and organises a lot of inspiring discussion events. In other words, my work is about rooting out the established truths, setting long-term political agendas and strengthening the infrastructure in terms of politics of ideas at the centre-left think tank. I couldn't dream of a more interesting job.

*How do you make use of your RU degree in your present job?*

I have benefited greatly from my RU programme, especially in relation to team work, where you learn a lot about collaboration, task distribution, how to use different resources and naturally to work under an extreme time pressure. I find that you learn how to get the job done. In addition, the critical thinking exercised at RU has made it easier for me to navigate in an increasingly complex and closed political system; especially the macro-economic views of Jesper Jespersen and the discourse theoretical approach of Torben Bech Dyrberg and Allan Dreyer have helped make a big difference in my current job. From RU I learned to adopt the academic critical eye.

## **Martin Volf Sørensen – Copenhagen Hospitality College**

*What did you study at RU and when did you complete your programme?*

Master in Experience Management (MEM) – I graduated in April 2009.

*What is your job now?*

I work as head of education and training at the Copenhagen Hospitality College. Before I enrolled at RU, I worked as a manager in various challenging and interesting jobs within experience economy, in Danish as well as international frameworks. For seven years, I worked on board American cruise liners. I worked as Food & Beverage manager for the Park restaurants, Østerbro, Copenhagen, as manager of the restaurants on the top floor of Illums department store and as product manager of Løgismose A/S which runs Falsled Kro, Restaurant Kong Hans Kaelder, Nimb at Tivoli and Løgismose Vinimport.

*How do you make use of your RU degree in your present job?*

When I look at my responsibility as a manager of a business school where focus is on professional competences, I find it important to constantly seek to soften up the very rigid structures that you sometimes come across



Bjørn Borre



Jens Jonatan Steen



Martin Volf Sørensen



Anders Dybdal Nielsen



Karen King Nash Arleth

in the public sector. At the MEM programme, I learned, among other things, not to focus on defined functions and boxes, but rather on creative thinking and flexible behaviour in organisations.

I have gained a sense of how important it is that programmes and courses allow students the opportunity to work closely together in different types of projects and environments.

Through my education at MEM, I also developed a broader view on competences, social as well as innovative, and in particular on change competences. We must increase focus on change competences and reduce focus on traditional competences if to survive in our experience society.

At MEM, I gained an insight into several management styles – reflective management, value-based management, strategic management, change management, philosophic management, situation-specific management and coaching management, to mention just a few. MEM has questioned to what extent the basic values of an enterprise, institution or organisation are reflected on the financial and social performance of an enterprise; in other words, whether through a particular management style, it is possible to optimise the efforts and welfare of employees and thus see a direct impact on the criteria for success, target, social capital and financial performance.

**Anders Dybdal Nielsen – Novo Nordisk**

*What did you study at RU and when did you complete your programme?*

I hold an MSc in chemistry and molecular biology and graduated in 1999. My dissertation project was carried out through a collaboration between RU and Novozymes. Having completed my dissertation, I got a job with Novozymes as a business PhD researcher working on a research project in collaboration with RU.

*What is your job now?*

I have worked as a research scientist with Novo Nordisk since 2005. I work in a research and development department where I am mainly involved in the development of pharmaceuticals for patients with different haemophilias. In my work, I deal with project coordination and also work as a professional expert. I am given good opportunities to collaborate with universities, among other things by offering supervision to students at PhD level.

*How do you make use of your RU degree in your present job?*

In my day-to-day work life, I make great use of the professional skills obtained through my RU degree. The experience I gained from the project work at RU has also helped optimise my background for my present job, since as part of my job I participate in various small and large project groups where the working process is quite similar to that involved in the project work at the university.

**Karen King Nash Arleth – United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**

*What did you study at RU and when did you complete your programme?*

I studied Natural Sciences (NATBAS) and subsequently Technological and Socio-Economic Planning (TEK-SAM) as a separate degree with a DUCED (Danish University Consortium for Environment and Development) association, i.e. TEK-SAM with a developing countries perspective. I wrote my dissertation with a co-student from International Development Studies (IDS), which thus became a TEK-SAM/IDS dissertation which was completed in January 2006.

*What is your job now?*

I am working as a JPO (Junior Professional Officer) on UN's development programme (UNDP) in Bolivia focusing on environment and disaster risk management. My position is funded by the Danish Ministry of Foreign

Affairs for a period of up to three years. Bolivia is a country strongly affected by the global warming and climate change impacts, and therefore there is lots to do in relation to environmental projects and initiatives and plenty of tasks pertaining to management of natural disasters that occur at an ever-increasing rate and extremity in the form of drought and floodings. This is a job where project management, negotiation with government parties and coordination with other UN organisations and donors are my primary responsibilities.

*How do you make use of your RU degree in your present job?*

A large part of my programme was internationally oriented, and I spent long periods of time doing field work and participating in courses in Thailand and Malaysia. That way, I gained experience from working in a non-Danish context, in an inter-cultural context, which is something I extensively draw on in my present job as a member of an international organisation such as the UNDP.

In addition, at RU, students have a big responsibility for planning their programmes and seeking the information and guidance they need themselves, i.e. taking initiatives and handling different inputs and information. This experience is very valuable in my present job, where despite the many procedures and fixed UN framework, I am solely responsible for 'my' projects materialising and for applying creative thinking to make things work. Creative thinking is a necessity, among other things, because of the very dynamic political situation which is constantly causing the working conditions to change. All in all, in my daily work I mostly draw on the general competences that I acquired during my time as a student rather than the specific tools and theories provided at RU.

# Kasper, the canteen and his creations

Have you noticed the new artwork recently hung at the entrance to the canteen? Read this story for the background of the remarkable paintings.

By Anne Frida Christiansen, RUGlobal

On an ordinary Tuesday very much like any other Tuesday, RUGlobal met Kasper F. Nielsen at the Friday Bar in the canteen. Kasper is in the fourth semester of the Basic Studies in the Humanities and Technology. He explained that he chose RU over the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts for fear of losing his passion for painting. So far, he has had success, because Kasper showed lots of passion when talking about RU, art and graffiti. The occasion for this meeting is the new artwork in the canteen created by Kasper F. Nielsen. And the story behind the new paintings is a little out of the ordinary.

It does not take long before Kasper is eagerly telling about all his ideas for embellishing the many facades of RU. So far, he has only had the opportunity to add his personal touch to the premises of the canteen, but, if it is up to him, they won't be the last. Kasper's love of graffiti goes all the way back to his childhood when his enthusiasm for skating led to his interest in street art. Kasper recalls that it started on a small scale with graffiti-inspired drawings that he sold to his friends when he attended a lower-secondary-level boarding school.

## Kasper's first experience with graffiti

One day, one of his acquaintances asked Kasper to paint a wall in his barn. "At that time, I had no experience with painting graffiti on large surfaces, but I accepted the challenge and threw myself into it" Kasper says about his first steps into the colourful world of graffiti. Since then he has gained much more experience. Among other things, Kasper has worked at the upper-secondary education institution, Espergærde Gymnasium, where he taught street art in theory and practice.

"What I like about paintings is that they stay with you for a long time. It is not like an mp3-file that you can just delete. It may seem a little selfish, but I like to put my mark on things. Perhaps that has to do with the graffiti as well – that you want to mark off your territory", Kasper says with a humble smile on his lips. According to Kasper, many people, particularly older people, have a narrow view on graffiti. The way Kasper sees it, graffiti is just as legitimate as any other type of art. The only difference is that the paintbrush has been replaced by a spray can.

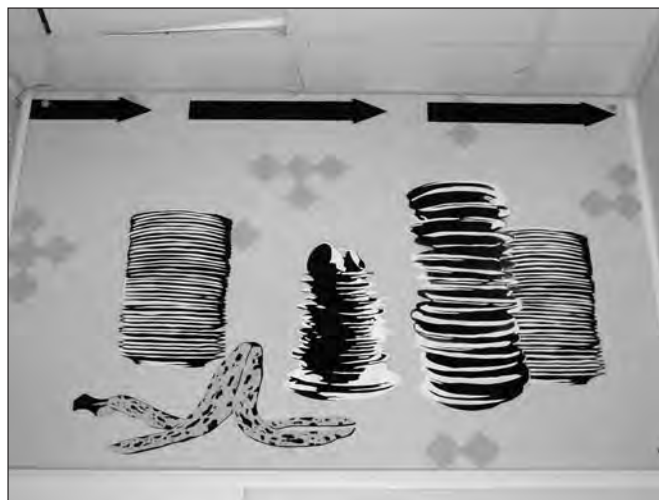
## Kasper's creativity at RU

At RU, it all started by Kasper painting for the Kamarilla for free. On large pieces of cloth he could express himself and at the same time

attract attention to the events of the Kamarilla at RU, e.g. the annual song contest and the spring party. Kasper worked in the back of the canteen, and some of the canteen staff could not avoid seeing it. A few days later, Kasper was contacted by the lessee of the canteen, Mr Claus Johansen. Claus had seen several of Kasper's paintings on Facebook, where Kasper has a so-called fan page, and Claus asked whether he would paint some pictures for the canteen. Kasper accepted the task and was given leeway to produce whatever he wanted.

Compared to the pay Kasper usually receives when selling his paintings in galleries, the consideration paid by the canteen was modest, but he did it mainly out of a wish to be able to add his personal touch to and decorate RU. And if it is up to Kasper, it won't be the last time he leaves his mark on one of RU's many facades. As we talked outside the lecture room, his ideas were queuing up. "I don't understand why there are so many boring and uninspiring walls at RU. At the same time, the art displayed here is very abstract and not very youthful. I wonder why RU does not focus more on this; I would really like to start a debate about our surroundings here at RU" Kasper continues passionately. One of his ideas is to supplement the current painting in the large lecture hall with another one with a more modern expression. The fronts of the buildings are also in Kasper's mind. "There are so many boring concrete facades which I would really like to freshen up a bit, so that it does not look so grey and all blend in together," he says and points towards the buildings of the administration as a nearby example. Kasper has just come from those buildings where, in his eagerness to leave his mark on RU, he tried to find the right persons to contract. So far, he remains optimistic about his general wish: to debate and develop some of RU's empty walls and facades. "My wish and hope is to see my commitment and focus spread like ripples in a pond", Kasper says by way of conclusion.





**Info about Kasper's paintings:**

In addition to the decoration of the canteen, Kasper has also painted three walls at the café Tight located in Copenhagen. Moreover, Kasper participates in exhibitions at galleries in Elsinore and Copenhagen. He does not yet have a website, but he has made an agreement with one of his friends: Kasper will paint one of his walls, and the time Kasper will spend painting, his friend will spend making a website for Kasper. Until then, you can view a number of Kasper's paintings at the facebook site Graffiti By Kasper F Nielsen.



# Learning to connect the dots in new ways...



"Before you wonder "am I doing things right," ask "am I doing the right things?"

-Anonymous

By *International Student Ankit Joshi*  
Photo: *Katarzyna Olbromska*

These words most aptly summarize the content of the Career Seminar which was organized by the Internal Club on 19th February catering to the growing number of international students at RUC. The main motive was to provide a platform for international and Danish students to meet career advisors and resource persons from the industry who have achieved professional success in Denmark. It was an opportunity to share ideas, ask questions and reflect on the pros and cons of a career in Denmark for those aspiring not only to stay back and work here but also those wanting a job of their dreams elsewhere.

The event was the brain child of Gosia Kulinska and Kasia Olbromska of the International Club. The International Club comprises of a group of highly motivated international students who organize socio-cultural and educational events at RUC in order to make the stay of international students at RUC a comfortable

one. It is headed by Mette Reebirk, Director of International Affairs at RUC.

The event began with a thought provoking speech by Mette about the uniqueness of RUC which is slowly carving out a niche for itself not only in Denmark but all over the world. According to her, "learning to connect dots in new ways" was something that RUC always taught its students. Recollecting from her years of experience in the Industry, Mette set the tone of the day's workshop by saying that in today's fast evolving job market, one must not think of "what is in it for me" but "what is in it of me".

The second speaker of the day was Eva Op De Beeck. Eva is a Belgian and is currently employed with Work in Denmark which is an online job portal for those seeking a career here and is hosted by the Danish government. Eva spoke from her experience of working here in Denmark from the perspective of somebody who was not originally from here. She spoke about the work culture in Denmark as one being fairly relaxed and at the same time having high levels of accountability and pro-

fessionalism. Eva stressed on the need to know Danish while applying for a job but ruled it out as the determinant factor in getting that job. She was of the opinion that if an aspirant can convey his or her commitment to add value to a company's operations than exceptions could be made. However, she recommended that it was a good idea to learn the language as it served as an ice breaker while working amongst the Danes.

Next to speak was Ishan Gupta who is heading Business Development at Bio Porto Diagnostics, a company involved with marketing and development of antibodies and antibody based products. Ishan is an Indian and has been associated with companies such as Honda in the past. His decision to work in Denmark was influenced by his associating with the Copenhagen Business School where he was an exchange student. He highlighted the role of networking in the flat world and spoke about how crucial he thought it to be today. One of the key take away messages from Ishan's presentation was the development of networking skills not to get a job but purely wanting to meet new people and learn new things. Accor-



◀ *Roxana Sulti, Mihaela Dontu, Gosia Kulinska and Adas Lumbe. All international students at Roskilde University.*

ding to him, if someone can succeed in doing that than the other things like finding a job would automatically fall into place.

The third speaker for the day was Lisbeth Keinicke from Akademikernes A-Kasse which is an agency working with helping aspirants find internships and jobs. The agency also provided counseling and unemployment insurance to aspirants. She encouraged the participants to register themselves with the agency if they wanted assistance on the above mentioned grounds. She went on to peak about how to write a CV and a cover letter which were used for different purposes. The CV is supposed to be an account of your past experiences and achievements, it is backward directed and very precise where as a cover letter is forward directed and serves as a statement of the candidates aspirations.

The next speaker was Lukasz Olbromski, a Polish national who shared his experiences

as to how he got his dream job as a software developer at Microsoft Development Center, Copenhagen. He spoke about how in the past, he had faced rejection from Microsoft but Lukasz, in pursuit of his passion, did not give up and applied again only to get the job this time. His talk revolved around his passion for software development and he suggested to the participants not to loose sight of their goals in order to get their dream jobs.

The last speaker for the day was an AIESEC representative who made a small presentation about the international student organization which assists young people to find relevant internships and other exchange programmes with the view to explore and develop their leadership potential on an international scale. After this there was an opportunity for the participants to engage in informal discussions with the resource persons and other participants. The event ended with a vote of thanks

from the organizers and the overall response of the participants was positive.

#### **Next step for RUC**

Such events they need to play a more crucial role at the university. It is events such as these that go hand in hand with RUC's philosophy of "learning by doing". Let us not forget that RUC was founded as an experimental university to break away from the traditional Danish education system and it is for this reason that 'problem oriented project based learning', Interdisciplinarity and independent learning have become the hallmark of Roskilde University. All these values can only be fully recognized by integrating society, industry and university together as a dynamic and collective entity where there is constant flow of knowledge and experience between them to achieve a common goal.

## **When are they open?**

See the various opening hours for the offices in Administration and Services, the canteen and the bookshop here:

**[www.ruc.dk/openinghours](http://www.ruc.dk/openinghours)**



Tips and tricks from Campus-it