

Universitetspladsen

# RUglobal

Information and debate from Roskilde University

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**“We want to support bold research”**



# RUC CAREER FAIR 2010

## CAREER WORKSHOP

### WHAT & WHY:

Are you looking for work experience?! International Club is here to give you advice on how to start your career while being abroad. Our experts will give you an energy kick for your personal and professional development. We will show you how to use your competencies in a way that will help you to present yourself in the best way when meeting your potential employer. Also, you will get a chance to meet people like YOU who successfully started their careers in Denmark after graduating.

[ruc.dk/karrieremesse\\_en](http://ruc.dk/karrieremesse_en)

### WHEN:

Friday, 19. February 2010 at 14.00 - 17.00

### WHERE:

RUC, Teorikum 01 (close to canteen)



RUC Career Fair 2010 is brought to you by :



DM - Dansk Magisterforening

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### Upcoming deadlines:

Nr.	Articles	Notices	Publication date
08	8/2	12/2	22/2
09	1/3	5/3	15/3

- at 12 noon on the assigned date

# “We want to support bold research”

The Danish Council for Independent Research is launching a new career programme to help Danish researchers get all the way to the top. A vitamin injection of about half a billion Danish Kroner is intended to make it more attractive to create new knowledge

*By Camilla Buchardt, The Information Office*

Dare to know, or in Latin “Sapere Aude” is the name of the new career programme launched by the Danish Council for Independent Research (DCIR), the intention of which is to encourage more of the young skilled researchers in Denmark to stay in the world of science.

The programme is, among other things, based on the fact that nowadays Denmark is educating more researchers than ever before. However, what will be the next step in this development? Society is to gain from the knowledge being developed by the young PhD students, and for this reason it is important that these PhD students have clear career paths ahead of them – also in international

contexts – and that they stay in the field of research.

Previously, there were several different programmes that aimed to bring back researchers from abroad, female researchers, etc., but now resources and funds are channelled into one inclusive programme. That way, DCIR is hoping to have a much stronger career programme to draw on for many years to come, says Jens



*“The students at Molecular Biology at Roskilde University are busy occupied by introducing mutations in a gene. The recent years Molecular Biology has revolutionized medical diagnosis and treatment”.*

Christian Djurhuus, Chairman of the Board of Directors, DCIR.

“For instance, focus is still on female researchers, but the advantage of launching combined initiatives for young researchers and female researchers is the uniformity. We are also hoping that this approach will rob off on companies – that it will inspire them to support research just as for instance Lundbeck is

doing; Lundbeck awards scholarships worth DKK 10 billion to young researchers. In this context, it would be an advantage, if reference could be made to a uniform programme with us.”

#### **Not everybody can concentrate on CO2 research**

Our intentions with the funds are also to ensure that researchers are not only making

the safe choice – that there is freedom to accommodate alternative thinking and the courageous researcher:

“There must be some allowance for curiosity. We want to support bold research. What do the researchers *feel like* researching? It is no use saying that now they are only to conduct

*Continued on next page*



#### **Women and research**

RUGlobal asked the Chairman of DCIR why he believes there are many more male than female researchers:

“The world of research can be harsh. It is a very competitive environment. Men are comfortable with competition; they are less frightened. Sometimes you can even call them more superficial. We tend to skate over things a bit more. Women are more focused on detail, which makes it harder and more laborious for women to be researchers.”

#### **About the bibliometric research indicator**

The Danish Ministry of Science Technology and Innovation has introduced a bibliometric research indicator, the purpose of which is to promote publication through the most recognised publication channels and to improve the quality of Danish research. The research indicator is to identify and measure Danish research publication across the different research institutions. However, the indicator has been met with heavy criticism from, among others, 32 out of the 68 professions having worked to develop it. From 2010, 10 per cent of the new basic funds will be allocated according to this indicator, and from 2012, this share will increase to 25 per cent.

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### About Sapere Aude

Sapere Aude (in English 'Dare to know') is the name of the new career programme launched by the Danish Council for Independent Research, from which Danish researchers can apply for funds of up to DKK 9 million. The pool has a total of just under half a billion Danish Kroner in 2010.

The name of the programme is ambiguous says Chairman of the Danish Council for Independent Research, Jens Christian Djurhuus:

– It is partly about daring to acquire knowledge. However, it is also about daring to say that you know something.



Jens Christian Djurhuus

CO2 research. Science must be driven by curiosity", says Jens Christian Djurhuus and points out that in fact it is the curiosity-driven research that often results in the most groundbreaking research:

"A good example is the Nobel Prize winner of 1997, Jens Christian Skou, who was awarded the prize for his research in crab muscles, among other things. How many people take an interest in that exactly?"

"Like the Nobel Prize winner Ben Roy Motelson said to Scient: 'If H.C. Ørsted, who discovered electromagnetism in 1820, had conducted research within a strategic research field, he had instead discovered an improved version of the candle'. I think this is a very good example of how important curiosity and freedom of research is."

### The bibliometric research indicator

For this reason, Jens Christian Djurhuus is not a big fan of the bibliometric research indicator that measures universities on the basis of their publication activities.

"The bibliometric research indicator is problematic. For instance in the statement published by the Danish Ministry of Science Technology and Innovation no adjustment has been made for the fact that not all universities in Denmark are the same size."

"The indicator has become a weapon in the world of science. The concept was borne out of pilot scheme in Norway which has always lagged behind in the research field; and now we are to copy them. The philosophy behind is okay, but it is not the right way of doing it.

It could entail what I would call a not very appropriate war between the universities and might result in employing people solely for bibliometric reasons. In the world of professional football, this would correspond to rewarding the players smiling the most."

### The financial crisis can help promote research

With Sapere Aude, on the other hand, freedom of research is given high priority. According to Jens Christian Djuurhus, DCIR "sticks its neck out" hoping to attract the attention of the most competent researchers.

*But how do you make sure that this new research programme is not weakened by too much bureaucracy so that researchers give up applying for funds beforehand?*

"We are of course very careful not to make things unnecessarily complicated. The world of research is, however, designed in such a way that if you want a typewriter, you will have to apply for it."

He does not believe that it is the application process that keeps researchers from staying in the world of research, but rather the less favourable pay levels. A medical PhD student, for example, makes a maximum of two thirds of what a doctor makes.

However, Jens Christian Djuurhus finds that the world of research has become more attractive as a result of the financial crisis, since as a researcher you are secured a permanent job.

"In times of crisis, there will always be a run on the world of research. It is a safer place to be compared to the private labour market, and

even though the salary level may be lower, you are secured a regular income. In addition, you have the freedom to develop your own ideas."

### Facts about the research programme

Step 1: DCIR – Young elite researchers

Step 2: DCIR – Research manager

Step 3: DCIR – Top researcher

– DCIR – The Young elite researcher programme is targeting researchers at post-doc level. Researchers can apply for a post-doc scholarship and DKK 1 million, which usually corresponds to about DKK 4 million incl. overhead costs. DCIR expects to award 45 scholarships in 2010.

– DCIR – The research manager programme is targeting researchers at associate professor level. Researchers can apply for up to DKK 9 million incl. overhead costs. DCIR expects to award a minimum of 35 scholarships in 2010.

– DCIR – The Top researcher programme is targeting researchers at professor level. No scholarships will be awarded in 2010 due to insufficient funds, but DCIR expects to be able to support top researchers in 2011, at which time it will be possible to apply for up to DKK 19 million incl. overhead costs.

# RU professor elected Fellow of African Academy of Sciences



Erik Thulstrup

Professor Emeritus Erik W. Thulstrup has been elected Fellow of African Academy of Sciences as one out of only six non-African Fellows. He hopes that this new position will further extend his knowledge of African research.

By Thomas Humle, *RUGlobal*

For many years, Doctor of Science, Erik W. Thulstrup, has taken an interest in African research, and over the years he has made a massive contribution that has often required his delivering unpaid solutions for major tasks. This commitment has now been honoured with his impressive election as Fellow of the African Academy of Sciences, of which he is one out of only six non-African Fellows. Thulstrup, who is Professor at the Department of Science, Systems and Models, has for a long time had a burning passion for researching the interconnection between scientific research and education and economic growth in the developing countries.

"About 40 years ago, an Indian friend told me about the problems and opportunities, and ever since then I have increasingly been drawn into this work" says Thulstrup, who managed to convince Danida about 20 years ago that it should set up a research collaboration programme with the developing countries. The programme was named ENRECA, and Thulstrup emphasises that it became a great success.

## Major commitment in Africa

Thulstrup has consequently carried out a lot of work in Africa over the years where, among other things, he headed a large and difficult research evaluation project in Ethiopia, organised conferences and provided advice to international organisations and governments in several African countries. He is proud to receive the recognition, which the election as Fellow of the African Academy of Sciences is, and he definitely believes that he can bring something to the academy.

"For more than 15 years, I have been Fellow of TWAS (the Academy of Science for the Developing World, ed.), which is a rich and very active academy. In this connection, I have contributed to making the academy's support in research more development-oriented, and I expect to be able to make a similar contribution to the African Academy of Sciences.

In many African countries it is a fact that research mainly focuses on the foundation of technologies of the past; I think that instead there is a great need to develop the scientific fields that will constitute the foundation of the technologies of the future", he says.

Previously, Thulstrup worked to promote precisely this cause and was therefore asked to work as an "external examiner" for Chemistry and Pharmacy at the University of Nairobi, Kenya, in the mid 1980s, where it was his job to review exam question papers before they were distributed to ensure a high academic standard and fair examinations.

"I also succeeded in promoting the implementation of reforms, e.g. tailoring exam projects to increasingly focus on the real problems in society", Thulstrup explains. He believes it is important that study programmes prepare students professionally, especially in terms of attitude, for taking on a beneficial role in society.

## Africa is developing

In his new position as Fellow, Thulstrup hopes to be able to further extend his knowledge of African research, and he also

aims to provide African researchers with more effective support. "African students have excellent skills, but I am shocked to see how many of the brightest students choose to pursue a career abroad, especially in the United States. This is called the "brain drain", says Thulstrup. He stresses, however, that in spite of this, research in Africa is heading in the right direction. "It has now been recognised by most organisations (possibly even by Danida) that researching problems and especially opportunities in societies is a necessity for development to take place. Africa is beginning to recognise this, and a few African countries now seem to have more targeted and effective research policies in place. Unfortunately, this still only applies to a few African countries. Compared to the development in Asia, not only in China and India, but also in for example Vietnam, the development in Africa is very slow", he says.

Professor Erik W. Thulstrup is already a Fellow of the Norwegian Academy of Sciences, the Mongolian Academy of Sciences and TWAS, the Academy of Sciences for the Developing World.

The African Academy of Sciences (AAS) is an organisation for scientists targeting Africa. It partly serves to honour African scientists having become internationally recognised through their efforts within their respective fields, and partly to promote development of research and technology throughout Africa.

The organisation was founded in 1985 in Trieste, Italy, with an original budget of USD 20,000, which has increased since then and now amounts to more than USD 2 million. The academy headquarters is located in Karen, outside Nairobi, Kenya.

Currently, it has more than 125 members who are founding Fellows, Fellows and foreign Fellows. There are 120 Fellows from 24 African countries and six foreign Fellows from 5 different countries outside Africa.

<http://ip.nationalacademies.org/>

# A Foucault perspective on the problem-solving paradigm

Inspired by Foucault, Carol Bacchi gave a lecture on how we are governed in modern times.

By *Anne Frida Christiansen, RUGlobal*

On Monday, 18 January, Professor Carol Bacchi visited RU based on an invitation from the Centre for Gender, Power and Diversity (CGPD) and the Research School – Welfare State and Diversity. Before visiting RU, she had paid a visit to AAU. At both universities, she gave an open lecture on “Foucault, Policy and Rule: Challenging the Problem-Solving Paradigm”. The lecture at RU was scheduled to begin at 10:00 a.m., and the closer we got to this time, more and more people found their way to the somewhat remote room no. 25.3 at the Department of Society and Globalisation. While on the ground floor exam fever dominated the atmosphere, society was taken in from a bird’s-eye-view at higher altitudes. All in all, more than 30 people came to listen to and subsequently discuss the theme with Carol Bacchi; students as well as associate professors. Even a Finn had made his way through the snow which had settled heavily on RU, to attend the lecture that morning. Before the lecture started, Hanne Marlene Dahl, associate professor and member of the CGPD, asked the smokers in the audience whether embarking on a one and a half hour long session was acceptable to them. Carol Bacchi found this enquiry both interesting and funny, and with a smile she said that such consideration for smokers is something she rarely comes across anywhere else in the world.

## Evidence-based policy

Carol Bacchi, who is conducting research at the Australian University of Adelaide, based her lecture on her most recently published book “Analysing Policy: What’s the problem represented to be?”. One of the most essential messages standing out after her lecture was the need to reassess the expression “problem”. Through her research, Carol Bacchi has seen the so-called evidence-based policy becoming

increasingly dominant over a longer period of time. In this context, the political problem is a foregone conclusion. Evidence-based policy focuses solely on the question of which political measures are effective based on scientific evidence. To make her lecture relevant and to demonstrate her points, Carol Bacchi gave some concrete examples found in European politics to illustrate her arguments. She said it had not been difficult to find numerous examples of this evidence-based problem-solving policy approach in a number of proposals issued by the EU Commission. From these it appears that solutions to certain socio-political problems can be found through an evaluation of different political measures.

Carol Bacchi gave the impression that through her research she aims to confront this uniform presentation of causal connections in respect of problems and policy. She claimed that when somebody submits a proposal to change something, this proposal can contribute to disclosing what that person believes should be changed, and thereby it also becomes evident what is regarded as the problem. Thus, focus is directed towards one specific problem, which according to Carol Bacchi could just as well have been a different one. There is a need for problematizing – to ask “why exactly this problem?” and to be able to detect how socio-political problems are often generated as a result of a particular problem-solving approach. With a central focus on Foucault’s theoretical perspectives in her research, Carol Bacchi considers knowledge an essential element forming part of the conception of power. In this connection she stressed that government should not be viewed from a narrow perspective, but rather from a wide perspective like all social knowledge that underpins the thought concept of political management.

## Linguification of problems and subjectivisation

Carol Bacchi explained that she sees a tendency for politicians to appear to be experts. What she finds interesting is to investigate what sort of citizens are produced in a society where so-called “political experts” are in government. In this context, she draws on Foucault’s perspectives on subjectivisation. As an example of subjectivisation, she mentioned, among other things, linguification of unemployment as a problem. By creating a causal connection between unemployment and buzz words such as lifelong learning, flexibility and adaptability in the mind of the individual, consequently the person unemployed is made responsible for the problem himself/herself, Carol Bacchi explained. Likewise, linguification of equal rights (or the lack thereof) for women can cause women to appear as the essence of the problem, since they are identified as forming part of the solution. According to Carol Bacchi, this will affect how people view women and will also have an impact on women’s own self-perception. Summing-up, she pointed out that there is often a tendency for citizens – in the definition of political issues – to be presented as the responsible problem-holders despite the fact that problems sometimes extend beyond the citizens.

## Problem-solving and RU’s problem-oriented project work

According to Carol Bacchi, evidence-based policy will also have an impact on the way research is conducted. As an example, she explained how quantitative methods are often given priority over other research methods, for instance ethnographic research. RU researchers among the audience nodded in recognition of this. As a result of this development, involving research projects in the identification of solutions also becomes essential. For this reason, it is crucial that researchers are capable of promoting the importance of their research, Carol Bacchi stated.



Students as well as teachers and researchers at RU seemed to show an interest in Carol Bacchi's perspective on the "problem-solving" paradigm, and during the subsequent round of questions, several members of the audience asked questions about this subject. In this connection, one student told the audience of the problem-oriented team work at RU and asked how the RU approach can go hand-in-hand with Carol Bacchi's views on the complication of our way of relating to problems, and the way solutions are generated. In this context Carol Bacchi commented that it is merely a question of asking yourself how and why we view problems the way we do, and to make a reflective analysis of the considerations that result from such view, which may be a lot easier said than done.

In conclusion, Carol Bacchi rounded off by sharing her mission with the audience. She did it with a smile, yet still in a serious tone of voice. To challenge the evidence-based paradigm, Carol Bacchi considers it a condition that you are conscious of the fact that it is prevailing. Not until you are conscious of this approach, will you be able to confront it. For Carol Bacchi it is about thinking out of the box – an approach that was met with sympathy from the audience.

*For more information on the Centre for Gender, Power and Diversity, please read the article on the centre printed in RUGlobal no. 5 in connection with its opening conference .*

## Going to Japan?

Apply for a scholarship through the Scandinavia-Japan Sakakawa Foundation whose objective is to promote exchange between Japan and the Nordic countries. Go to [www.sjsf.se](http://www.sjsf.se) for guidelines and application form. Next application deadline is 15 February 2010.

## Join the RUC Choir

The RUC Choir welcomes new members in the spring semester 2010. We sing a rhythmical repertoire and it is free to participate. The choir is for students, international students and staff. Choir leader is Stephan Haagensen. We rehearse on Wednesdays 4-6 pm in 42.2.37 and first rehearsal is on February 3rd. Come and sing with us. If you have questions e-mail [sustif@ruc.dk](mailto:sustif@ruc.dk).

# MGP

The traditional annual music event, MGP, (the annual RU song contest) will be held at RU on 19 March. Together with the spring festival, this is one of RU's big spring parties where amateur bands get the chance to show their talents by performing a self-composed song in front of a panel of judges and co-students. The only requirement is that 50% of the band members are RU students and that the song is self-composed – meaning no cover songs.

This year, MGP will be rounded off with a party celebrating music delivered by DJs Pharfar and Eaggerman from Bikstok Røgssystem; later on in the evening Rasmus Kjærbo will take over as DJ. MGP will be lots of fun, razzle-dazzle and party.

As is the case with many other RU events, this evening depends entirely on you students. Students are responsible for most of the evening's events, as they are in charge of the entertainment. Therefore, the group of organisers strongly encourage everybody to submit songs. The deadline is 1 March. There are no requirements as to quality or professionalism – only commitment and enthusiasm. That way, you will leave your own stamp on a fantastic evening.

The coolest party greetings from the MGP gang  
RU'ers by Choice – a committee under the RU Student Council

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