

Universitetspladsen

RUglobal

Information and debate from Roskilde University

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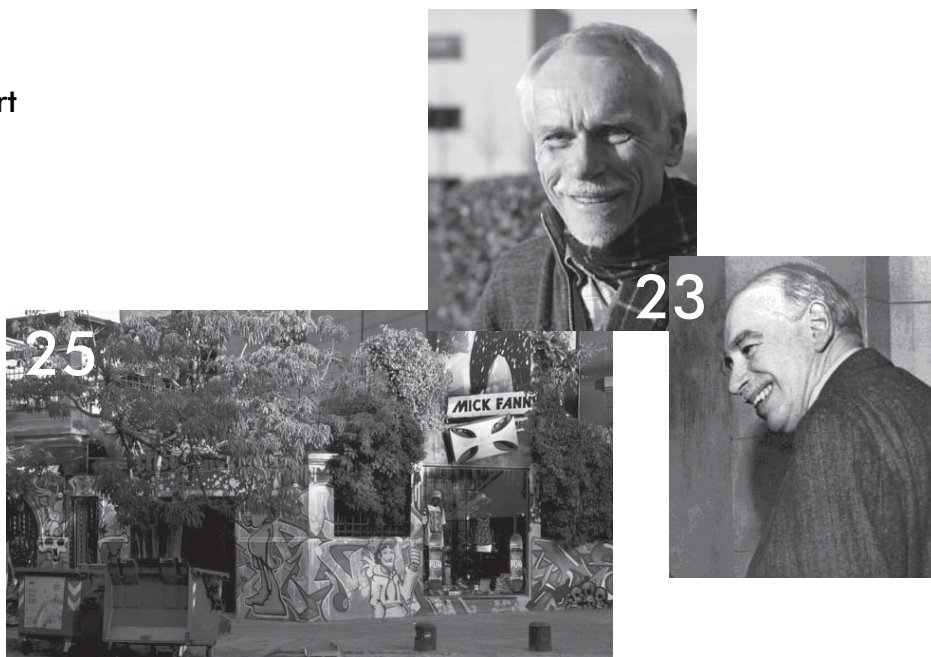


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UNlverse

Increasing internationalization at RU

– workshop for international staff

By: *Kristel Pent, International Office*

RU International Office and HR Department plan to arrange a workshop for the international staff at RU in order to find out what we can do right here and right now to make the university a better international workplace.

The results of the recent workplace survey showed that a whopping 2/3 of RU's interna-

tional employees don't thrive at RU and ¾ of the respondents were not satisfied with the help they had received from the university's side upon their arrival. This situation is not acceptable and we hope that the workshop will help us to lay the first real groundwork for building a truly international working culture at the campus. We also hope that many international employees will find time to participate, so that we in cooperation can

create a list of practical suggestions that can be implemented right away or starting from autumn semester.

The workshop will take place on a date between June 20th and 30th. The final date will be announced in RU's electronic newsletter and displayed on posters in the canteen and on the pin boards next to house secretaries' offices in each institute.

Editor's Desk



So this is it.

The final issue of 2010/2011. The semester's coming to a close. Exams are coming up. If you're like most, the exam jitters are most likely sneaking up on you like a thief in the night. But if you read last issue, you'd have some tools to beat the jitters of the green room.

Anticipation aside, the status quo remains the same – some are waiting to travel. Some are looking to go home. And others are graduating, wrapping up their final time here at RU.

In the spirit of students finishing their RU experience, RUGlobal is taking a look at how the university can keep in touch with RU alumni. Check it out inside.

On a different note, read the fascinating story of the four winners of RUCInnovation's entrepreneur award who traveled to Buenos Aires in the name of art. The project KontraKunst.dk earned them 35.000 kr. and a trip to Argentina. Read all about it in this issue.

Finally, we have coverage of the global financial crisis. "Out of crisis," says the title of the conference held by Department of Society and Globalisation. Contrary to the public spin of real estate brokers, the Western economy has yet to recover. According to statistics 23 million in EU alone are employed.

But how do we get out of the crisis? Read the very informative piece by professor Jesper Jespersen and you just might find out.

So this is it.

To all students, good luck with the exams and have a great summer!

Till next year...

Philip Michael

Publishing information

RUCnyt/RUGlobal is Roskilde University's official magazine for information and debate about the organization of the university. RUGlobal is open to all employees and students at Roskilde University to debate the educational and research organizations at the university, including questioning of common interest for research and education.

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Opening hours: RUCnyt/RUGlobal does not have any regular office hours. To get in contact with the editorial staff please e-mail us or contact the information office, which is located in building 04.1.

Articles: need to be handed in by e-mail. Please enclose suggestions for illustrations. Discs and other material are normally not returned. The editorial staff is allowed to shorten articles and to reject articles which are not of common interest. Articles of more than 8000 characters (about 2 pages) can normally not be expected to be published un-shortened. There is no minimum length for an article to be published. Anonymous articles are not accepted.

Upcoming deadlines:

Nr.	Articles	Notices	Publication date
1	11/8	16/8	29/8
2	1/9	6/9	19/9

- at 12 noon on the assigned date

Buenos Aires, *a city of art*

In this article, the winners of RUCinnovation's international travel grant give an account of their fantastic trip to the capital of Argentina offering South American art from the top and bottom of society

By: Stig Skov Mortensen, winner of RUCinnovation's business-oriented entrepreneur prize 2009

On 30 December 2010, the four of us set off to find inspiration for our art project in one of the most exciting cities of the world in terms of art...Buenos Aires. One and a half years ago we won RUCinnovation's prize of DKK 35,000

Facts:

In the autumn of 2009, the concept KontraKunst.dk won RUCinnovation's travel grant for the idea of selling art on the Internet to enterprises and private individuals through art societies, folk high schools and other new initiatives.

for our idea Kontra Kunst, and now we were finally about to realise our dream of coming to Argentina and meeting some of the local artists, not just to see their work, but also to make contacts on a more business-oriented level. Needless to say, we had high hopes for the city which is known for an emerging, young and brave subculture on the art scene.

The first 24 hours of our trip were hectic: We landed in the late afternoon of 31 December in a climate almost 40° C warmer than the climate we left having been underway for more than 30 hours. What is more, a few hours after arrival we had to be at a New Year's party in an artist community in one

of the suburbs of Buenos Aires. There, we experienced Argentinian art for the first time; fantastic graffiti paintings covering the bare concrete walls of a ramshackle building. The motifs were characterised by the creative cultural mix of South America, Asia, Europe and an alternative hippie culture which had a notable presence everywhere in the house. For obvious reasons, it could be compared with the culture of Christiania. We had champagne and saw fireworks from the roof top wearing sandals and shorts in temperatures of almost 30° C. The party gave us ample opportunities to make contacts on the art scene and was the perfect beginning of our journey of discovery.

A few days later, we went to Palermo, a hip neighbourhood where street art is more characterised by exhibitions and exhibition previews than graffiti paint and tags. There, we saw several art exhibitions, but we were especially pleased to meet a young Argentinian artist. He showed us his exhibition which was set up in the middle of the street of this exotic and lively neighbourhood. His paintings were a different, colourful and more life-affirming art compared to what we are used to in Denmark.

We hope to make use of this new con-

tact in connection with future projects in Denmark.

We also had time to see some of the more recognised art offered by Argentina in the form of MALBA (Museo de Arte Latinoamericano de Buenos Aires). This museum exhibited art on social justice, among other things, which was characteristic of workers' struggle in the 1930s. In addition, there were paintings of the most famous artists of Argentina as well as South America in general, e.g. Frida Kahlo, Tarsila Do Amaral or Rafael Barradas. However, also more contemporary art occupied a prominent place in the fine museums and elsewhere. Marta Minujín's provocative art bears witness to a more liberated country with a tolerant atmosphere and space for innovative and groundbreaking works of art. She is world-famous, including for her cooperation with Andy Warhol. Although her art may not be quite so relevant to our specific project, her works prove that Argentina has a great deal



to offer to the modern world of art, which is also reflected in the furthest corners of the subcultures of Buenos Aires. And on the streets as well as in the galleries, the encounter between Europe and South America is the theme and the motif.

When wandering about the beautiful streets of Buenos Aires, you could easily confuse it with a South European metropolis like Madrid or Paris. The building style is the same. Old mansions coexist with modern skyscrapers. But don't be mistaken: The South American mentality is different and the atmosphere is

more lively, which makes Argentina a very special place. We found that this is expressed in the art, more than anywhere else.

We have returned, not just with several contacts on the art scene, but also a strong awareness of how art is viewed in other countries. On top of this, we have found a great deal of inspiration for how to develop our concept further in relation to how Argentinians view and use art.

If we hadn't received funds from RUCinnovation, this trip would never have been possible. RUCinnovation has been very helpful during the entire process.

UNiverse

Let's keep in touch!

By: Kristel Pent, International Office

Normally when speaking about alumni, we mean students that have graduated after a degree program and become either Bachelors or Masters. This article, however, will be dedicated to exchange students, who nominally spend much less time at RUC, but whose connection to it might in fact be even stronger at times than the regular students'.

It is funny how much the places we spend time in become connected to us. Imagine the town you grew up in. Even though you might have moved away from there by now, most likely you still return to the place now and then. The town might have changed a lot, old shops have closed and new ones have opened, new neighborhoods have been built, but it is still your place.

It is a bit similar with universities. Most students spend at least three years at RUC; many spend five or even more. Exchange students mostly spend much less - normally just one or two semesters. However, the life of an exchange student at RUC is different from the regular students' in many ways. The main difference is that it is incredibly compressed and therefore much more intense. The regular full-degree student has got time to get used to RUC slowly, familiarize himself with the place, and have the impressions seep in. Exchange students cannot do that, they are here on borrowed time. This means that they try to

squeeze five years into one or two semesters, doing everything at once - study, travel, making new friends, getting used to a new study system, new bureaucracy, new food, new...

It is this wonderful intensity that makes RUC special for them, although the time they've spent here is much shorter. This feeling is something that we at RUC should appreciate. In USA, they call alumni receptions for Homecoming and I think in many ways this name captures the essence of the relations between a university and its former students. Home is, as the popular saying goes, where the heart is and I'm certain that most of the exchange students leave a bit of their heart to RUC.

This means that in principle RUC has a number of people spread around the world, who for the most part, remember it fondly. This is an enormous resource that should not be wasted. So, what would we like to use this resource for? Perhaps we would like to offer our former students possibilities to return to RUC to write their Ph.D, do research, give guest lectures, conduct workshops? Would we like to offer them the necessary support and tools to be able to introduce the RUC way of learning in their home universities? Would we like to do joint research projects with the companies they are leading or working in?

These are some of the questions that RUC Alumni is going to work with in the future. We welcome all ideas and discussions con-

cerning the ways to connect the international alumni with RUC and any joint ventures that could be undertaken - just drop a mail to alumni-admin@ruc.dk if you have any ideas. For alumni news and departmental alumni networks, please check out our website: <http://www.ruc.dk/en/collaboration/alumne/>.

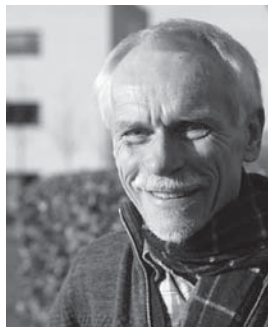
Out of crisis - how?

An international economics conference was held in May at the Department of Society and Globalisation. The theme of the conference was 'Out of Crisis'

By: *Jesper Jespersen, Professor, Department of Society and Globalisation (ISG)*

Financial crisis

Western economies are still facing a serious unemployment crisis. Post-war unemployment is at an all-time high. In the European Union alone, the number of registered unemployed workers is 23 million.



Jesper Jespersen.



John Maynard Keynes.

Therefore, it was only natural that the theme of the recently held Keynes conference with 125 participants from all over the world was 'Out of Crisis'. What are the reasons for the high unemployment rates? Why don't they fall again? – and what can we learn from history? To answer these questions, attention was focused on the British economist John Maynard Keynes (1883-1946) who published his chief

in several papers was that the experience from the 1930s supported the crisis policy pursued by Western countries during the initial years of the current crisis. The rise in unemployment rates was curbed for a period

welfare'. On the other hand, there is the question of how to handle the public debt – an issue which was also subject to heated debate. Keynes was often quoted for having said 'Look after unemployment, and the budget will look after itself!'

Keynes was often quoted for having said 'Look after unemployment, and the budget will look after itself!'

Socio-economic method

Inspired by Keynes' book of 1936, 'macroeconomic method' was another recurrent theme. How do we prevent socio-economic issues from being analysed by means of household and business economic models. It has become common practice at most universities to use microeconomic equilibrium models as templates for macroeconomic analyses. General equilibrium models have become the standard tool in mainstream macroeconomic text books where it is considered relevant to assume full employment. The development since the autumn of 2008 has clearly demonstrated the limitations of this assumption. The conference focused on how markets – particularly labour

work *The General Theory of Employment, Interest and Money* in 1936. When this book was published 75 years ago, Western economies also saw a serious crisis.

The lessons of John Maynard Keynes

The conference thus focused on the degree to which some of the theories and the experience gained from the 1930s could be transferred to the current situation. One common conclusion

of 1½ years on account of a focused economic policy. However, the future economic policy caused disagreement among the participants at the conference. One of the keynote speakers, Professor James Galbraith, University of Texas, spoke strongly in favour of the continuation of the expansionist policy: 'When the private sector hesitates to invest and consume, the public sector must act as a 'midwife' in order to avoid unnecessary waste of resources and

and financial markets – out of balance can best be analysed. If assuming full employment, the economic policy recommendations are at an imminent risk of being based on an erroneous

However, the future economic policy caused disagreement among the participants at the conference.

foundation involving a risk of extending the crisis. This was what happened in the 1930s. There is a need for developing a new analytical methodology which, in some significant manner, can include the fact that the future is uncertain - or in the words of Keynes 'We simply do not know the future'. The full understanding of how the financial markets work lags far behind the actual development.

Teaching 'financial crises'

This leads us to the third theme of the conference: teaching Keynesian macroeconomic theory and method. It is a problem that teaching in economics at most universities continues to be based on general equilibrium theory as mentioned (with RU as a notable

exception, which aroused the interest of the conference participants). It was discussed how an economics textbook could be designed to better describe the actual economic development – characterised by high unemployment and financial instability. The assumption that the economic system is self-regulatory is not reflected in the real world. Consequently, it is important that economic theories and textbook contents are based on solid empirical research without the textbooks reducing themselves to simple positivism since it is also a significant lesson to acknowledge that many of the significant factors of the economic development can neither be measured nor weighed.

RU supported the conference

The conference lasted two days. Rector Ib Poulsen opened the conference by welcoming the participants and emphasising the importance of research-based and interdisciplinary teaching.

The domestic and international attendance at the conference was so great that it proved necessary to have four parallel tracks of simultaneous presentations which unfortunately prevented all participants from attending all presentations. This will partly be compensated for, since subsequently two sets of books will be published through the British publishing

company Edward Elgar, containing the most significant papers of the conference.

Last Saturday at 6 p.m., the official part of the conference was declared closed, at which time the tired, but elated and clear-conscieced participants could be transported to Snekken restaurant in Roskilde where the informal part of the conference continued.

Subsequently, RU has received a great deal of appreciative comments on the planning, organisation and holding of the conference. In addition, the employees of the administration of the Department of Society and Globalisation made a tremendous effort, and they definitely deserve the praise they got. Thank you for this.

ungdoms forestillingen, men tog sidste år hul på voksenteater, som en del af vores repertoire. Vi er nu begyndt at have så mange bolde i luften, at vi har brug for din hjælp!

Du skal have flair for fundraising og lyst til at tænke skæve ideer for at opnå støtte til en virksomhed, der er afhængig af midler udefra, da vi skaber kunst.

PR er væsentlig del af det at starte et teater, der skal brande sig med nye visioner for dansk scenekunst.

Skal vi gøre os nogen forhåbninger om, med til-vigtigt at alle, såvel folk fra branchen som det brede publikum, bliver bevidst om at vi eksisterer.

Hvis dette har vakt din interesse og ønsker yderligere info så ring på: 51370088 eller send en mail til: ejarndue@hotmatl.com.

Mvh. Eja R. M. Due, kreativ leder, Teater Bæst

Teater Bæst søger Fundraisere og PR-person

Som led i vores udvikling af Teater Bæst, et up-and coming turnerende ensemble teater, søger vi nu folk til at fundraise og lave PR-arbejde for os.

Har du lyst til at være med fra starten i udviklingen af lovende kreativt firma, som producerer scenekunst og formidler undervisning i drama for børn og unge samt workshops for de professionelle? Så er det lige dig vi mangler!

Vi er teater med fokus på det store fysiske udtryk, og den intime personlige historie. Vi har igennem de sidste 3 år produceret børne- og

STILLINGER

ANDRE MEDDELSER

Læs mere: rucconf.rucc.dk/index.php/smv/
smv2011/index
Deadline for indlevering af abstracts: 15. juni, 2011

Nordisk forskningskonference om "Sundhedsfremme, magt og velfærd"

Center for Sundhedsfremmeforskning afholder konference d. 29. – 30. august.

Undertema: Kritiske perspektiver og alternativer til aktuell sundhedspraksis og -politik.

Keynote-speakers på konferencen vil være:

- Lennart Nordenfelt, Linköpings Universitet, Sverige
- Uffe Juul Jensen, Århus Universitet, Danmark
- Jane South, Leeds Metropolitan University, England
- Elisabeth Fosse, Universitetet i Bergen, Norge
- Bette Dyrby, Roskilde Universitet, Danmark

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