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News anchor latest addition to research team

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an industrial PhD fellowship

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News anchor latest addition to research team

DR's news anchor Line Gertsen is joining RUC on an industrial PhD fellowship

By: Philip Michael Shange, RUGlobal

DR's TV anchor Line Gertsen is the newest researcher at Roskilde University.

For the next three years, the popular news host will embark on a doctoral journey. Her aim is to develop new concepts that will strengthen the news public service profile.

"We've focused on being constructive in our news coverage and bring significant stories to light for quite some time. But we still need to strengthen these efforts - particularly with new criteria for how we actually do," said Line Gertsen, who will resume work full time once the project is completed.

Initially, researching wasn't in the cards for the long time journalist.

"At first I wasn't really interested. I thought 'I'm not a researcher, I'm a journalist,'" said Line Gertsen, who then had a change of heart.

"The project proposal fit things I had thought about and things we need - namely, measurable parameters for what we do as a public service institution."

Line Gertsen is enrolling in an industrial PhD fellowship – a collaborative project between RU and DR. Under the rules of industrial PhD programs, Line Gertsen will stay as a news anchor at DR and research simultaneously.

"We don't have the opportunity to ascertain whether what we do and what we give the Danes on our platforms is useful," Line Gertsen said.

"I'm not talking in terms of ratings, audience or hits. I'm talking about democratic values."

Line Gertsen started the project December 1.



The Editor's Desk

Welcome to the Christmas issue of RUGlobal!

It's the month of December. The year's coming to an end and the semester's coming to a close. The ubiquitous stress of exams and gift shopping is quietly – or raucously? – sneaking up upon us, while we all await the arrival of breaks and gifts. Ah, Christmas is soon here...

In the meantime, we still have news and we still have one last issue for all the RU residents this year.

The next three years, the RU community will be joined by somewhat of a celebrity. Award winning news anchor Line Gertsen from TV-Avisen will join the ranks of RU on an industrial PhD scholarship. We bring an exclusive interview with the latest addition to the RU research team.

Nov. 20 was the date of the Student Council's annual general meeting. Forty-five students met up for a discussion of student life here at Roskilde University.

Also, the Department of Environmental, Social and Spatial Change has hired a new head of department. Jørgen Ole Bærenholdt, a RUC'er since 1986, is the new man in charge.

Lastly, news has surfaced from another RU department, the Department of Society and Globalization. Gorm Rye Olsens new professorship in 'Global Politics' was initiated by a lecture. RUGlobal was on hand to report.

On a different note, RUGlobal encourages all the International Students to let us know if there are tips, topics and themes we are not covering fully. Our New Year's resolution is to make RUGlobal even better. So don't hesitate to shoot us a mail!

With that said, RUGlobal wishes you all a very merry Christmas!

See you next year!

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Publishing information

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Upcoming deadlines:

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| 7 | 20/12 | 20/12 | 10/1 |
| 8 | 13/1 | 18/1 | 31/1 |

- at 12 noon on the assigned date

“Global Politics” on the agenda

Gorm Rye Olsen’s appointment as new professor of Global Politics was celebrated by a lecture at the Department of Society and Globalisation (ISG)



Gorm Rye Olsen is Head of Department at ISG and now also Denmark’s first Professor of “Global Politics”.

Text and photo: Camilla Buchardt, the Information Office

The frost had not yet settled on RU when Gorm Rye Olsen held his accession lecture at ISG on Friday, 19 November 2010. It seemed more like a completely ordinary grey autumn day at campus where, one-by-one, people were heading for home to spend the weekend.

In the auditorium, on the second floor of building no. 25, a computer technician was working to make Powerpoint and lights work properly before the audience started to enter the room for the lecture at 02:00 pm. People were looking about in the hall before finding their seats in the rows of blue chairs. Rector Ib Poulsen and Pro-rector Hanne Leth Andersen sat next to each other on the second-to-front row. Amongst the audience was also Professor Thomas P. Boje. Shortly after, the key figure of the day arrived. On the table in front of the professor and the head of department was a bouquet of flowers and two bottles of wine, presents from Lene Palsbro, Head of Department of Communication, Business and Information Technologies (CBIT).

In his usual informal style, the professor asked the audience whether it made sense that he gave his lecture in English. After a bit of muttering in the hall, the audience agreed that it did.

“OK, if no one objects, we will do it in English,” he concluded. The audience laughed lightly before the lecture could begin.

Global justice

The exercise of the afternoon was to discuss what “Global Politics” is in relation to the traditional concept “international politics”.

““Global Politics” explores the world as a whole – comprehensiveness. It means that efforts are made to look at all elements in the global system; in other words, the global system side-by-side with the regional system, the national system and the sub-national system, etc. “Global Politics” aims to provide an overall understanding of where the world is going and the nature of the conflicts,” explained Gorm Rye Olsen.

“In addition, “Global Politics” also explores how the different parts of the world are gradually becoming more and more interconnected. From this perspective, “Global Politics” and “international politics” are comparable as research fields. Both concepts agree that the world is increasingly interconnected in terms of economics, politics, culture and media, etc.”

Outlining the research field “Global Politics” is possible along three dimensions, the professor explained, namely:

- 1) Power
- 2) Security
- 3) Justice

“If you want to understand the world and its development, it is not all about power and security. It also involves elements of moral,

About Gorm Rye Olsen

Gorm Rye Olsen was appointed Professor of Denmark’s first professorship in “Global Politics” in June.

The aim of the professorship is to strengthen research and teaching within the focus area of ISG’s Global Studies programme. Since September 2008, the department has promoted a new interdisciplinary Global Studies programme in English. The Global Politics professorship is to enhance research of the political science elements of the new programme.

Gorm Rye Olsen will continue his ongoing research of global politics. In recent years, focus has been on EU’s role in the new world order, heavily influenced by China’s strong growth and the US being under an increasing amount of pressure. Gorm Rye Olsen’s primary research focus is on EU’s relationship with the poor countries of the world, especially in Africa, and more specifically on how to handle conflicts in Africa and on Africa’s importance to the current global security policy in general.

Before Gorm Rye Olsen joined RU in 2006, he was Head of Department at the newly established Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS). In Danish foreign policy matters, he has produced extensive scientific research focusing on development aid as well as security and defence policy. Gorm Rye Olsen is also a known media commentator, and he has written numerous text books for upper secondary school teaching in social studies, history and geography.

ethics and consequently requirements for justice. Justice is promoted by individuals or groups claiming that as human beings we have a responsibility towards each other, not only towards our own limited national interests”.

The requirement or wish to achieve a type of global or cosmopolitan justice these years result in backing the UN Millennium Development Goals that, among other things, aim to reduce world poverty by 50% by 2015, Gorm Rye Olsen explained.

“From an overall perspective, it is about doing something to reduce the gap between the rich and poor countries in the world,” he added.

The idea about global justice also means that we must respect the individual human rights. However, this gives rise to a dilemma:

“The stronger the requirements to show respect for the rights of the individual, the more severe the conflict with another principle of international law, namely the principle about the sovereignty of the states, which actually constitutes the building block of the international system.”

After the lecture, the audience asked questions before enjoying a glass of wine and some almond cake at the subsequent reception.

Students as experts

The 2010 annual general meeting of the Student Council produced a series of ideas. 45 students gathered to discuss how they want to influence their life as students at RU

By: *Nina Rasmussen, the Student Council*

Tutoring, educational reform, study environment, courses, study boards, academic committee networks, website, evaluation, communication, Strategy 2015, student grant reform, etc. Subjects were plentiful at the Student Council's annual general meeting held on 20 November 2010.

45 RU students had defied the snow, the cold and the hangovers that Saturday morning to discuss student policy, listen to presentations, elect the new board of directors and chairmanship of the Student Council and to enjoy good food.

Call for commitment

After the chairman of the Student Council had welcomed the students, it was Pro-rector Hanne Leth Andersen's turn to take the floor. She talked about evaluation, research-based teaching and student commitment.

"The Danish University Act prescribes that emphasis should be on both research and tea-

ching. As students, you must strive to achieve this balance to prevent education and teaching from being downgraded," she reminded the students. She also stressed that it is the responsibility of the students as well as the staff to ensure that evaluation by the study boards and in respect of courses is undertaken. "The quality of teaching is everybody's responsibility", she explained.

The second guest speaker, chairman of the National Union of Students in Denmark (DSF), Mikkel Zeuthen, praised RU's Student Council for its results during the past year, especially in relation to the Strategy process and the educational reform, but also in its daily efforts to promote student commitment and help to enhance their skills.

Eight times hurrah!

And there was more praise to come for the Student Council.

Torben Holm, student representative on the Board of Directors of RU, presented the poli-

tical report of the Student Council, shouting eight times hurrah.

The hurrahs were to symbolise and to be shouted for the eight victories the Student Council had achieved during the past year:

- *Educational reform*: The Student Council's proposal was adopted by the Academic Council and the university Board of Directors and will now be implemented.
- *Strategy 2015*: The Student Council contributed to making the process widely anchored at RU and to the holding of the Students' Strategy Conference.
- *Election 2010*: The Student Council acquired the two student directorships on the university Board of Directors and the six representative places on the Academic Council.
- *Employment of Hanne Leth Andersen* who has a strong profile in the field of education.
- *Proposals for cutting expenses for project management* undertaken at the Study Board in respect of Administration, which was prevented by the students.

At the annual general meeting, candidates were elected to the board of directors and the chairmanship of the Student Council.

Chairman: Toke Høiland-Jørgensen

Deputy chairman, finance: Morten Brandrup

Deputy chairman, organisation: Sidsel Gro Bang-Jensen

Board of directors of the Student Council:

Ask Gudmundsen, Bjørn Kjerulff Ekstrøm, Emilie Vafai-Blom, Jakob Hansen, Laurids Hovgaard, Jakob Harboe, Pernille Høj, Sofie Heggenhøgen

Alternates: Michael Tolentino Frederiksen, Esben Licht, Astrid Østergaard

For the political and organisational report of the Student Council and the action programme for 2011, please go to: www.studenterradet.dk



The Student Council's chairmanship 2011 (from left): Morten Brandrup, Sidsel Gro Bang-Jensen and Toke Høiland-Jørgensen.

- *Influence* through the work at the democratic bodies at RU, to which students have contributed constructively and critically throughout 2010.
- The National Union of Students in Denmark's commitment to *national politics* and local politics. RU was, among other things, responsible for a large flash mob in connection with the "Unge Tar Ansvar" (young people assume responsibility) campaign.
- And last, but not least: That so many devoted students attend the *annual general meeting* of the Student Council and contribute to making it a lovely day!

Workshopping

At the annual general meeting, various workshops were held by the different committees of the Student Council. There, students discussed how to develop and improve the work of the

coming year. The committees had different approaches – some produced wall posters and did brainstorming on a wall sheet, others used more traditional methods such as lists of speakers, computers and minutes.

Just like the method, the results were manifold. The students had lots of ideas of how to make RU a more cool educational institution through the Student Council. Everything was written down to enable them to use the ideas in the work going forward.

The official part

The official part of the annual general meeting was chaired by two professional chairmen, thus leaving nothing to chance. The Student Council's political and organisational report and action programme was adopted.

During the course of the day, there had been deadlines for proposals for change and for nomination to the board of directors. All in all, 15 candidates had been nominated for the eight directorships, which made the election a very interesting one.

While votes were being counted, the proposal for student grant reform was discussed; thanks were extended to the retiring organisational deputy chairman Mikkel Schwab, and the newly elected chairmen were congratulated.

The students ended the day with a well-deserved dinner and a party. They had enjoyed their day as experts. The students are experts in their everyday lives; everyday lives that they assume responsibility for.

UNiverse

Professor Jørgen Ole Bærenholdt new Head of Department



Professor Jørgen Ole Bærenholdt has been appointed new Head of Department at the Department of Environmental, Social and Spatial Change (ENSPAC) at RU. Jørgen Ole Bærenholdt, 51 years old, has been working at RU since 1986; in 2009 he was acting pro-rector

By: *The Information Office*
Photo: *Poul Erik Nikander Frandsen*

The new Head of Department at ENSPAC has an MA in history and geography, and in 1991 he earned a PhD degree in geography. For a number of years, he worked as head of the geography group and is currently head of the research group Space, Place, Mobility and Urban Studies which has caused researchers within urban studies, experience and mobility to join forces for a common cause to understand, plan and design better places. Jørgen Ole Bærenholdt has also helped establish the multidisciplinary Centre for Experience Research. In that connection, he has, among other things, managed projects in collaboration with Region Zealand, and he is a member of the group of researchers representing several educational institutions who has received funds in 2010 to

set up the Innovation Network for Knowledge-Based Experience Economy (INVIO).

Jørgen Ole Bærenholdt is looking forward to assuming his new role at ENSPAC:

"To me, it is an interesting challenge to take over the management of such a well-run department that combines different disciplines and interdisciplinarity. ENSPAC is well-positioned to provide new knowledge about a number of the most important environmental and societal problems of our time in a change-oriented manner. Already within a period of just under four years, ENSPAC has established a platform to further its development as an attractive venue and a dynamic environment for staff, students, graduates and external partners. I therefore look very much forward to help promote this and many other tasks," he says.

The future Head of Department defended his doctor's thesis "Coping with Distances" in 2006. He has also published a large number of books and articles about culture and lifestyles as well as regional and local development, transnational cooperation, tourism and experience economy, mobility, networks and social capital. Inspired by the new Hum-Tek area, he has recently embarked on research concerning design processes. As a result thereof, he and colleagues at RU and Lancaster University have published the book "Design Research" at the Routledge Publishing House in 2010.

Jørgen Ole Bærenholdt takes up the position as Head of Department at RU on 1 January 2011.

The January edition of RUGlobal will feature a lengthy interview with Jørgen Ole Bærenholdt.