

Universitetspladsen

# RUglobal

Information and debate from Roskilde University

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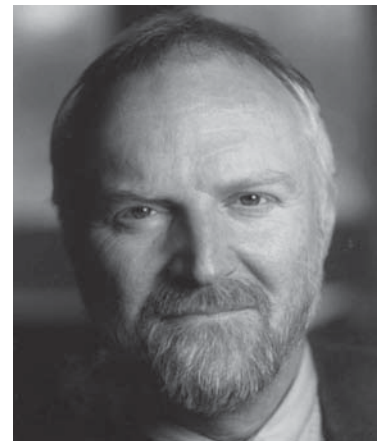
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## UNiverse

# Welcoming the new students to

# Roskilde University



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*By: Ib Poulsen, Rector*

I warmly welcome you, the new students, to Roskilde University. I also wish you all the best in your new lives as university students at Roskilde University. We have been looking forward to welcoming you and to seeing a lot of new faces and experiencing renewed liveliness in the hallways, the canteen, at lectures and in the seminar rooms.

From a historical perspective, this year many students have chosen to apply for admission to a programme at Roskilde University. As a university, we will endeavour to live up to your expectations of what a modern university should offer its students.

One of RU's characteristics is its interdisciplinarity, which you will soon become acquainted and confident with. Today's society calls

for problem solvers holding many different disciplinary and personal qualifications and experiences. At Roskilde University, we work on an interdisciplinary and problem-oriented basis, and we believe that problems are seldom solved applying only one discipline; more disciplines are required. We take pride in our approach to education and research, which

*Continues*

# Editor's Desk



I'd like to start off this edition of the Editor's Desk by saying welcome! And congratulations for being accepted at RU.

It's a new year, which means we'll have a new life from near and far engaging in life at RU. And yes, RU is different. Maybe more different than anything you have experienced before. But that's a good thing! You'll get used to it soon enough.

I still remember my first time. The area around Trekroner station looked like a deserted railroad out of a Western movie. No Super Brugsen, No Fakta. Honestly, there wasn't much of anything. Only construction workers laying the foundation of what is now becoming downtown Trekroner.

Which is quite cool. The reason I bring this up is because the analogy aptly illustrates the life and evolution of an RU student. Arriving as an unpolished prospect, students build their own foundation layer by layer and leave as a finished product. Looking back, the end result shows what you have become. Cool. Ah, but I digress. So let's forget the tired clichés and get down to business...

In this first issue, we have some interesting reads. Ever since 9/11, the World Trade Center terrorist attacks have been the cause of worldwide interest, debate and even conspiracy theories.

How did tower 7 collapse when no flight hit it? Have governments gone too far in their safety precautions? How have the attacks impacted democracy and safety regulations? An international conference here at RU will address those issues in September. Read more about it in this issue.

Rain has been the topic of much talk this summer. Especially at this year's Roskilde Festival. Despite the absence of summer weather, the event always has many interesting anecdotes. RUGlobal happened to catch one of them, which you can read about in Camilla's awesome feature.

Finally, we have rector Ib Poulsen penning his own welcome note to all the new students. If you don't know what to expect, hear it straight from the horse's mouth.

On that note, I'd like to advise international students – or all students, for that matter – to check out the International Club's online magazine, The Papaya on [thepapayamag.com](http://thepapayamag.com). Although RUGlobal is the official news medium of the university, the Papaya will be an invaluable asset to you if you're an international student just learning the social scene. Plus, it's an awesome crew. That wraps it up for now! Till next time...

Philip Michael

Follow me on Twitter @Philip\_Michael!

## Publishing information

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### Editorial staff:

Hans Christian Nielsen (Responsible)  
Camilla Buchardt (Editor)  
Philip Michael Shange (Editor)  
Andreas Wraae (Editor)

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**Address:** RUCnyt, Postboks 260, DK - 4000 Roskilde, Telephone 4674 2013 eller 4674 2612, e-mail: RUCnyt@ruc.dk, [www.ruc.dk/ruc/RUCnyt](http://www.ruc.dk/ruc/RUCnyt)  
Notifications: [rucnyt-meddelelser@ruc.dk](mailto:rucnyt-meddelelser@ruc.dk)

**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
2	1/9	6/9	19/9
3	22/9	27/9	10/10

- at 12 noon on the assigned date



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means acting swiftly, having the courage to apply experimentation and innovative thinking, and regularly making adjustments to reflect developments in society. So when claiming that our motto is: "In stillness death, in movement life", we are not joking.

During the coming period of your lives, you are given the opportunity to acquire a vast amount of new knowledge at a university always in motion. Whether you have been admitted to a master's programme at Roskilde University taking several years, or whether you are here as exchange students or visiting students for one or two semesters, you are given a unique chance of discovering new interests, meeting skilled committed lecturers and

making new friendships, and we hope that this will contribute to laying the foundation of an education or a study visit, which you will benefit from during your studies and in your future lives.

Life as a university student is a big challenge, and for an international university student this challenge could be even bigger, since you may be far away from home and your well-known and safe surroundings.

We expect you to do your best as students, and we will do our best to accommodate you, and if you believe that we could do certain things better, please do let us know. A university without inquisitive, critical and demanding

students is no university – it is a drowsy school; this not only applies to the actual study work, but also to the student social activities at Roskilde University. I hope that you will help set the agenda at Roskilde University, and preferably also from an international perspective. The university is yours – so use it, help develop it and nurture it. In return, we will endeavour to create an optimum framework for you and your education, enabling you to design it so that it accurately matches your interests and ambitions for the future. Welcome!

# Terrorism and Liberal Democracy – Ten Years After 9-11

International conference at Roskilde University 7-9 September

The fight against terror has had extensive consequences for many Western democracies. The fact that governments have a legitimate interest in protecting their citizens is obvious, but how far can governments go their the attempt to protect their citizens without the risk of compromising what are usually considered basic liberal democratic values?

In response to the 10-year anniversary of 9/11, the purpose of the conference is to create an overview of how the terrorist threat and the fight against terror in key areas has affected

liberal democracies, and to try to assess the reasonableness of the many measures that have been taken to prevent and fight terrorism.

Key questions at the conference will be:

- Has the fight against terror led to more security?
- What are the consequences of the fight against terror in terms of protection of individual rights?

- To what extent is it meaningful to talk about a balance between security and protection of individual rights?
- Have Western democracies overreacted to the terrorist threat or have the reactions been adapted to the existing risk?

## Programme

See the programme for the conference at <http://bit.ly/rmeRD3>

## Registration

Everyone is welcome to participate in the conference. Participation is free. As there is a limited number of seats, participation will take place on a first-come, first-served basis.

Registration is thus a prerequisite, and you can sign up here: <http://reg.ruc.dk/sunrise2011/>

Please note that you will receive an e-mail with a link that you should use for registration.

Subsequently, you will receive confirmation of your registration by e-mail. Should you experience any problems with your registration, please send an e-mail to [sunrice2011\(at\)ruc.dk](mailto:sunrice2011(at)ruc.dk).

If after registration you find that you are unable to attend, please send an e-mail to [sunrice2011\(at\)ruc.dk](mailto:sunrice2011(at)ruc.dk).

## Time and place

The conference will be held at Roskilde University from 7 to 9 September 2011 in the big auditorium, building 00, see map here.

## Speakers

To illustrate the topic of the conference, a number of leading, international and national researchers from different fields have been invited.

### International speakers:

- Professor Stephen J. Schulhofer (New York University)
- Professor Philip B. Heymann (Harvard University)
- Professor Virginia Held (City University of New York)
- Professor Brian Forst (American University)
- Professor Jude Howell (London School of Economics)
- Professor Seumas Miller (Australian National University)
- Professor Stephen Nathanson (Northeastern University)
- Professor Eric. A. Posner (Chicago University)

- Professor Uwe Steinhoff (Hong Kong University)
- Professor Katherine Darmar (Chapman University)

### National speakers:

- Professor Ole Espersen (University of Copenhagen)
- Professor Eva Smith (University of Copenhagen)
- Senior researcher Peter Vedel Kessing (DIIS)
- Hans Jørgen Bonnichsen (former Danish Security Intelligence Service)
- Associate Professor Klemens Kappel (University of Copenhagen)
- Senior researcher Ann-Sophie Hemmingsen (DIIS)
- Assistant professor Anders Henriksen (University of Copenhagen)

# Performance designer on stage with Per Vers

Sound, lighting and images form a synthesis when Lau Lindqvist, Roskilde University student, goes on stage

**By: Camilla Buchardt, the Information Office**

When rapper Per Vers went on stage Sunday afternoon at this year's Roskilde Festival, the sky was still grey. Despite the sun failing to appear, the Roskilde Festival goers turned out in large numbers in front of Cosmopol.

Lau Lindqvist, who has studied Performance Design at Roskilde University, was on stage in charge of images and video (VJ'ing) together with his work mate Kaare Svejstrup.

*What does VJ'ing imply?*

"It implies adding live images to music in a way that makes it support and fit in with the music. In actual fact it is a complicated procedure because it can be done in many different ways."

"My VJ'ing method differs slightly from that of many others here in Denmark where there is a tendency to add graphics as an element. I work with cameras, video and small pre-designed video clips."

*Is it done live?*

"Yes. Our process is much like were we an electronic music act. We have mixing consoles, main distribution frames and computers that work as photo samplers and effect machines."

*Is everything planned beforehand or do you improvise?*

"We often improvise quite a lot. It is seldom that we have the luxury of both touring a great deal with a band and also having the time to plan everything beforehand and making sure what goes with what."

"For our performance with Per Vers, we had only had the time to practise a few of the tracks. Well, I mean *some* planning was involved – we had found some images that matched

the different tracks, but precisely how to make it work was very much off the cuffs."

*How did you prepare for the concert?*

"A lot of technique and logistics were involved. Which agreements did you have? Which format did the signal have? In our case, it is very much about identifying which orchestra we work with and what equipment and images to bring. Leading up to the concert, we programmed and found the right hardware components and put them together in the





right way so that we had precisely the options we needed for the concert.”

Lau Lindqvist is 32 years old and is in the process of writing a combined thesis in Performance Design and Philosophy. He is the owner of the company 2d visuals together with Kaare Svejstrup.

“It is also a question of extracting things from ideas that materialise. For example the images we showed for the track Black Power we had prepared specifically for that track. And for the song Roskilde State of Mind (cover version of Jay Z’s giant hit New York State of Mind, ed.) we had some images of the festival and had designed a special machine to display them on, inspired by the original video with black/white images of New York. We also look through our files containing all our material to find the right bits and bobs to feed into the machine and then play it at the right time.”

How do you apply Performance design in your work as a VJ?

“What I use the most involves logistics and planning. You need a venue and some people to be in charge of the preparations. If there is no actual venue, you need to install light and

sound equipment and various other things. With video it is still so that not many people have a complete video set-up. Therefore, you need to know who at the relevant venue you can call and ask about the right things.”

“I have also learned how to take a holistic view on the entire performance. In the world of culture, I often find that there is a marked distinction between the individual functions. As a VJ, you fall between two stools; you are not really a lighting specialist because you design videos and you are not part of the orchestra because you orchestrate the lights – so at the venues your function is somewhere in the middle. Actually, that is also quite cool, because it means that you are given a slightly different role compared to many of the others. You can take the liberty to interfere a bit more because you deliver something which is not only design.”

*Do you use other things acquired from your studies at Roskilde University?*

“I actually also use my other discipline, philosophy, quite a lot. Semiotics, for example – especially something to do with metaphors. It is really cool to know something about how to create metaphors. How are things connected? That is what you do when making a video – you create an image metaphor to go with the music.”

“If you have songs containing few words, you exceedingly create metaphors based on the music. If something for example reminds me of the sound of a train, I then find a train matching the rhythm; or it could be a sound such as ‘woooiuup’ so that you can make what I call a linear metaphor where something rises or becomes bigger. That way, you can work out how to link sound and image.”

*What does the VJ do to enhance the concert experience – why is that important?*

“The video element can support and extend the layers of meaning and the associations that the audience have during a concert. The video constitutes an additional layer or element for the audience to look at, and if it is properly done, it may enhance the effect of the music. It is, however, a rather difficult question. Why does it feel good to have pictures on the wall at home? Or why is it cool that an additional instrument or song is included for a concert? Well, it provides an additional voice, an additional layer, further depth, more aspects or in whichever way you choose to express it. Images and video add something new – something which is in a way sensuous.”