

Universitetspladsen

RUglobal

Information and debate from Roskilde University

Number 08 · 22 February – 15 March 2010



RUglobal met one of the authors of the new book

**“The foreigner”,
the city and the
nation**



**“We, too, have been
to Legoland”**



What are RU graduates good at?

Don't miss out on RU's first career fair



RUC CAREER FAIR 2010

FEBRUARY 25

WHAT & WHY:

You are hereby invited to attend RUC's first Career Fair on the 25th of February! Grab the chance to chat with your future employer, meet new and interesting people and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee in our Career Lounge.

Multinational and English speaking companies will be attending RUC Career Fair 2010 alongside Danish ones, and your chances, as an international student, of finding a relevant student job or your future career in Denmark will therefore be greatly improved by attending. We look forward to seeing you there!

ruc.dk/karrieremesse_en

WHEN:

Thursday, 25. February 2010 at 12.00 - 16.00

WHERE:

RUC, building 00 & 01

RUC Career Fair 2010 is brought to you by :



DM - Dansk Magisterforening



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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.

Editorial staff:

Hanne Preisler (Responsible)
Thomas Humle (Editor)
Anne Frida Christiansen (Editor)
Camilla Buchardt (Editor)

Layout, print and edition:

PrinfoParitas Digital Service, 2300 copies

Address: RUCnyt, Postboks 260, DK - 4000 Roskilde, Telephone 4674 2013 eller 4674 2612, e-mail: RUCnyt@ruc.dk, www.ruc.dk/ruc/RUCnyt

Notifications: 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
09	1/3	5/3	15/3
10	29/3	31/3	12/4

- at 12 noon on the assigned date

“The foreigner”, the city and the nation

“Den fremmede”, byen og nationen (“The Foreigner”, the city and the nation) is the Danish title of a recently published book authored by the ethnographers, Kirsten Simonsen, Professor, and Lasse Koefoed, Associate Professor, both from the Department of Environmental, Social and Spatial Change at RU. RUGlobal met one of the authors for a chat about the research project that resulted in a book.



By *Anne Frida Christiansen, RUGlobal*

When they embarked on the research project, Kirsten Simonsen and Lasse Koefoed wanted to get an insight into how ethnic minorities see their lives in Denmark and to convey the finding through the minority group’s own stories and experiences as an ethnic minority. “Throughout a long period of time, we have had standing debates on ethnic minorities in society, in research circles as well as in the public domain, but we found that a voice was missing: What are your experiences as an ethnic minority?” said Koefoed about the background for the project.

The research project is based on the so-called practice-oriented ethnography characterised by its focus on actual situations. For Kirsten Simonsen and Lasse Koefoed it was key to identify situations where ethnic minority groups feel alienated. In this context, Koefoed said that this approach is far from a discourse-theoretic exploration, the purpose of which is to discover how discourse is created. Practice-oriented ethnography, on the other hand, is characterised in that it focuses on how forms of discourse are experienced and perceived and what tactics are designed in response to this; in other words, a more practical approach.

Pakistani and ethnic minority groups

The empiric material forming the basis of the conclusions of the book was primarily

collected from 24 in-depth interviews of 1½ to 2 hours’ duration. About the informants, Koefoed said that only people with a Pakistani background who are residents in the Copenhagen area were included in the research project. This group was chosen based on a wish to include informants with a wide range of characteristics in respect of age, profession and educational background.

The Danish-Pakistani informants were also selected because they constitute a relatively well-established and a relatively large group in Denmark. The first Pakistanis came to Denmark in the 1970s as immigrants; since then many Pakistanis have been born and raised in Denmark, and according to Koefoed there are currently about 20,000 Pakistanis living in Denmark. Another important reason for the choice of this group is that Danish-Pakistanis as an ethnic group is often referred to as “foreigners” in the public debate, which, among other things, is due to their Muslim affiliation, stated Koefoed. He also emphasized that neither the research project nor the book is to be regarded as a study specifically focusing on Pakistanis’ conditions and experiences in Denmark.

The purpose of the book is, on the contrary, to illustrate how life is seen and experienced as an ethnic minority. In this connection, Koefoed said that getting the group to talk was a whole new challenge for him and Kirsten Simonsen. “You don’t gain anything from arranging an interview over the phone; it is all about getting to know people and going

to some events. For instance in relation to a film club, we had dinner together with the members. As soon as you get to know people and have established contact, everything is much easier”, said Koefoed about the efforts to find informants. Moreover, he stresses the importance of presenting the purpose of the project: “We would like to tell others about your stories and experiences”; when this was communicated to the informants, it was much easier to get some of them to talk.

Discrimination and Danish culture

In line with the practice-oriented ethnography, the interviews focused strongly on the everyday experiences of the informants. In this context, Kirsten Simonsen and Lasse Koefoed aimed to gain an insight into the informants’ lives among other things by asking how and when the informants had felt discriminated and when they had encountered cultural racism. According to Koefoed, they were told of numerous examples of situations where the informants felt they had been alienated. The most conspicuous examples are from the airport where they are more frequently subjected to intensified security checks. The informants also said that they get stopped by the police more frequently. In addition, Kirsten Simonsen and Lasse Koefoed have heard stories of situations where the informants had been denied access to discoteques and cafés.

Koefoed explained how such situations can contribute to ethnic minorities feeling

that they are not part of the community and also how such episodes can cause frustrations and make them feel that they are not recognised on an equal footing with the Danes. This is in sharp contrast to the informants' own experiences of Danish culture, and the book contains a lot of statements, some of them very telling:

"Look at my album and tell me what the difference is apart from the fact that our skin is darker We, too, have been to Legoland with our families; wwe, too, have been to the Zoo; we have photos of us wearing the hats worn by Danish football fans and Danish clothes and waving the Danish flag. Well..., I mean, what the heck do you want more? So, tell me, what is Danish culture to you?"

Recognition and ambivalence

This is characterised by the authors as an ambivalent situation for the ethnic minorities, since they – to a wide extent – feel like Danes, but are far from always recognised as such. In addition to the above quotation, Koefoed explained that Pakistanis and other ethnic groups are often the subjects of discussions where they are referred to as foreigners, a burden on society, and in some instances also considered a security threat. This contrasts with their own feeling of contributing to the society they are part of.

Consequently and according to Koefoed, there are indications that the informants develop strategies to handle this ambivalence. They do this for instance by toning down their identification with the nation for the benefit of other domains that the ethnic minorities find more comfortable to live in, such as cities. Koefoed added that the ethnic minorities feel that no conditions are

imposed on them as Copenhageners, whereas as Danes they are citizens on certain conditions. An explanation for this could be that 'alienation' is a constituent city element, and being strangers to one another is often a condition for living in a city. The multicultural element is a natural part of a city in a way that differs from the national level, explained Koefoed about one of the most significant conclusions of the book: That the minority group finds it easier to grow attached to the city, Copenhagen, than to the nation, Denmark.

Forms of identity

On the basis of the empiric material, the book is divided into different categories to illustrate the strategies by which the informants' statements can be characterised. The common denominator for the informants is that they all significantly tone down the national element. Instead, some take a radical leap by identifying themselves with the cosmopolitan element and being global citizens, whereas it is characteristic for others, primarily those who immigrated in the 1970s, to take on a more transnational form of identity with, so to speak, one leg in Pakistan and one in Denmark. At the other end of the scale, Koefoed mentioned local areas as another example of a form of identity. "Here, local areas or meeting others by taking up a specific hobby such as martial art could be a good starting point for shaping an identity, and consequently the importance of belonging to a specific ethnic group is reduced". Identification with the city has a mid-scale position, which has been given a key priority in the book.

Even though the informants do not seem to feel fully recognised as Danes, this does not mean that they do not relate to Danish culture and make attempts at defining it. In this context, the book also provides a number of ideal types for what stance the informants take in relation to "Danish culture". Some of these types will have to be regarded as characteristic for ethnic groups, whereas other types are unrelated to ethnic origin.

Examples of this are that many refer to the welfare community when they define "Danish culture"; here, they state that they are happy that they came to Denmark and to be part of a community sharing the risks, and to which they have contributed through their work throughout the past 40 years. Others emphasize the importance of their active participation in associations, which is characterised by the authors as "sharing Danish culture". The book introduces several types of Danish culture.

Alienation

"Alienation is an element being produced and reproduced; there is no stability surrounding who is a foreigner and what makes you a foreigner – it is something you become in different situations." Apart from the informants' statements on what makes you a foreigner, also post-colonial theory and orientalism are included in the book. "These perspectives can contribute to highlighting some historic perceptions about the other party. With these theories, it is illustrated how the western world, through texts, has introduced a perception and a lot of ideas of what the other party is like," said Koefoed and added: "Orientalism has described the middle eastern world as a foreign world" and this perception from the past is brought into the present.

The perception that these people are foreigners and that they are not members of community is primarily created on the basis of historic myths being put into play in the present geo-political game, including in the war in Afghanistan. Based on Honneth's recognition theory, Koefoed rounded off by saying that one of the conclusions of the book is that many ethnic minorities feel like Danes, but are not recognised as such. For this reason, the immigrant debate is not an integration issue, but rather a question of recognising immigrants as Danes.

For more information on the preparation of the book and for an extract from the book, please visit: www.denfremmede.ruforlag.dk



Professor Kirsten Simonsen.



Associate professor Lasse Koefoed.

Linda Ishøj Frederiksen is acting university chaplain while Ulla Pierri Enevoldsen is on leave.



'Substitute' university chaplain at RU

Have you become disenchanted with group work? Or do you just need someone to talk to? Acting university chaplain Linda Ishøj Frederiksen says her door is always open.

**by Camilla Buchardt,
RU Information Office**

University chaplain Ulla Pierri Enevoldsen will be on an educational leave of absence from 1 February to 1 May 2010, and Linda Ishøj Frederiksen will be taking her place until she returns.

Having previously worked as a substitute chaplain at the Sct. Hans Mental Health Centre in Roskilde, Linda is 33 and lives in Copenhagen.

She is enjoying her time at RU, a place she's already becoming familiar with.

'At first, the University seemed a bit overwhelming, maybe because I had never been here before. But it also seems like a very dynamic place with many different kinds of people,' says Linda, who will also have to get used to working conditions that are a bit different from her previous employ:

'Being a university chaplain is very different from working at a church. There's no liturgy, and you don't have all the rituals and ceremonies to lean up against.

'You also meet people in their everyday lives, not – as the case may be at a church or a hospital – only parents with very small children or people who need to make funeral arrangements.'

Free space

The chaplain at RU meets many young people face to face, and the first ones have already knocked on Linda's door: students that need someone to talk to about problems both great and small. Linda says:

'Some are having problems with their boyfriend or girlfriend; others feel restless, and some have problems with their parents or are tired of working in groups. And there's room for it all: it's wonderful that they take

the opportunity to talk with us as much as they do. We can offer them the time and space to say anything they want to. We can give them a neutral wall to bounce a ball up against, but we can also give them some good advice about how they can feel better.'

Both students and University employees are welcome to contact Linda Ishøj Frederiksen and have a chat – about anything they want.

Office hours: 10 am to 3 pm. You are welcome to phone or e-mail in advance for an appointment on 2967-9232 or lindaf@ruc.dk.

For further information, go to www.ruc-pastor.dk.

Also in this issue of RUCnyt, read about the Socratic dialogue group arrangement to be held by the university chaplain in March.

RUC SUNRISE 2010

This is an invitation for all RUC students interested in participating in the RUC Sunrise Triple C Conference: Climate, Change, Communication (April 20-22) or for those simply interested in the current state of global environmental talks now that the COP15 is over.

For the past few months, particularly those leading up to the COP15, discussions and debates about climate change and the state of the environment have bombarded us with data and information- but what does all this information mean and how can we make sense of it on an individual level? Where do you stand in the whole climate debate and has the slew of recent information in the media made things clearer for you or just more complicated? In order to generate some meaningful reflections on the climate debate and as a segue to some of the topics which will be discussed during the Sunrise conference we would like to invite you to participate in a philosophical discussion about you and the environment. The discussion will take place in a Socratic dialogue group.

In fact, how is it that such a dialogue has not already taken place?

Participants in the discussion are not required to have any academic qualifications

other than the desire to actively contribute to an important debate with other students. The discussion is really about a practical philosophy for anyone thinking about modern humans and their way of life.

Climate change and the impact it has had and will continue to have raises fundamental questions for all of humankind. Questions about what humans are doing to the earth, what kind of a creature we have evolved into, our relationship to nature, and how we should relate to the environment and to one another in the future. These are some of the topics we will explore.

The Facilitators

The group will be lead by Philosophical Facilitator Jesper Bohn-Rasmussen, who has extensive experience in leading dialogues by way of the Socratic method, and University Chaplain Linda Ishøj Frederiksen.

Practical Information

The discussions will be held in both Danish and English. On Wednesday 17 March the discussion will be conducted in Danish and on Wednesday 24 March in English. Both days will run from 10-15 in House 01.1 Room 27/33 (near the cafeteria).

Besides interesting and insightful conversation the event will also include a light lunch.

In order for everyone to be heard and to participate, there will only room for a maximum of 10 persons. Participants will get to work together to explore and clarify the issues they are most concerned with and interested in.

Registration

It is free to participate. Enrollment is on a first-come first-serve basis.

Send your name and address to Linda Ishøj Frederiksen: lindaf@ruc.dk - not later than March 11



Status for the IT systems
See a status for the IT systems here:
www.ruc.dk/campus-it_en

Tips and tricks from Campus-IT

The advertisement features a background image of a modern university building with a paved walkway and people walking. The text is overlaid on the image in a clean, sans-serif font.

TV 2 Zulu's 'organ bus'

Students could get answers to all their questions about organ donation when Danish television station TV2 Zulu's 'organ bus' stopped at RU with its motto 'Make a decision and get a ticket'.

Article and photographs by Camilla Buchardt, RU Information Office

'Everyone should take a decision on this. It could save somebody's life.'

So says Christian Pedersen when RUCnyt meets him at TV 2 Zulu's big red double-decker bus with big white letters spelling

out the message 'Make a decision and get a ticket'.

A 24-year-old studying Journalism and Philosophy, Christian doesn't take long to make his decision. Actually, it is something he's been thinking about for a long time. He writes on the little printed form, indicating that he wants to be an organ donor on the condition that, when the time comes, his



visits RU

next of kin can say no. He gets a ticket to the 2010 Zulu Awards ceremony as thanks for taking a decision.

A difficult choice

The idea behind the 'organ bus' – the result of a collaboration with the Danish National Board of Health – is to help young people make a decision on something that can be difficult for young people to consider: what do I want done with my body when I'm gone?

People in the bus, which is parked behind the cafeteria beside Building 3, have different reasons for choosing to be an organ donor or not. But most are a bit hesitant, asking a series of questions before making their choice.



Deciding whether or not to be an organ donor can be a party, say television station TV2 Zulu and the Danish National Board of Health. And the good mood seemed to be contagious, spreading to many of the 'organ bus' visitors.

Rolling out the red carpet as TV 2 Zulu gets ready to recruit organ donors at Roskilde University. Aside from one complaint about the noise, the visit was a success.

'How do you look afterwards? Does it ruin your face?' one of the girls wants to know.

'People shouldn't have any doubts. Either I take a decision or I don't take a decision. I don't want to make a choice that means my next of kin might end up in a situation where they have to make that choice for me,' is the reasoning of another girl in the bus.

Two girls elsewhere in the bus are having a difficult time making their choice.

'Can't you just say no so you get the tickets anyway?' one of their male friends asks.

But the girls are not convinced, and they're doing something else the day the Zulu Awards ceremony is being held.

By the time noon approaches, there are quite a few people in the bus. A DJ named Jacob Guldager is doing his thing from the

top level of the bus. An instructor from Building 3 steps into the bus and asks the TV 2 Zulu people to tell the DJ to turn down the music, because in the classroom next door 'no one can hear themselves think.'

In front of the bus, beside the red carpet, people are offered a free cup of soup to warm themselves. Later in the day, the bus will go to Copenhagen University and to Copenhagen's Nytorv square where, in addition to the tickets, Zulu will be offering free beer for everyone.



Journalism and Philosophy student Christian Pedersen had been thinking for a long time that he should say either yes or no to being an organ donor. The TV 2 Zulu 'organ bus' made it easy for him to make that thought a reality.

Never have so many companies and organisations been gathered together at Roskilde University in one day: a total of 28 have signed up for the first careers fair in the history of the University, to be held on 25 February. The students and University Rector Ib Poulsen are pleased about the new initiative.



Ib Poulsen:

'Don't miss RU's first careers fair'

by Eva Lykke Jørgensen, RUCinnovation

IBM, Dong Energy, Roskilde Festival and the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs are just some of the businesses and organisations to attend RU's first-ever careers fair on 25 February 2010. RU Rector Ib Poulsen believes that the careers fair will give RU students an excellent opportunity to see what employment opportunities the labour market offers, and he encourages students to come take a look.

'I hope students see it as a major opportunity to acquire some contacts outside the University,' Poulsen says, pointing out the fact that the fair can also help give the participating companies and institutions a better, more detailed idea of the qualifications RU graduates can offer.

'I think it's really good to give potential employers a better idea of what it is we actually do here. In the long term, it will mean that our graduates will remain in demand. And the careers fair can help that happen,' says Poulsen.

Stig Ørskov and the Wii

In addition to networking with the organisations represented at the fair, students can also challenge them to a Wii game. Johannes Lange, a student in Business Administration, is looking forward to challenging one of the fair attendees.

'Not only because I think playing that kind of game is fun; I also think it's a bit more informal to be swinging your arms with some Wii tennis while you're trying to talk seriously with each other. Things don't feel so unnatural and forced that way,' he says.


Like Johannes, RU Rector Poulsen also thinks it's a good idea. 'RU is well known for doing things a bit differently, and maybe being serious in a way that's a bit more fun, so I think it fits in well with who we want to be.'

Sara Brøns, a Performance Design and Communications major, is more sceptical about taking a 'playful' approach to the organisations, however. 'It can work really well if students take it up and use it to make contact, and get a job that way. You'd never be allowed to play a Wii game with your boss

at a job interview. But it could also turn silly, ending up with a bunch of students just playing each other – and then it doesn't get used like it should,' she says.

Stig Ørskov, chief editor for digital media at Danish daily newspaper Politiken, will be holding a presentation at the careers fair about the transition from being a student at RU and ending up as an editor at Politiken House. Sara is looking forward to his presentation: 'I think that it will be exciting. He's had a lot of experience in different career paths and shortcuts he can tell us about, and he can probably also tell us what competencies we'll have with us from RU. That's something we can learn a lot from.'

Read more about the 2010 RU Careers Fair at www.ruc.dk/karriemesse.



Come to the 2010 RU Careers Fair on 25 February and meet your future employer.

What are RU graduates good at?

What you can use to brand yourself to potential employers

'I think we're better at teamwork and the kind of collaboration that many employers are interested in than graduates of other schools are. Otherwise, I think RU graduates are really good at analysing to find out what's necessary not just to finish a project or some work, but to make it a job well done. We are also good at weeding out the less important things: with projects, there are always several things you could be working on, but then you're under some kind of time pressure that means you have to choose what's most important.' Johannes Kirkeby, student.

'There are a lot of strong sides. RU graduates are good at working together with other people; that's the basis for everything here, you know, right from day one. RU graduates are also really good at making their deadlines. If you say things have to be ready by a certain date, then they are. RU graduates are good at identifying problems, and they're good at seeing what something is really about. From what I've seen, too, students here are really good at taking things from theory to practice: in other words, making use of or

applying things. Meeting deadlines, doing group work, identifying problems, and taking theory and applying it in practice – these are exactly the things you need to be able to do in real life.' Ib Poulsen, rector.

'We're good at collaborating, at working in a problem-oriented way, and at working on projects. And that's how many companies look today. We are good at becoming part of new constellations. We're good at spotting what's relevant in many different types of problems. We're good at motivating people. One of our strong sides is that we can do many different things – and that allows us to tackle many different areas of responsibility at the same time and handle them really well, because it's easy for us to adjust.' Sara Brøns, student.

Time and place

RU Careers Fair 2010

Thursday, 25 February 2010

12 noon to 4 pm

Foyer, large and small auditoriums, Buildings 00 and 01

Businesses and organisations attending

- AIESEC
- Danfoss
- Danish Association of Masters and PhDs (DM)
- De Forenede Dampvaskerier
- Danish Association of Lawyers and Economists (DJØF)
- DONG Energy
- DSB
- Eniro
- Grontmij | Carl Bro
- IBM
- Danish Society of Engineers (IDA)
- Integrationsnet – part of the Danish Refugee Council
- Jobindex
- Masters Unemployment Insurance Fund (MA)
- Microsoft
- NNIT
- Radiometer
- Rigsrevisionen
- Roskilde Festival
- Roskilde Kommune
- RUCinnovation
- Thermo Fisher Scientific
- Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Udenrigsministeriet)
- Venture Cup
- Work in Denmark

Trainee at the Embassy of Denmark in Hanoi, Vietnam

The Embassy of Denmark in Hanoi is looking for qualified students interested in becoming trainees from 1 August 2010 – 31 January 2011 (an extension to 31 July 2011 may be possible).

The Embassy normally has five trainee positions within the following areas:

- Business sector programme
- Climate change and environment programme
- Trade
- Business-to-business programme
- Culture

Specific tasks vary according to educational background, qualifications and interests of the trainee and also differ across the sections of the Embassy. The tasks will be solved in collaboration with posted staff and local programme officers, and each trainee has a host who is key responsible for ensuring the coordination of the work.

Applicants are encouraged to specify the area that he/she is interested in working with during the traineeship.

Qualifications

Minimum completed basic education (BA) at university level or equivalent. English proficiency – written as well as oral English. IT qualifications at user level.

The aim of the traineeship

The traineeship has an educational purpose. It must contribute to the student's education and will be organised in a way where credit of transfers will be secured if the concerned university allows.

Salary

A salary is not paid, but the Embassy provides a compensation of currently DKK 2,500 per month to support expenditures for accommodation, food, and transportation. During the traineeship, the Danish state education grant (SU) can be received according to existing rules.

Further information

The trainee is responsible for finding accommodation him- or herself. The present trainees live in a house about 15 minutes from the Embassy at the cost of USD 1,500 per month. If necessary, contact can be made to the present trainees by writing to hanamb@um.dk "Attention trainees".

Application and deadline

Application in English as well as CV and a copy of relevant diploma should be sent to the Embassy by e-mail to hanamb@um.dk or by mail to:

Embassy of Denmark
19 Dien Bien Phu str.
Ba Dien, Hanoi
Vietnam
Fax: +84 (4) 3823 1999

Please mark letter, fax or e-mail: "Application for Trainee Position".

Deadline: 1 March 2010

Response

When the Embassy has received the application, a confirmation will be sent. A final decision can be expected no later than a month after the stated deadline.

More information can be found at www.ambhanoi.um.dk