



RESEARCH IN GENDER AND EQUALITY

CO-ORDINATION FOR
GENDER RESEARCH



Contents

- 3** Introduction
- 5** The Co-ordination for Gender Research
- 6** Women, Gender & Research
- 7** The Association for Gender Research in Denmark

Research themes

- 9** Academia
- 10** Ancient and Medieval History
- 11** Art and Aesthetics
- 12** Children and Youth
- 13** Communication
- 14** Democracy and Politics
- 15** Education and Learning
- 16** Ethnicity and Race
- 17** Equality and Mainstreaming
- 18** Family and Kinship
- 19** Feminist Theory
- 20** Food
- 21** Health and Disease
- 23** History
- 24** Legal Culture and Regulation
- 25** Literature
- 26** Media
- 27** Men and Masculinities
- 28** Prostitution and Sex Work
- 29** Religion
- 30** Sexuality and Queer Studies
- 31** Sport and Body Culture
- 32** Technology and Materiality
- 33** Transnational Studies and Globalization
- 35** Violence and Rape
- 36** War, Conflict and Security
- 37** Welfare State
- 38** Women's Movements – Social Movements
- 39** Working Lives and the Labour Market

Upcoming research themes

- 41** TECHNUCATION
- 42** Trans*
- 43** Transport and Climate

Gender research Centers in Denmark

- 44** Center for Gender Research
 - CKMM – Center for Gender, Power and Diversity
 - EDGE – Center for Equality, Diversity and Gender
 - Unit for Medical Research on Women and Gender
 - FREIA - Center for Gender Research

Other institutions

- 46** KVINFO
 - The Women's Museum

Nordic Institution

- 47** NIKK

European institutions

- ATGENDER
- EIGE



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Department of Sociology
Øster Farimagsgade 5
1014 København K
Denmark
Tel: 35 32 39 05

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Editor-in-chief: Hilda Rømer Christensen
Editors: Jutta Maria Vikman and Rikke Juel Madsen
Editorial assistants: Camilla Bruun Eriksen and Elin Elnef
Proofreading: Robert Parkin
Photo editor: Lisbet Falsig
Cover photo: Brian Henry Thompson
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Gender Research in the 21st Century: Relevant, Critical, Interdisciplinary

Gender research in Denmark has developed rapidly in recent decades. Today, gender research consists of a broad field of different theoretical and thematic approaches such as women's studies, equality studies and men's studies, as well as queer and sexuality studies. Since its beginning this research field has been motivated by a theoretical interest in developing gender research as a distinct domain of knowledge, along with a political ambition to address democratic change and gender equality. The linking of analytical and political motivations ensures the continuous involvement of the gender research field in a lively and critical dialogue with both the academic world and society at large.

Danish gender research dates back to the 1970s, when students engaged in the new women's movement put women and gender on universities' agendas. These grassroots initiatives led to the establishment of centres for women's studies in the universities, activities that were further consolidated by the Danish Parliament's Action Plan for Women's Studies. This Action Plan, which was effective from 1986 until 1992, created a number of associate professorships for gender researchers, provided research funding for up-and-coming researchers and allocated grants for the establishment of centres for documentation, information and archives.

The Action Plan recognized that women's perspectives had a special priority. At the time, it was more or less evident that researchers engaged in women's studies were female and that women could bring new perspectives to research. Today the situation is different. Gender researchers, the research councils and politicians all face new challenges as a consequence of the changes that have taken place since the 1980s in relation to both gender and equality issues, as well as in university policies. The 1990s were experienced by many of the active researchers in women's and gender studies as the decade when everything went downhill. The central platform, consisting of grants, a steering committee, secretaries and coordinators, all closely affiliated to the Danish system of research councils, disappeared.

But the 1990s also saw a number of new developments that contributed to giving research policy and grants a push forward. Jytte Hilden, Minister of Research between 1996 and 1998 and interested in gender and equality issues, launched a broad range of initiatives, such as round-table debates on research policy, an eleven-point plan and the FREIA project, which earmarked DKK 78 million for female researchers. In addition to these ventures, significant research council grants were allocated which financed the so-called 'Gender Barrier' and 'GEP' (Gender, Empowerment, Politics) projects. Furthermore, EU research policies and research programmes began focusing on gender and equality.

The question, then, is how all this can be consolidated further by a new leap forward in the 21st century? Is it possible today, with inspiration from the insights provided by gender research and new transnational policy processes, to create a shift in the understandings and arguments that were used in the 1980s? What does the shift >

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- > from women's liberation to diversity and equal opportunities for all entail in the 21st century? How can gender research contribute to the formation of new political visions of equality according to this shift? And how can this translate into new themes and approaches, for example, in the gender mainstreaming of future research programs such as Danish Forsk 2020 and the European research program Horizon 2020?

Right now the circumstances seem to be ideal. The number of gender researchers is at a historically high level, including increasing numbers of associate professorships and professorships with gender expertise in the universities. The Danish research councils and the Danish government have considerable numbers of personnel with gender expertise and interests. The situation invites all these good intentions to be brought together and the idea of gender mainstreaming in research to be made a reality. There is plenty of inspiration to draw on from the other Nordic countries and from EU research policies when it comes to the dedicated gender mainstreaming of research and equality.

Gender research is often taken for granted by university authorities, research councils and politicians. Yet since the days of the Action Plan Denmark has lagged behind the other Nordic countries and the EU when it comes to serious and dedicated support and initiatives. Existing resources and positions, institutions and journals need to be strengthened and improved, for example, in the form of the consistent and radical gender mainstreaming of research programs, ventures and recruitment, as well as in the creation of a new strategic research program for gender and equality research.

However, none of this will occur by itself. A great task lies ahead in making the dialogue between researchers, politicians and members of the research councils continuous, as well as more focused and visionary.

In this publication, Danish gender researchers describe the central and most critical questions in their respective fields. Spread over 28 research themes, the publication is intended as an introduction for students with an interest in the field and as a handbook for journalists, as well as to provide politicians with short introductions to certain themes and to offer researchers an introduction to fields outside of their own specific areas of interest. The publication demonstrates that gender research in the 21st century is still alive and kicking, able to provide relevant, critical and cross-disciplinary knowledge and perspectives on social challenges. We hope you enjoy reading it!

Hilda Rømer Christensen, Ph.D., Head of
the Co-ordination for Gender Research

Rikke Juel Madsen, Cand. Mag.,
Research Assistant at the Co-ordination
for Gender Research

The Co-ordination for Gender Research

The Co-ordination for Gender Research works to strengthen gender research as discipline in both education and research, and to create synergy between researchers at the University of Copenhagen and elsewhere in Denmark. The Co-ordination for Gender Research was established in 1986 as a part of the Danish Parliament's Action Plan for Gender Research. It has been accommodated in the University of Copenhagen since 1996.

The Co-ordination for Gender Research

- Co-ordinates and internationalizes educational provision on gender and equality
- Co-ordinates and internationalizes research on gender and equality
- Co-ordinates networks and initiatives pertaining to research policy
- Organizes conferences and seminars
- Functions as the host institution of the journal Women, Gender & Research
- Participates in international research projects

The Co-ordination functions as the Secretariat for the Steering Committee for Gender Research at the University of Copenhagen, as well as for the National Commission for Gender Research in Denmark.

In addition, the Co-ordination regularly organizes conferences, lecture series, educational events and international summer schools. In 2012 the Co-ordination hosted an international, inter-disciplinary conference called Feminist Materialisms and an international summer school entitled Gender Dynamics in the 21st Century: Chinese and Danish Perspectives, at the Universities of Copenhagen and Beijing.

Sign up for the newsletter and receive information on events, vacancies, etc. on the Co-ordination's webpage: www.koensforskning.soc.ku.dk

Stay updated with the calendar Focus on Gender, with listings of courses and other educational opportunities and conferences. The brochure is published twice a year, in print and online at www.koensforskning.soc.ku.dk

Stay updated with the Nordkalender, an extensive calendar covering research events in the Nordic countries and internationally. Go to www.koensforskning.soc.ku.dk/kalender.

Subscribe to Women, Gender and Research, either directly from the University Press of Southern Denmark, press@forlag.sdu.dk, or as a member of the Association for Gender Research in Denmark.

Women, Gender & Research: A Scientific Journal for Gender Studies

In 2012 the journal Women, Gender & Research (Kvinder, Køn & Forskning) celebrated its twentieth anniversary. Since its inception, it has been the only peer-reviewed journal in Danish focusing on gender research, its aim being to raise the level of this research by presenting interdisciplinary, high-quality studies addressing contemporary issues.

During the past twenty years, the journal has been at the cutting edge of ongoing theoretical breakthroughs with, for example, thematic issues on orientalism, intersectionality, trans* and feminist materialism. There has also been a focus on a wide range of empirical fields such as genetics, war, parenthood, care and academia. The journal welcomes articles from both established researchers and PhD students, as well as occasionally from MA students.

Since 2010, the journal has published one English-language issue each year, as its aim is to further the internationalization of Danish gender research. The editorial board of Women, Gender & Research consists of an interdisciplinary group of researchers based at different Danish and Nordic Universities.

The aim of Women, Gender & Research is to continue to contribute to raising the quality of Danish gender research.

Rikke Juel Madsen, former Managing editor
Hilda Rømer Christensen, Editor-in-chief

The Secretariat of the journal

is located at the office of the Co-ordination for Gender Research, Institute of Sociology, University of Copenhagen.

Contact:

redsek@soc.ku.dk

Editorial Board

Bolette Blaagaard, Assistant Professor, Aalborg University

Lovise Haj Brade, Ph.D. Fellow, Lund University

Michala Hvidt Brengaard, Ph.D. Fellow, University of Copenhagen

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Bettina Hauge, Part-time Lecturer, University of Copenhagen and Technical University of Denmark

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Karen Sjørup, Associate Professor, Roskilde University

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Photo editor

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Review editors

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Matilde Lykkebo Petersen, Cand. Stud.

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The Association for Gender Research in Denmark

The Association for Gender Research in Denmark was founded as an interdisciplinary organisation in 1990. Its aim is to strengthen the academic and political focus on gender research in universities and other research institutions in Denmark. Today the Association is a meeting point for a multidisciplinary group of researchers with an interest in the diversity of gender. Membership is open to institutions, practitioners, researchers and students who support the aims of the Association. The Association is governed by a board consisting of six to ten members and a chairperson.

The Association for Gender Research aims to improve conditions for gender research in Denmark by:

- Emphasising the importance and relevance of a gender perspective in science, culture and society
- Sharing knowledge and establishing networks among its members
- Increasing cooperation and dialogue between Danish, Nordic and international gender research groups, centres and other relevant actors
- Encouraging the use of gender research in society
- Improving the economic conditions for gender research
- Establishing and improving contacts between gender research affiliates, political actors and academic organisations

The Association for Gender Research offers its members:

- A subscription to the academic journal Women, Gender and Research
- An annual conference on current issues and themes within the gender research field
- Invitations to meetings, seminars and lectures
- A website and newsletter with updated information on gender research, relevant news and events

Lastly, the association communicates the interests of its members to ministers, deans of faculties and the general public by contributing to research strategies, drawing up opinion statements, lobbying, etc.

To join the association visit the website: www.koensforskning.dk

RESEARCH THEMES



Academia

Research into the significance of gender in the academic world involves the perspectives of both equal opportunity theory and gender theory. The equal opportunity perspective analyses gender inequalities in higher education, access to academic positions and academic promotions. Research in this field has two aims: first, to document gender imbalances and their development in individual disciplines and academic institutions; and secondly, to account for these imbalances. A major theme currently is the study of various equality initiatives in the academic world, an example being investigation of the gendered implications of the increasing economic importance of 'excellence' initiatives.

The gender-theoretical perspective investigates the connection between gender and different institutional cultures and fields of research in order to understand how gender relates to the different courses and subjects, areas of research, scientific hierarchies and institutions. Included in this perspective are analyses of the relationship between gender and power, gender and feelings, and gender and knowledge, as well as analyses of media representations of gender categories in the academic world. The focus is on mapping gender inequalities and identifying the cultural, political and social mechanisms involved in the processes of inclusion and exclusion that characterize academic environments. This research has been carried out in disciplines such as psychology, sociology, pedagogy, political science and philosophy.

Lis Højgaard and Inge Henningsen

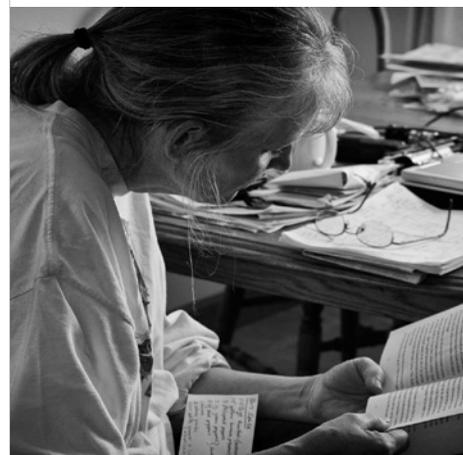


Photo: Kylan Louanne

Selected researchers

Heine Andersen, Professor, University of Copenhagen

Cathrine Hasse, Professor, Aarhus University

Inge Henningsen, Senior Researcher, Aarhus University

Lis Højgaard, Associate Professor, University of Copenhagen

Hanne Nexø Jensen, Associate Professor, University of Copenhagen

Mia Münster-Swendsen, Associate Professor, University of Copenhagen

Karen Sjørup, Associate Professor, Roskilde University

Dorte Marie Søndergaard, Professor, Aarhus University

Stine Trentemøller, Research Assistant, Aarhus University



Photo: Kristin Marie Enns-Kavanagh

Ancient and Medieval History

Research in ancient and medieval history covers the time span from the earliest known societies to approximately 1550. Danish scholars focus mainly on Denmark, Scandinavia and classical antiquity (Greece and Rome). This research is being conducted in the humanities and theology, as well as in adjacent disciplines such as anthropology and archaeology.

Research on gender in this period is carried out in only a few places in Denmark. This is due both to the lack of tenured researchers with an interest in gender, and to the fact that this period does not attract many students as an area of study. Research into ancient and medieval societies requires a knowledge of German, English, French, Latin and Greek, as well as a number of extinct languages, coupled with a desire for cross-disciplinary work. There are many types of sources on the history of older societies, such as literary, religious and legal texts, works of art and design, and archaeological findings, including textiles and coins. Topics studied include femininity and masculinity, family and networks, religion and power.

The establishment of the Danish National Research Foundation's Centre for Textile Research at the University of Copenhagen in 2005 has been one of the most exciting events in this area. Textile research is highly gendered. The production of fabrics and clothing has traditionally been considered women's work, but both sexes wear these products, and clothing emits strong signals concerning the norms, opportunities and limits imposed by society on the actions of women and men as representatives of their gender and class.

Grethe Jacobsen

Selected researchers

Eva Birgitta Andersson Strand, Associate Professor, University of Copenhagen

Agnes Arnórsdóttir, Associate Professor, Aarhus University

Britt Istoft, Assistant Professor, University of Southern Denmark

Grethe Jacobsen, Librarian (retired), The Royal Library

Helle Möller Sigh, Ph.D. Fellow, Aarhus University

Marina Vidas, Part-time Lecturer, University of Copenhagen and Senior Researcher, The Royal Library

Marie-Louise Bech Nosch, Professor, University of Copenhagen

Mia Münster-Swendsen, Associate Professor, University of Copenhagen

Art and Aesthetics

The research field of gender, art and aesthetics is concerned with how notions of gender are reflected, negotiated and challenged through the visual arts. This field questions the socio-cultural expressions and norms expressed in any given visual medium and shows how such statements challenge, obstruct or even reinforce preconceived definitions of masculinity and femininity.

The analytical span of the field encompasses art forms such as sculpture, painting, photography, film, installation and performance art, as well as popular phenomena and visual arenas such as advertisements, digital media, TV, fashion and pornography. The research employs a broad range of theoretical and methodological inter-disciplinary tools, which stem from media studies, feminist theory, anthropology, philosophy, literary studies and the history of art.

A special focus of study is the significance of pictorial representations of experiences of body, gender roles, identity and sexuality. Traditionally, an important focus has also been the significance and consequences of gender for the possibilities and conditions of art production in a given historical context.

Lisbet Falsig



Photo: Sara Lando

Selected researchers

Gunhild Borggreen, Associate Professor, University of Copenhagen

Christa Lykke Christensen, Associate Professor, University of Copenhagen

Rune Gade, Associate Professor, University of Copenhagen

Malene Vest Hansen, Post.doc., University of Copenhagen

Dag Heede, Associate Professor, University of Southern Denmark

Ulla Angkjær Jørgensen, First amanuensis, Norwegian University of Science and Technology

Karen Hvidtfeldt Madsen, Associate Professor, University of Southern Denmark

Sanne Kofod Olsen, Museum Director, Museum of Contemporary Art, Roskilde

Karen Klitgaard Povlsen, Associate Professor, Aarhus University

Tobias Raun, Ph.D. Fellow, Roskilde University

Erik Steinskog, Associate Professor, University of Copenhagen

Marie-Louise Svane, Associate Professor, University of Copenhagen

Bodil Marie Stavning Thomsen, Associate Professor, Aarhus University



Photo: Phillippe Leroyer

Children and Youth

The study of gender, children and youth has become an independent and cross-disciplinary field of research, falling into two areas. The first considers how cultural norms and structural frameworks reflect different conceptions of boys and girls, in particular when it comes to incest and the notion of 'seductive girls'. The second examines children's and young people's behaviour and gender-specific strategies within these cultural and structural frameworks.

Current projects include studies of the welfare state's family policy. In particular there are studies of state initiatives in relation to specific groups of children and adolescents (age, gender and ethnicity), as well as studies of physical spaces (in schools, homes, urban areas) functioning as child and youth environments. These are all cross-disciplinary studies bringing together sociologists, historians and jurists.

Children and young people as 'social actors' is a central theme in several projects engaging with the study of children and young people's own identities across the categories of gender and age, including the topic of their own involvement in the creation of childhood and youth by, for example, using digital social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.).

These studies use various methods, such as interviews with children and young people, material from public institutions and authorities, political debates, newspaper articles, memoirs, etc. Several of them contain critical reflections on the concepts of the child, childhood and youth. It is argued that notions of childhood and youth are constructed and created in relation to historically specific norms and ideals about gender, age and normality/deviation.

Mette Seidelin

Selected researchers

Karen Borgnakke, Professor, University of Copenhagen

Ann-Dorte Christensen, Professor, Aalborg University

Ning de Coninck-Smith, Professor, Aarhus University

Laura Gilliam, Associate Professor, Aarhus University

Beth Grothe Nielsen, Associate Professor Emeritus, Aarhus University and Aalborg University

Jette Kofoed, Associate Professor, Aarhus University

Agnete Birger Madsen, Freelance Journalist

Mette Lykke Nielsen, Post.doc., Aarhus University

Mette Seidelin, Ph.D. Fellow, University of Southern Denmark

Dorthe Staunæs, Professor, Aarhus University

Dorte Marie Søndergaard, Professor, Aarhus University

Niels Ulrik Sørensen, Associate Professor, Aarhus University

Birgitte Tufte, Professor, Copenhagen Business School

Eva Silberschmidt Viala, Assistant Professor, Aarhus University

Communication

Research on gender and communication addresses how sex and gender perspectives are experienced and expressed in communicative contexts. It examines how gender is constructed through communicative acts between people and how it is managed in different domains, such as the media, the educational sector and information outlets.

Research is carried out to investigate the dynamic and communicative patterns in male or female groups, as well as focusing on hierarchical constructs and body language in a range of settings, such as public debates, doctor-patient conversations, recruitment scenarios and intercultural dialogue. There is a special focus on how gendered dichotomies and stereotypes persist through discursive effects in textual, linguistic and visual materials.

In addition, this research field encompasses a focus on corporate and organizational communication, including the impact of gender on the communicative abilities of male and female managers, and the reception of such communication. Another topic is gendered communication in social and family settings, as well as the impact of gender on the communicative behaviour of boys and girls in preschool and other educational environments.

Lisbet Falsig



Photo: Felix Huth

Selected researchers

Rikke Andreassen, Associate Professor, Roskilde University

Kirsten Drotner, Professor, University of Southern Denmark

Christina Fiig, Associate Professor, Aarhus University

Lene Hansen, Professor, University of Copenhagen

Carol Henriksen, Associate Professor, Roskilde University

Christine M. Jensen de López, Professor, Aalborg University

Paul McIlvenny, Professor, Aalborg University

Jette Joost Michaelsen, Post.doc., University of Copenhagen

Christina Hee Pedersen, Associate Professor, Roskilde University

Gertrud Ursula Phister, Professor, University of Copenhagen

Iris Rittenhofer, Associate Professor, Aarhus University

Anne Scott Sørensen, Associate Professor, University of Southern Denmark

Democracy and Politics



Photo: Oskar Annermarken

Research on democracy has analysed women's rights, political participation and collective mobilization in liberal democracies, employing both comparative and historical perspectives. Classic themes are the struggles for female suffrage in the transition from patriarchal to democratic societies, and women's struggles for equal civil, political and social rights in their public and private lives. Democracy has been associated with the nation state, and women's movements and organizations have played a major role in the further democratization and modernization of western democracies. Women's work within the political field has contributed to placing women's rights, gender equality and social reforms on the agenda. Research has explored key issues of social justice, equal rights, recognition and economic redistribution, as well as the underlying power relations in politics and civil society, both at work and in family life.

Recent research on immigration and multiculturalism has raised crucial questions about the exclusion and inclusion of refugees, immigrants and other minorities in liberal democracies, and of the relationships between democratic citizenship and human rights, and between individual and group rights. The intersectional approach is employed in the study of the significance and interplay of gender, race/ethnicity, class and sexuality for peoples' social positions, political identities and values. Another relevant research theme in this context is the political backgrounds, discourses and projects of nationalist and extremist movements.

The research field is evolving rapidly and presently includes post-national, post-structural and postcolonial studies focusing on transnational democracy, transnational civil society movements and transnational identities, violence in authoritarian states, masculinities, national belongings and global governance, violence against women and women's empowerment.

Birte Siim

Selected researchers

Lise Rolandsen Agustin, Assistant Professor, Aalborg University

Anette Borchorst, Professor, Aalborg University

Ann-Dorte Christensen, Professor, Aalborg University

Drude Dahlerup, Professor, Stockholm University

Christina Fiig, Associate Professor, Aarhus University

Lene Hansen, Professor, University of Copenhagen

Jytte Larsen, Senior Researcher, KVINFO

Diana Højlund Madsen, Assistant Professor, Roskilde University

Julie Elisabeth Pruzan-Jørgensen, Project Researcher, Danish Institute for International Studies

Birte Siim, Professor, Aalborg University

Pauline Stoltz, Associate Professor, Aalborg University

Anette Warring, Professor, Roskilde University

Education and Learning

Research in this area examines the relationship between gender, education and learning processes. Questions concerning how gender and gendered differences come into being through social interactions and structures are central. Educational and learning environments are not understood as passive arenas for gender: rather, gender differences are analysed as an effect of the school's management and pedagogic policy.

At present, research is characterized by a major political focus on boys and education, understood as a concern for boys' under-achievement in primary schools and higher education. Thus the focus lies on interpreting, qualifying and complicating conclusions about gender derived from the national statistical material (PISA and the like), as these have consequences for both academic performance and the provision of special support in primary school. The theme of gendered patterns in drop-out and completion rates in secondary and higher education is an engaging one. Here both qualitative and quantitative methods are employed with a destabilizing aim. Research in education points to the fact that dropouts are produced in two ways: first, through inadequate teaching methods and learning environments; and secondly, through the experiences and self-understandings of the pupils and students themselves. The research shows how dropping out and social sorting are conditioned by categories such as gender, ethnicity and social class.

In addition, research in education takes up themes such as gender differences in specific fields, bullying, IT, management issues, learning, the gendered brain and the history of education in Denmark. Learning, development and self-management in the context of people's working lives is a field in its own right.

Malou Juelskjær and Dorthe Staunæs

Selected researchers

Eva Bertelsen, Part-time Lecturer, University of Copenhagen

Maja Bissenbakker Frederiksen, Assistant Professor, University of Copenhagen

Karen Borgnakke, Professor, IT, University of Copenhagen

Karen Egedal Andreassen, Post.doc., Aalborg University

Kirsten Grønbæk Hansen, Associate Professor, Roskilde University

Cathrine Hasse, Professor, Aarhus University

Henriette Tolstrup Holmegaard, Post.doc., University of Copenhagen

Malou Juelskjær, Associate Professor, Aarhus University

Jan Kampmann, Professor, Roskilde University

Jo Krøjer, Associate Professor, Roskilde University

Lene Larsen, Associate Professor, Roskilde University

Sine Lehn-Christiansen, Assistant Professor, Roskilde University

Steen Baagøe Nielsen, Associate Professor, Roskilde University

Rasmus Præstmann, Part-time Lecturer, University of Copenhagen

Dorthe Staunæs, Professor, Aarhus University

Tine Rask Eriksen, Associate Professor, University of Copenhagen



Photo: Oskar Annermarken



Photo: Marc Veraart

Ethnicity and race

The themes of race and ethnicity constitute a new and vital field of research, which encompasses studies of migration, minority groups, critical whiteness studies, racism and discrimination, and adoption. With a focus on gender equality, one of the central aims is to uncover how everyday life, working lives, social relationships, identities and affiliations are influenced by local and global dynamics, and how the meanings ascribed to these relationships are illustrated in the inclusion and exclusion of different groups in society. The focal point is to uncover processes of racial and ethnic identity in order to understand how notions of race and ethnicity might be connected to specific bodies and positions, thus causing power inequalities.

Reflections on the methodological and ethical challenges of this research are of great importance. Issues concerning the relationship between the researcher and the individuals who are the focus of the research continue to generate discussions because of the risk that the very differences being investigated may be reproduced in the research practice itself. Theoretical inspiration is often drawn from post-colonial and post-structural perspectives, as seen in critical studies of media and cultural representations of race.

Elin Elnef

Selected researchers

Rikke Andreassen, Associate Professor, Roskilde University
Sofie Danneskiold-Samsøe, Assistant Professor, Roskilde University
Anne Folke Henningsen, Assistant Professor, University of Copenhagen
Maja Bissenbakker Frederiksen, Assistant Professor, University of Copenhagen
Nauja Kleist, Senior Researcher, Danish Institute for International Studies
Jette Kofoed, Associate Professor, Aarhus University
Randi Marselis, Associate Professor, University of Southern Denmark
Lene Myong, Assistant Professor, Aarhus University
Yvonne Mørck, Associate Professor, Roskilde University
Michael Nebeling Petersen, Ph.D. Fellow, University of Copenhagen
Linda Lund Petersen, Ph.D. Fellow, London School of Economics
Dorthe Staunæs, Professor, Aarhus University

Equality and Mainstreaming

Research into gender equality is included in a wide variety of disciplines with different theoretical and methodical approaches. Qualitative research on gender equality, for example, has dealt with experiences and understandings of gendered opportunities in the family context, the labour market, the public school system and academia, whereas quantitative research has focused on equality and representation in education and on boards of directors, amongst other things.

Gender mainstreaming is a strategy of equality adopted at the UN's World Conference of Women in Beijing in 1995. The central research on mainstreaming has looked into where and how the strategy has been implemented. Research has examined both best practices and barriers to the successful implementation of the strategy. It has been pointed out that the strategy moves the focus away from women to the more general category of 'gender', and that the still urgent inequalities that women are facing might be forgotten or disappear in the rhetoric. On the other hand, it has been argued that a wider focus on gender will encourage less stereotypical ideas of women's problems, as well as making explicit the possibility that men also can experience discrimination.

Today there is a tendency to integrate gender mainstreaming into a broader diversity mainstreaming agenda, with attention being given to the fact that discrimination can happen on account of many other variables than gender, such as ethnicity, sexuality, race and age. Again, the criticism raised points out the risk of not only women but also gender losing its meaning and disappearing in the multitude of other grounds for discrimination, or claims that the strategy is simply being diluted.

Michala Hvidt Breengaard



Photo: Sloan Poe

Selected researchers

Lise Rolandsen Augustin, Assistant Professor, Aalborg University

Anette Borchorst, Professor, Aalborg University

Michala Hvidt Breengaard, Ph.D. Fellow, University of Copenhagen

Hilda Rømer Christensen, Associate Professor, University of Copenhagen

Ruth Emerek, Professor, Aalborg University

Christina Fiig, Associate Professor, Aarhus University

Inge Henningsen, Associate Professor, Aarhus University

Diana Højlund Madsen, Assistant Professor, Aalborg University

Mette Lykke Nielsen, Post.doc., Aarhus University

Susanne Possing, Development Research, Development for Change

Iris Rittenhofer, Associate Professor, Aarhus University

Karen Sjørup, Associate Professor, Roskilde University

Family and Kinship



Photo: Sjoerd van Oosten

Research on the making of family and kin builds on international scholarship about family dynamics, gendered divisions of household work, the work–life balance, constellations of kin relationships, parenthood, adoption and new reproductive technologies. Research on family-related issues often concerns studies of gender roles in the family and tensions between women’s household work and their labour market participation. Other research areas deal with the evolution of parenthood, for example, changes in the practices and understandings of motherhood, fatherhood and rainbow parenting. Sociological studies of reproductive technologies and adoption indicate that the making of kinship has become a do-it-yourself project that can be understood as a form of reproductive labour. Couples, typically those living in the Western world, act as flexible consumers in a global market in order to realize their dreams of parenthood and/or to gain access to younger and better reproductive cells.

Feminist scholarship has demonstrated how reproduction without sex destabilizes the nuclear family and re-naturalizes the desire for motherhood, while turning biogenetic substances into global commodities. Inspired by this work, contemporary Danish research explores how new developments in the fields of reproductive technologies and transnational adoption not only continue to (trans)form kinship in novel ways, but also work to re-articulate and uphold conventional understandings of relatedness.

Charlotte Kroløkke, Anna Sofie Bach and Michala Breengard

Selected researchers

Stine Adrian, Assistant Professor, Aalborg University

Anna Sofie Bach, Ph.D. Fellow, University of Copenhagen

Lotte Bloksgaard, Assistant Professor, Aalborg University

Michala Hvidt Breengard, Ph.D. Fellow, University of Copenhagen

Charlotte Kroløkke, Associate Professor, University of Southern Denmark

Karen Hvidtfeldt Madsen, Associate Professor, University of Southern Denmark

Nina Koefoed, Associate Professor, Aarhus University

Lene Myong, Assistant Professor, Aarhus University

Mai Heide Ottesen, Senior Researcher, The Danish National Centre for Social Research

Charlotte Overgaard, Assistant Professor, Aalborg University

Kenneth Reinicke, Associate Professor, Roskilde University

Bente Rosenbeck, Professor, University of Copenhagen

Tine Tjørnhøj-Thomsen, Professor, University of Southern Denmark

Feminist Theory

Feminist theory has its roots in activist feminist movements and different theoretical positions. In recent decades, feminist theory has developed into being an independent research discipline with its own set of questions and discussions. The questions that characterise the making of feminist theory are, for example, what is gender/sex? How do we understand gender/sex? Which imaginations and ideas are linked to gender/sex, and how is gender/sex operationalized politically and linguistically?

Feminist theory is a conflation of many different ways of comprehending and interpreting gender/sex, as, for example, liberal, socialist and radical feminisms. Often feminist theory is formed within a field of interdisciplinarity, where feminist theory is coupled with theories of sexuality, race, ethnicity, class, age, geopolitics and nationalism. This notion is exemplified in the conceptualizations of queer and crip theories, sexual difference theories, postcolonial theory, critical race and whiteness theories, (post-)constructivism and somatic-materialist theories.

A significant interest of feminist theorists is the dismantling of fixed ideas and stereotypes about gender, gendered norms and gendered hierarchies. Feminist theories often use creative and activist approaches, seeking new ways not only to understand topics or issues, but also to transform them. This is mainly done through creative ways of understanding and doing gender. The formative in feminist theories emerges in its engagement with other theoretical and practical disciplines, as, for example, creative writing. Transgressions of conventional boundaries, theories and categories are essential characteristics of feminist theories.

Linda Lund Pedersen



Photo: Dmitry Franck

Selected researchers

Dag Heede, Associate Professor, University of Southern Denmark

Nina Lykke, Professor, Linköping University

Bente Rosenbeck, Professor, University of Copenhagen

Lilian Munk Rösing, Associate Professor, University of Copenhagen

Robin May Schott, Senior Researcher, Danish Institute for International Studies

Birte Siim, Professor, Aalborg University

Christel Stormhøj, Associate Professor, Roskilde University

Dorte Marie Søndergaard, Professor, Aarhus University

Food



Photo: Vincent J. Brown

In all cultures (and subcultures) food and meals constitute institutionalized meeting points that reflect values and create opinions, thereby demarcating limits, hierarchies and differences – especially gendered differences. Just think of café menus where the ‘light’ chicken burger is presented as an acceptable feminine alternative to the ‘real’ burger for men. Thus interdisciplinary research on the relationship between food and gender is a rich source of insight into the gendered meanings of a social context, and useful for tracing the changes in these meanings.

Gender perspectives on food include analyses of differences in men’s and women’s practices of food production and consumption. This research employs a historical perspective, starting from the patriarchal society, with its clear gender hierarchy reflected directly on to people’s plates, and moving to the conversation kitchens of the Danish welfare state, where gender and food are ascribed meanings in a more fluctuating manner.

A recurrent point of criticism has been to show how food culture has been used to maintain masculine dominance. Recent studies discuss how food practices reflect changeability in relations between the sexes, showing how this can be used to mediate gender negotiations.

Cultural representations of food in advertisements, cookbooks, food blogs etc. often use gender myths, thus providing useful empirical material for gender research in this field. These representations might not reflect actual gender relations in society, but they do display the entanglement of meanings ascribed to food and gender.

Many studies take an interdisciplinary and intersectional approach since the gendered meanings of food often are intertwined with other social categories, such as class, ethnicity and level of education.

Jonatan Leer

Selected researchers

Bente Halkier, Professor, Roskilde University

Lotte Holm, Professor, University of Copenhagen

Stinne Gunder Strøm Krogager, Ph.D. Fellow, Aarhus University

Jonatan Leer, Ph.D. Fellow, University of Copenhagen

Caroline Nyvang, Ph.D. Fellow, University of Copenhagen

Karen Klitgaard Povlsen, Associate Professor, Aarhus University

Dorte Ruge, Ph.D. Fellow, Aalborg University

Health and Disease

Worldwide female life expectancy is higher than male life expectancy. This fact has resulted in comparisons between the two genders in terms of both their biology and their general living conditions. Medical treatment ought to be gender-specific as a rule, with non-specific treatment given only when there is biological evidence to justify it. Many side effects of medication can, for example, be attributed to the fact that no distinctions are made between the genders with regard to dosage. Higher female life expectancy is often described as 'lost healthy lifetime', that is, women live longer, but often with disabilities. Why are we seeing these gender differences? Research has shown that differences in hormone exposure are already crucial in the foetal state. It is essential to investigate this issue further to ensure proper health care for both genders from infancy into old age.

A bio-psycho-social approach to health research is essential. This means that it is important to investigate how these different conditions interact in order to understand the causes of diseases and illnesses. Health research is often interdisciplinary and employs a variety of methods.

Gender socialization has a huge impact on health issues, but it is often ignored in health research. Important themes being researched concern how stress affects the two genders, the impact of toxic agents in the environment, work-related conditions, and new family relations, with the considerable demands they place on the individual. Reproductive health is also a key research area, one that is especially important today, when approximately one in ten women make use of technological assistance to achieve pregnancy, and all pregnant women are offered prenatal screening.

Birgit Petersson



Photo: Charlotte Astrid

Selected researchers

Bente Danneskiold-Samsøe, Professor, Frederiksberg Hospital
Lise Dyhr, Senior Researcher, University of Copenhagen
Karin Garde, Consultant Doctor (retired)
Karin Helweg-Larsen, Senior Researcher, University of Southern Denmark
Hanne Hollnagel, Senior Researcher, University of Copenhagen
Lotte Hvas, Senior Researcher, University of Copenhagen
Bibi Hølge-Hazelton, Associate Professor, University of Copenhagen
Lisbeth B. Knudsen, Professor, Aalborg University
Merete Nordentoft, Professor, University of Copenhagen
Birgit Petersson, Associate Professor, University of Copenhagen
Lone Schmidt, Associate Professor, University of Copenhagen
Margrethe Silberschmidt, Associate Professor, University of Copenhagen
Anne Cathrine Thorup, Ph.D. Fellow, Aarhus University Hospital
Hanne Wielandt, Consultant doctor, Kolding Hospital
Tine Rask Eriksen, Associate Professor, University of Copenhagen



**Manu Sareen,
Minister of Gender
Equality and
Ecclesiastical
Affairs**

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Gender and equality research contributes, among other things, to highlighting the barriers restricting women’s and men’s free choice and opportunities for development. When the potentials, resources and talents of both women and men are utilized to the fullest, it benefits the individual and promotes economic growth and welfare.”

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**Halldór Ásgrímsson,
General Secretary of
the Nordic Council
of Ministers**

The Nordic countries have a strong sector of competent actors and institutions in gender and equality research. These should be maintained. Substantial knowledge of gender and equality gives us the ability to see both the challenges and the development potential in our society.”

History

Historical research on women and gender has a strong tradition in Denmark. Since its beginnings in the 1970s it has focused on a broad range of historical topics, starting with pure research on the history of working-class women and the labour movement in Denmark. From here it developed to engaging with the history of political parties, women's associations and feminist movements, moving from the 1850s to the 1970s. This work contributed to making visible the history of democracy, beginning with the first parliamentary constitution in 1849 and followed by the constitutional amendments in 1915 and 1953, which proclaimed the inclusion of women as equal citizens. The next foci of research were the history of equality legislation and the history of the welfare state, work which will culminate in a larger project marking the Danish anniversary of women's suffrage in 2015.

Danish historical research on women and gender also includes research on gender segregation in the labour market, the gendered division of labour in both the private and public spheres and the struggle for equal pay; education ranging from girls' schools to universities; issues of sexuality, such as honour disputes, free abortion, homosexuality, queer and transgender phenomena, and the history of marriage and the family in a Nordic comparative perspective.

Research on women and gender has had crucial empirical and theoretical impacts on mainstream historical research in Denmark. The prevailing modes of analysis have been based on or consisted of theories of patriarchy, cultural analysis, social constructivism, and comparative, interdisciplinary and transnational analyses.

Danish biographical research has won itself a pioneering position through the development of new methods for the understanding of the gendered personality in history, as well as by making visible forgotten female personalities in specific works, including the National Biographical Dictionary from 2002, with 1,924 new historical biographies of women.

Birgitte Possing

Selected researchers

Anette Eklund Hansen, Research librarian, KVINFO
Anne Folke Henningsen, Post.doc., University of Copenhagen
Nina Kofod, Associate Professor, Aarhus University
Jytte Larsen, Senior Researcher, KVINFO
Karin Lützen, Associate Professor, Roskilde University
Susanne Malchau Dietz, Principal Investigator, Diakonissestiftelsen
Jytte Nielsen, Research librarian and consultant, KVINFO
Kristine Midtgaard, Associate Professor, University of Southern Denmark
Birgitte Possing, Research Professor, The Danish State Archives
Bente Rosenbeck, Professor, University of Copenhagen
Karen Vallgård, Post.doc., University of Copenhagen
Anette Warring, Professor, Roskilde University
Tinne Vammen, Historian, no affiliation



Photo: Bert Kaufmann

Legal Culture and Regulation



Photo: Dmitry Valberg

The cultural context in which legal systems and regulation are developed and employed is a topic of research that is attracting increasing attention both within and outside the Western world. In the US, studies of legal culture have dealt with both professional and popular legal cultures, as well as racial discrimination, whereas gendered differences are being explored less. In Europe, differences in national legal cultures and differences between ‘secular’ and ‘religious’ legal cultures are the main topics of research, in all of which questions of gender and religion play a significant role. The dominant Christian moral heritage still plays an important role in the formation of, for example, criminal, marital and family law, as exemplified by recent discussion concerning the ‘gender-neutral marriage’.

In social democratic welfare states, and in Scandinavian women’s and gender law, (EU) regulation and legislative culture have occupied a central position, especially in areas such as equality, labour, social and health law. European and international profession studies have also focused on how the judicial labour market is generally characterized by gender segregation. This is also true of the Nordic countries, where female lawyers primarily work in the women- and family-friendly public sector, while the private labour market, especially when it comes to attorneys, is characterized by higher wages, longer working hours and relatively few female employees and partners. Contract law and commercial law, which play important roles in the legal culture of a neoliberal economy, are thus characterized by an absence of female practitioners and female researchers.

Hanne Petersen

Selected researchers

Trine Baumbach, Associate Professor, University of Copenhagen

Mette Hartlev, Professor, University of Copenhagen

Stine Jørgensen, Associate Professor, University of Copenhagen

Kirsten Ketscher, Professor, University of Copenhagen

Annette Kronborg, Associate Professor, University of Copenhagen

Ingrid Lund-Andersen, Professor, University of Copenhagen

Ruth Nielsen, Professor, Copenhagen Business School

Hanne Petersen, Professor, University of Copenhagen

Lynn Roseberry, Associate Professor, Copenhagen Business School

Christina D. Tvarnø, Professor, Copenhagen Business School

Jose Maria L. Villaverde, Ph.D. Fellow, University of Copenhagen

Literature

Who is granted access to literary institutions? How does gender affect writers' chances of being recognized as successful? What is the role of gender in determining who is included, and how, in the history of literature and culture? Other questions to be asked are: What is the significance of gender when it comes to how writers write and what they write about? How are gender and sexuality, male and female, hetero- and homosexuality, and forms which shatter the existing patterns of these relationships portrayed in literary texts and popular culture? Could it be claimed that language and texts in themselves create gender and sexuality, and if so, in what ways? These are the kinds of questions that literary gender research deals with, employing a broad understanding of text that has come to include different forms of pop culture and media products, ranging from movies and TV to blogs and Facebook.

The methods used range from the more classical text and genre analyses to multi-faceted discourse analysis, while theoretical inspiration is found in the traditions of performativity and queer theory, among others. Literary and cultural gender research also deals with how literature and texts are read and used, particularly in new multi-modal and interactive ways on the internet. This research attempts to shed light on how the boundaries between the production and consumption of texts are blurred in digital culture, providing a basis for new ways of experimenting with gender and sexuality. Literary gender research is therefore closely related to communication and media research, as well as to research in popular and digital culture employing a gender and sexuality perspective.

Anne Scott Sørensen

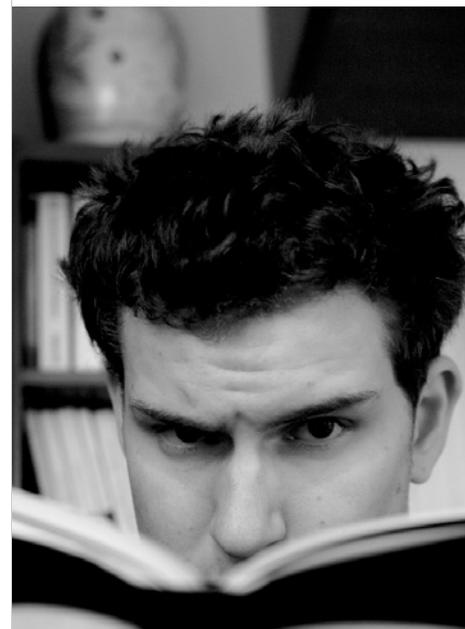


Photo: Ivan Zuber

Selected researchers

Gunhild Agger, Professor, Aalborg University

Lise Busk-Jensen, Dr.Phil., no affiliation

Dag Heede, Associate Professor, University of Southern Denmark

Anne Mette Hejlsted, Teacher, Blaagaard

Elisabeth Møller Jensen, Director, KVINFO

Susanne V. Knudsen, Professor, Vestfold University Colleges, Norway

Anne-Marie Mai, Professor, University of Southern Denmark

Karen Klitgaard Povlsen, Associate Professor, Aarhus University

Anne Birgitte Richard, Professor, Roskilde University

Lilian Munk Rösing, Associate Professor, University of Copenhagen

Marie-Louise Svane, Associate Professor, University of Copenhagen

Anne Scott Sørensen, Associate Professor, University of Southern Denmark

Lotte Thrane, Dr.Phil., no affiliation

Tania Ørum, Associate Professor, University of Copenhagen



Photo: David Hodgson

Media

Research on gender and media analyses representations of gender and gender differences in media, showing how these representations are perceived by audiences. Research is carried out on both old and new (digital) media: printed press, magazines, TV news programmes, TV series and the new genres of the internet.

Among the main themes of this research are representations of women of non-Danish origin, representations of female politicians and the use of female experts. Several projects focus on youth, for example, a recent Nordic project investigating differences in gender representation in pornography, and gendered differences in habits of pornography use. Other important genres being researched include Danish and imported drama series, including Scandinavian crime series, and genres directed specifically at a female audience, such as so-called 'chick-fiction'.

Female media researchers have investigated new areas such as celebrity culture, make-over shows and blogs, all of which make female participants and women's media preferences visible. Male researchers have focused primarily on representations of masculinity, homosexuality and transgender phenomena.

This research draws on approaches from the arts and social sciences. Several projects are multidisciplinary in their use of quantitative and qualitative interview studies to complement the analyses of text and genre. The gender theory employed is often queer theory. In accordance with recent theories of reception, the audience is seen as co-creators of meaning rather than as passive receivers of ready-made messages. A typical conclusion is that conventional gender stereotypes are thriving in the media, but that both the media and its consumers are highly self-reflexive.

Vibeke Pedersen

Selected researchers

Rikke Andreassen, Associate Professor, Roskilde University
Sarah Højgaard Cawood, Gender Equality Consultant in Copenhagen Municipality
Kirsten Drotner, Professor, University of Southern Denmark
Niels Henrik Hartvigson, Post.doc., University of Copenhagen
Carol Henriksen, Associate Professor, Roskilde University
Anne Jerslev, Professor, University of Copenhagen
Susanne V. Knudsen, Professor, Vestfold University College
Randi Marselis, Associate Professor, University of Southern Denmark
Michael Nebeling Petersen, Ph.D. Fellow, University of Copenhagen
Vibeke Pedersen, Part-time Lecturer, University of Copenhagen
Karen Klitgaard Povlsen, Associate Professor, Aarhus University
Tobias Raun, Ph.D. Fellow, Roskilde University
Rikke Schubart, Associate Professor, University of Southern Denmark
Anne Scott Sørensen, Associate Professor, University of Southern Denmark
Niels Ulrik Sørensen, Associate Professor, Aarhus University
Bodil Marie Stavnig Thomsen, Associate Professor, Aarhus University

Men and Masculinities

Danish research on men and masculinities encompasses studies of the creation of 'men' as a social, cultural and biological category. It focuses on the practices, identities, symbols, institutions and power structures which constitute the framework for understanding this category. The significance of the category of the male has been studied in relation to age, class, law, race, ethnicity, culture, sexuality and other categories that contribute to shaping male bodies. Recent research emphasizes the complex variety of ways in which manhood is constructed, showing how these constructions depend on and/or inform femininities in society. Investigations have been conducted into dominant, marginalized and alternative masculinities, as well as on how power relations between the genders are structured. New research also discusses the manifold performances of masculinity as found in the growing field of transgender, cross-gender and feminine masculinities. Postcolonial studies of men have also challenged ideas of patriarchal logics and pointed to more complex and less hierarchical forms of relations between masculinity and femininity.

The most common research methods in this field are qualitative interviews, discourse analysis, fieldwork and historical reviews, as well as quantitative methods such as surveys and medical observations.

Examples of issues studied within this research area include men as fathers and caregivers, men's work and family life, boys' learning and bullying, crime and the marginalization of men, male aesthetic and cultural productions, and desire and love among and between men. The disciplines that have been most active in the study of men and masculinities are pedagogy, psychology, medicine and public health, anthropology and sociology, work and welfare studies, sexuality studies, history, art and cultural studies.

Christian Groes-Green



Photo: Gabriel S. Delgado

Selected researchers

Anna Sofie Bach, Ph.D. Fellow, University of Copenhagen
Henning Bech, Professor, University of Copenhagen
Lotte Bloksgaard, Assistant Professor, Aalborg University
Hans Bonde, Professor, University of Copenhagen
Christian Groes-Green, Assistant Professor, Roskilde University
Sune Qvotrup Jensen, Associate Professor, Aalborg University
Svend Aage Madsen, Head of Department, Rigshospitalet
Steen Baagøe Nielsen, Associate Professor, Roskilde University
Bjarke Oxlund, Post.doc., University of Copenhagen
Tobias Raun, Pd.D. Fellow, Roskilde University
Kenneth Reinicke, Associate Professor, Roskilde University

Prostitution and Sex Work



Photo: Thomas Hawk

Prostitution research in Denmark has focused primarily on women selling sexual services, whereas sex clients and male prostitution have remained relatively unexplored themes. Prostitution and sex work is an interdisciplinary research field, with research being carried out in anthropology, international studies (including migration studies), sociology and history. The research investigates what room for manoeuvre sex workers have, and looks at the social conditions and norms that are involved in making prostitution a survival strategy employed by women in particular. Within migration research there is a growing interest in sex work, the global sex industry and human trafficking. The focus is set on the interplay of economic, sexual and affective relations, as well as on the trafficking industry.

Historical studies have focused on both the regulation of prostitution and prostitutes' living conditions. There are studies on regulation by public authorities, as well as on the views about prostitution held by experts and women's movements.

Recent research approaches are informed by poststructuralist gender theory and by migration studies focusing on transnational relations. This development has produced intersectional analyses, where the categories of gender, race, ethnicity and sexuality are combined to make visible the area of tension between on the one hand the living conditions of women, and on the other hand conceptions of the 'prostitute'.

Marlene Spanger

Selected researchers

Trine Baumbach, Associate Professor, University of Copenhagen

Jeanett Bjønness, Ph.D. Fellow, Aarhus University

Sine Plambech, Ph.D. Fellow, Danish Institute for International Studies

Christian Groes-Green, Assistant Professor, Roskilde University

Marie Bruvik Heinskou, Assistant Professor, University of Copenhagen

Trine Mygind Korsby, Ph.D. Fellow, University of Copenhagen

Merete Bøge Pedersen, Part-time Lecturer, Aalborg University

Bodil Pedersen, Associate Professor, Roskilde University

Marlene Spanger, Assistant Professor, Aalborg University

Religion

Gender research dealing with themes of religion explores the relationships of the different religious systems to gender as both a phenomenon and a category. This entails examining views on gender roles, women, the body, sexuality, and morality and ethics. This research is focused on how gendered meanings within particular religions, in both their textual and extra- and metatextual expressions, have unfolded in specific historical, cultural and theological contexts.

For methodological inspiration this research draws on close readings and discourse analysis, deconstruction and ideological criticism, in combination with methods stemming from cultural studies and the history of mentalities. Important theories include classic feminist theories, queer theory and post-colonial theories.

Discussions of the relationship between nature/biology and culture and between essentialism and constructivism are a focal point of this research. Currently, the discussion of gendered meanings related to homosexuality in contrast to heterosexuality is a hot topic, not just in Christianity or with regard to the question of wedding rituals, but in the area of religion as a whole.

Else Marie Wiberg Pedersen



Photo: Susann Jehnichen

Selected researchers

Gitte Buch-Hansen, Professor, University of Copenhagen

Hilda Rømer Christensen, Associate Professor, University of Copenhagen

Lone Fatum, Master of Theology, no affiliation

Marianne Quortrup Fibiger, Associate Professor, Aarhus University

Anne Folke Henningsen, Assistant Professor, University of Copenhagen

Else Kragelund Holt, Associate Professor, Aarhus University

Susanne Malchau Dietz, Head of Research, School of Nursing of Diakonissestiftelsen

Else Marie Wiberg Pedersen, Associate Professor, Aarhus University

Anders Klostergaard Petersen, Professor, Aarhus University

Benedicte Hammer Præstholt, Ph.D. Fellow, Aarhus University

René Rosfort, Søren Kierkegaard Research Centre, University of Copenhagen

Marianne Schleicher, Associate Professor, Aarhus University

Lene Sjørup, Ph.D., no affiliation



Photo: Yogurinha Borova

Sexuality and Queer Studies

Research on sexuality is spread over several subjects and disciplines. These include:

- historical studies of conceptions and constructions of sexuality
- legislation concerning sexuality
- anthropological and medical studies of reproductive and sexual health
- sociological and jurisprudential studies of equality and social justice for sexual minorities
- studies of cultural phenomena such as art, literature and media in the humanities
- discourse analyses of norms and hierarchies
- pedagogical studies of the formation of identity among children and young people.

Research in the humanities and social sciences has a strong focus on sexuality as a modern construction that can tell us something about more general power relations and social developments in society at large. Queer studies conceptualize sexuality as closely tied to other categories of identity, such as gender, race, class and nationality. Thus, research into sexuality and queer studies covers a broad subject field, sexuality being understood as a prism for other interdependent subjects or themes.

The study of social concepts regarding sexual behaviour can tell us something about general codes of morality and values, just as studies of the construction of sexualities can inform us about how notions of sexuality, race and gender influence the way we understand ourselves, others and national communities.

Michael Nebeling Petersen

Selected researchers

Henning Bech, Professor, University of Copenhagen

Maja Bissenbakker Frederiksen, Assistant Professor, University of Copenhagen

Marie Bruvik Heinskou, Assistant Professor, University of Copenhagen

Mathias Danbolt, Ph.D. Fellow, University of Bergen

Peter Edelberg, Post.doc., University of Copenhagen

Rune Gade, Associate Professor, University of Copenhagen

Christian Graugaard, Professor, Aalborg University

Christian Groes-Green, Assistant Professor, Roskilde University

Dag Heede, Associate Professor, University of Southern Denmark

Karin Lützen, Associate Professor, Roskilde University

Michael Nebeling Petersen, Ph.D. Fellow, University of Copenhagen

Bente Rosenbeck, Professor, University of Copenhagen

Christel Stormhøj, Associate Professor, Roskilde University

Signe Arnfred, Associate Professor, Roskilde University

Sport and Body Culture

Sport-related research with a focus on gender and the body is often oriented towards the human and social sciences, although human physiology also contributes significantly to knowledge in this area. In the perspective of cultural studies, research on sport deals with social constructions of gender, gendered norms and ideals, discourses and practices, as well as the effects of these for power in the world of sport in particular, and in body cultures in general.

Several studies have been conducted with the aim of understanding sport, the body and gender in the context of health and welfare politics and policies. These include studies of the importance of sport and physical activity for health and well-being among different groups, for example, senior secondary-school students or physically inactive middle-aged women and men.

Research in the field of elite sport has been focused on legal and illegal performance enhancement, as well as on gender-specific opinions on and experiences with the practices of body-building in fitness clubs. Currently, several studies are being conducted on the feminisation of football and on migration processes among female football players. Research has also been done on gender-testing, sexual harassment and homophobia.

In the field of physiology, analyses have been made of how athletic training affects the two genders in different ways. There has been a specific interest in the female body, with regard to such problems as eating disorders and disturbances to the menstrual cycle, as well as bodily reactions to physical activity and different kinds of dieting.

Else Trangbæk and Gertrud Pfister



Photo: Ozan Hatipoglu

Selected researchers

Sine Agergaard, Associate Professor, University of Copenhagen

Hans Bonde, Professor, University of Copenhagen

Lone Thing Friis, Associate Professor, University of Copenhagen

Eva Wulff Helge, Teaching Associate Professor, University of Copenhagen

Bente Kiens, Professor, University of Copenhagen

Laila Ottesen, Associate Professor, University of Copenhagen

Gertrud Pfister, Professor, University of Copenhagen

Jan Toftegaard, Associate Professor, University of Southern Denmark

Else Trangbæk, Professor, University of Copenhagen



Photo: Alex Masters

Technology and Materiality

Technology has been a central theme of research since the conception of gender studies as an academic discipline. Technologies have engaged feminist researchers because they challenge conventional conceptions of the body, sex and gender. Furthermore, technologies may have both emancipatory and oppressive potentials. In recent years, Danish researchers dealing with questions of gender and technology have mainly focused their research on two empirical areas. The first area is that of medical technologies such as prenatal diagnostics and assisted reproduction. These studies have focused on conceptions of gender, risk, normality, kinship and the family. The second area is research focusing on IT. Here, questions have been raised concerning how gender is negotiated in virtual space, through social media, in games and in the work place.

Empirical analysis of the relationships between technologies, bodies and gender has generated a demand for a theoretical understanding of how the agency of materiality can be included in the thinking on gender. The question is how technologies and bodies take part in creating change.

The focus on materiality is currently informing other fields of research too, a theoretical and empirical interest that has been called 'the material turn'. In Denmark, theories within feminist science and technology studies have been particularly prominent in this development. Donna Haraway's notion of the cyborg as a fusion of technology and the body has for many years enabled transdisciplinary analysis of how the body, gender and technology are intertwined. Karen Barad has recently contributed with her theory of agential realism, which provides a conceptual framework for examining how knowledge and the universe come into being in a material-discursive process.

Stine Adrian

Selected researchers

Stine Willum Adrian, Assistant Professor, Aalborg University

Barbara Ann Barrett, Ph.D. Fellow, University of Copenhagen

Tine Gammeltoft, Associate Professor, University of Copenhagen

Sidsel Lond Grosen, Assistant Professor, Roskilde University

Cathrine Hasse, Professor, Aarhus University

Bettina Hauge, Part-time Lecturer, University of Copenhagen

Tine Jensen, Associate Professor, Roskilde University

Malou Juelskær, Associate Professor, Aarhus University

Lene Koch, Professor, University of Copenhagen

Jette Kofoed, Associate Professor, Aarhus University

Charlotte Kroløkke, Associate Professor, University of Southern Denmark

Randi Markussen, Associate Professor, IT University of Copenhagen

Sebastian Mohr, Ph.D. Fellow, University of Copenhagen

Birgit Petersson, Associate Professor, University of Copenhagen

Nete Schwennesen, University of Copenhagen

Dorte Marie Søndergaard, Professor, Aarhus University

Tine Tjørnhøj-Thomsen, Professor, University of Southern Denmark

Transnational Studies and Globalization

Studies in transnationalism and globalization are taking place primarily within the disciplines of anthropology, political science, sociology, public health science and development studies.

Research into transnationalism and globalization is a broad field that includes international relief work, migration regimes and gender regimes, migration politics and the migration industry. On the one hand the focus is on gendered forms of control and regulation in respect of the various forms of migration, such as labour migration, forced migration and refugees. On the other hand the focus is on the new forms that gendered identities are assuming in the global world. The primary area of study is the flows of migration both within the global south and from the global south to the global north.

Specific studies that deserve mention include:

- media and consumption in transnational spaces and within development support
- human trafficking as a global industry
- transnational prostitution and sex tourism
- global care networks, with a special focus on au-pair arrangements and migrant domestic workers in the Nordic countries
- marriage migration, with a focus on the entanglement of economic, emotional, sexual and social relations
- transnational forms of kinship and family constellations with a focus on, for example, the international adoption industry, transnational reproduction technology and transnational motherhood constructions.

Marlene Spanger

Selected researchers

Lene Bull Christiansen, Assistant Professor, Roskilde University
Connie Carøe Christiansen, Associate Professor, Roskilde University
Hanne Marlene Dahl, Professor, Roskilde University
Nauja Kleist, Senior Researcher, Danish Institute for International Studies
Charlotte Kroløkke, Associate Professor, University of Southern Denmark
Anika Liversage, Senior Researcher, Danish National Centre for Social Research
Lene Myong, Assistant Professor, Aarhus University
Karen Fog Olwig, Professor, University of Copenhagen
Sine Plambech, Ph.D. Fellow, University of Copenhagen
Lisa Ann Richey, Professor, Roskilde University
Mikkel Rytter, Assistant Professor, Aarhus University
Marlene Spanger, Assistant Professor, Aalborg University
Pauline Stoltz, Associate Professor, Aalborg University
Martin Bak Jørgensen, Assistant Professor, Aalborg University
Ninna Nyberg Sørensen, Senior Researcher, Danish Institute for International Studies
Signe Arnfred, Associate Professor, Roskilde University



Photo: doncav



**Britta Thomsen,
Social Democrat,
Member of the
European
Parliament**

“

Economic growth is a condition for welfare, and growth in the future depends on how we manage research, development and innovation. This invites us to make use of the entire range of talent in Denmark. Gender research helps us to understand how we can promote the talents of both genders. It is about being critical of social norms and focusing on the advantages of greater diversity – among engineers and researchers, as well as the CEOs of major companies.”

“

**Jens Oddershede,
Rector, University
of Southern
Denmark**

If we understand the connection between gender and social challenges, we have a far better chance of generating innovation, growth and welfare.”

Violence and Rape

Gender research into violence and rape is empirical in focus. The research is both qualitative and quantitative, and is carried out within the fields of psychology, public health science, law, anthropology and sociology. Violence research focuses on violence in close relationships in the home and in romantic relationships, where a great proportion of the violence against women occurs. Violence that occurs outside the home – for example, sexual harassment at the workplace or men’s violence against men in the public sphere – is not as well documented. The main emphasis in gender research on sexualized attacks is on men’s rape of women, especially reported rapes, although some rape research employs broader gender and body perspectives.

Research on violence and rape tries to uncover the extent and character of the violence. In doing so it engages with a broad range of perspectives, including social, psychological and medical ones. Ethnicity is dealt with especially in examining violence conducted by men with an ethnic minority background and female victims of violence with an ethnic minority background. There is some research on professional work with victims and perpetrators. Examples of this are studies of mediation, after-care, treatment programmes for victims of violence or rape, and treatment methods for the perpetrators of violence and rape. Some of the research has been initiated by actors outside the university, for example, at centres for the treatment of sexual assaults in hospitals, at women’s shelters and at Servicestyrelsen (a Danish public service agency).

Rebekka Mahler



Photo: Jason Lehr

Selected researchers

Sofie Danneskiold-Samsøe, Assistant Professor, Roskilde University
Marie Bruvik Heinskou, Assistant Professor, University of Copenhagen
Karin Helweg-Larsen, Senior Researcher, University of Southern Denmark
Henriette Højberg, Leader, The Research and Documentation Centre
Karin Sten Madsen, Centre for Victims of Sexual Assault, Rigshospitalet
Rebekka Mahler, Acting Librarian, KVINFO
Yvonne Mørck, Associate Professor, Roskilde University
Bodil Maria Pedersen, Associate Professor, Roskilde University
Nell Rasmussen, Senior Consultant, National Board of Social Services
Kenneth Reinicke, Associate Professor, Roskilde University
Annelise Rust, Centre for Victims of Sexual Assault, Rigshospitalet
Annika Snare, Associate Professor, University of Copenhagen
Bo Wagner Sørensen, Researcher, LOKK

War, Conflict and Security



Photo: Fio Legendre

Research on gender and armed conflict is being conducted within anthropology, philosophy, migration research, political science and development research. It has focused on various conflict areas such as Burundi, Indonesia, Yugoslavia, Liberia, Rwanda, Sudan, South Africa and Zimbabwe. The research approaches employed range from investigations into institutionalization practices to discourse analyses.

The gendered approach to armed conflicts has focused on the occurrence of violence and rape against women in conflict situations, as well as on marginalized young men who are or have been involved in conflicts. The first theme, research on violence and rape, has facilitated a questioning of theories of 'security' and 'genocide', and has also led to further reflections on the concept of 'evil'. The second theme has included research on young men's social and economic vulnerability as a basis for recruitment, as well as on the consequences they face following the conflict, both of these themes being connected with analyses of the norms and ideas of masculinity that emerge around male communities, expressions of sexuality and marginalization processes under conditions of conflict. Other research has dealt with prevailing conceptions of gender in relief work with refugees and with the norms that regulate men's and women's participation in the work done in refugee camps.

Many researchers dealing with conflict and gender include factors such as class, ethnicity and age/generation in their work – the so-called 'intersectionality' perspective. The field provides an arena for the discussion of dilemmas such as those of women's agency versus women as victims and the potentiality of conflict situations to contribute to transformations of gender relations. Gender research contributes by challenging the stereotypes and implicit preconceptions about gender that are expressed in 'one-gendered' analyses and simplistic notions of women as victims and men as executioners.

Diana Højlund Madsen

Selected researchers

Steffen Jensen, Senior Researcher, Rehabilitation and Research Centre for Torture Victims

Bodil Folke Frederiksen, Associate Professor, Roskilde University

Lene Hansen, Professor, University of Copenhagen

Diana Højlund Madsen, Assistant Professor, Aalborg University

Jairo Rincon Munive, Post.doc., Danish Institute for International Studies

Robin May Schott, Senior Researcher, Danish Institute for International Studies

Pauline Stoltz, Associate Professor, Aalborg University

Simon Turner, Associate Professor, Aalborg University

Welfare State

Research on the welfare state has focused on how women have played a vital role in the shaping of the welfare state through active participation in philanthropic organizations and in women's organizations and movements. An increase in the representation of women within the political system has meant that questions pertaining to welfare policy, such as maternity leave, child care, family benefits, domestic violence, and equality, have been given a higher priority on the political agenda. The design of the welfare policies has shaped both men's and women's roles of caregiver and provider. Some research arises out of an interest in special groups, such as the homeless or sex workers, and single providers are often analyzed as a critical case to assess the solidarity of the welfare state. Another central focus is welfare and caring as professions.

A recurring discussion is on whether or not there exist particular regimes of welfare, caring, and gender, with different traditions and patterns of male providing and female caring. It has often been claimed that there is an especially female-friendly Nordic model, but at the same time Nordic studies have concluded that there are great differences between the countries.

Employing citizenship as a lens is an effective way to illustrate rights and obligations in the interaction between citizens and the state, and a way to analyze political and democratic identities. The interaction between political and social citizenship has been the object of many analyses both in the past and in current research, now with an added awareness with regard to transnational processes, the EU, and Europeanization. In recent years researchers have analyzed the importance of welfare for the interplay of gender, class, ethnicity, generation etc., in working with the principle of intersectionality. Parallel with this development, diversity and multiculturalism have become central research themes in themselves.

Anette Borchorst

Selected researchers

Lise Rolandsen Agustin, Assistant Professor, Aalborg University

Pernille Tanggaard Andersen, Associate Professor, University of Southern Denmark

Anette Borchorst, Professor, Aalborg University

Viola Burau, Associate Professor, Aarhus University

Hilda Rømer Christensen, Associate Professor, University of Copenhagen

Hanne Marlene Dahl, Professor with special duties, Roskilde University

Anette Eklund Hansen, Research Librarian, KVINFO

Nina Koefoed, Associate Professor, Aarhus University

Jørgen Elm Larsen, Professor, University of Copenhagen

Karin Lützen, Associate Professor, Roskilde University

Klaus Pedersen, Professor, University of Southern Denmark

Anna-Birte Ravn, Associate Professor, Aarhus University

Tine Rostgaard, Professor, University of Copenhagen

Birte Siim, Professor, Aarhus University

Tine Rask Eriksen, Associate Professor, University of Copenhagen



Photo: Mikael Colville-Andersen

Women's Movements – Social Movements



Photo: Craigh Bush

Research into women's movements has focused on a wide range of Danish movements and organizations. Philanthropic societies, temperance societies, the YWCA, sports clubs, housewives' guilds, women's committees of the political parties and trade unions have been researched, as well as feminist organizations such as the Danish Women's Society, the umbrella association the Council of Women, and the Redstockings movement.

These movements have been analysed as social movements, with special attention being given to women's efforts to establish their own spaces and their struggles to influence and change social conditions. For this purpose cultural analysis has been employed, focusing on themes such as gender, masculinity, identity, the body and aesthetics.

Current research is the result of new developments in theory and methodology. Examples of this are historical analyses of concepts pertaining to movements' strategies, post-structuralist and post-colonial approaches, and the development of comparative methods for the investigation of transnational tendencies. These approaches have been developed in studies of twentieth-century movements and tendencies, of the contribution of women's organisations to articulating relations between gender and work, and of European and global cooperation in the context of the EU and the UN.

In spite of important new research on subjects like the Redstockings movement, the early Danish women's rights movement and the suffrage, there are still significant blind spots when it comes to assessing the cultural and political significance of women's organizations in the development of democracy, ideas of gender and equality, the Danish welfare model, and so on.

Hilda Rømer Christensen

Selected researchers

Ann-Dorte Christensen, Professor, Aalborg University

Hilda Rømer Christensen, Associate Professor, University of Copenhagen

Drude Dahlerup, Professor Emeritus, Stockholm University

Sidsel Eriksen, Associate Professor, University of Copenhagen

Karin Lützen, Associate Professor, Roskilde University

Jytte Larsen, Senior Researcher, KVINFO

Anette Eklund Hansen, Research Librarian, KVINFO

Jytte Nielsen, Research Librarian and Special Consultant, KVINFO

Laila Ottesen, Associate Professor, University of Copenhagen

Lise Rolandsen Agustín, Assistant Professor, Aalborg University

Else Trangbæk, Professor, University of Copenhagen

Cecilia Milwertz, Senior Researcher, University of Copenhagen

Working Lives and the Labour Market

Working lives and the labour market are central areas in gender research, as they are among the primary sites of inequality between men and women. Theoretically, research has moved from marxist patriarchy theory and role theory to post-structuralism. Methodically the field encompasses economic statistics, quantitative surveys, qualitative observation, interview studies and historical analysis.

Initially, research was focused on women working in male-dominated jobs, women and management and women's working conditions. In recent years research has focused on gender relations, gendered notions of professionalism and specific work and professional cultures. In addition, research on the gendered division of labour has been carried out in themes such as wage formation, unionization and inequality in the labour market.

Relations between working lives and family lives have attracted particular interest, and this is an area in which men's and women's situations are both analysed. A major theme in research into working lives – both within and outside gender research – is the connection between people's identity and their work. This is explored through studies of subjectification processes and identity work in the context of people's working lives. The gendered division of labour is a central theme in this research. Several studies have examined the dynamics of the vertical division of labour, in which women are generally located at the bottom and men at the top of the social hierarchies of workplaces, and the horizontal division of labour, where women and men perform different tasks.



Photo: Thomas Leuthard

Jo Krøjer

Selected researchers

Pernille Tanggaard Andersen, Associate Professor, University of Southern Denmark

Yvonne Due Billing, Associate Professor, University of Copenhagen

Lotte Bloksgård, Assistant Professor, Aalborg University

Mette Deding, Leader of SFI Campbell, The Danish National Centre for Social Research

Ruth Emerek, Professor, Aalborg University

Stine Thidemann Faber, Associate Professor, Aalborg University

Lise Lotte Hansen, Associate Professor, Roskilde University

Helle Holt, Senior Researcher, The Danish National Centre for Social Research

Lis Højgaard, Associate Professor, University of Copenhagen

Jo Krøjer, Associate Professor, Roskilde University

Mona Larsen, Senior Researcher, The Danish National Centre for Social Research

Trine P. Larsen, Associate Professor, University of Copenhagen

Mette Lykke Nielsen, Post.doc., Aarhus University

Steen Baagøe Nielsen, Associate Professor, Roskilde University

Karen Sjørup, Associate Professor, Roskilde University

Kenn Warming, Ph.D. Fellow, Roskilde University

UPCOMING RESEARCH THEMES



TECHNUCATION

TECHNUCATION (TecU) or Technological Literacy and New Employee-Driven Innovation through Education is a four-year research project funded by the Danish Council for Strategic Research. Led by Professor Cathrine Hasse of the Danish School of Education, Aarhus University, TecU is a collaboration between the Danish School of Education, the Danish Technological Institute, UCC and the Metropolitan University College. Supported through the participation of some notable international educational researchers, TecU is driven through a combination of ethnographic field studies and experimental 'Living Labs'.

The central goal of TecU is to advance the understanding of technology that is tailored to the specific demands of vocational education. The challenge is to be able to harness the use of technology and its future development so that it can play an ever more relevant and integral role across the professional practices of teachers and nurses. Today technological literacy is primarily developed within the male-dominated fields of science, technology, engineering and to some extent mathematics (STEM for short). The female-dominated professional fields of nursing and teaching need to develop their own understandings of technological fluency by taking into account how technologies may affect their professions and professional activities. To achieve this new understanding of technological fluency created especially for professionals working with and through technologies, the project develops a new concept of technological literacy, which is to be understood as 'technological fluency' of a sort that can contribute to the sustained development of vocational education in general and to the advancement of future teaching and nursing practices in particular.

Cathrine Hasse



Photo: Kevin Dooley



Photo: Phillippe Leroyer

Trans*

Transgender studies engage in critical explorations of gender, especially transgender as a series of historical, theoretical and social liminalities. Transgender studies are a growing but still fairly limited field of study in Denmark. However, the year 2010 marked a growing awareness, with the seminar 'Transgender, Transgressions, Transdisciplinarity: Articulations of Gender Identities Before and Now', held at the University of Copenhagen, and a rich workshop programme at the annual Conference for Gender Research at the University of Southern Denmark, encompassing a variety of trans*-related topics. It was, however, in 2011 that trans* was established as a research field in Denmark, with the publication of a special theme issue of *Women, Gender and Research* on trans* and two accompanying and well-attended seminars at the University of Copenhagen and the Institute for Human Rights, with internationally acclaimed trans theorists and advocates: 'Scandinavian Trans* Studies' and 'Trans* Politics: Rights, Activism, and Studies'.

The Danish media has increasingly directed attention towards trans* people. An example of this from 2010 was the well-known television host Bubber visiting different subcultures in Denmark and coming across three transmen (put out under the misleading title of 'Chicks with Dicks'). Another important example from 2011 is the massive news coverage of a fifteen-year-old transman, Caspian, who had had top-surgery done at a private health clinic. What is significant both for the coverage of Caspian's case and the later media debate on trans* people's right to reproduce is that the focus remains personalised and thus excludes a broader questioning of the current legislation. Legislation catering for the needs of trans* people has not yet been created in Denmark, and as a result, when applying for gender reclassification transgender people are forced to apply for castration and sterilisation under a law from 1929 intended to deal with sexual offenders. Many trans* activists and theorists have criticised the current state of legislation, and strong criticisms have been raised of the Sexological Clinic at Rigshospitalet for acting as a gatekeeper with regard to access to transitioning technologies and gender reclassification, most recently in a public hearing at the Danish Parliament organised by the national advocacy organizations Trans Denmark and LGBT Denmark.

Tobias Raun

Transport and Climate

The choice of mode of transportation is linked to values, branding and gender identity. For several decades collective means of transportation have had a low priority, while the car – with or without energy considerations – is associated with freedom, speed, modernity and masculinity. The EU project Transgen had the gender mainstreaming of transportation and mobility in Europe as its focus and has showed that equality in transportation can be seen as a part of a wider vision of equality and sustainability in society. The overall conclusions were as follows:

- Men and women use transportation sectors in different ways.
- Men are consequently travelling further than women and are more likely to travel by car or plane.
- Women use collective means of transportation to a greater extent than men do, travelling more locally and combining more tasks on each trip.
- Gendered transportation habits, and the different needs and resources available to men and women, can be useful to bear in mind when it comes to creating a better gender balance within committees for traffic policy and research. In 2007, the central committees for road and rail transportation in the EU had memberships of 72-95% men, while in Denmark only about 11% of MPs sitting on parliamentary committees for traffic policy were women.

Following the UN's climate conference in 2009 and the present climate agenda, several initiatives in the form of web portals and political affidavits on gender, climate and transport have been created in Denmark and the other Nordic countries. In the spring of 2012 the Danish government agreed to renew the focus on transport as part of its climate policy while holding the EU presidency. In that context, the need for new knowledge and more cohesive and in-depth research in the field was pointed out.

Hilda Rømer Christensen

Read more

Gender mainstreaming European transport research and policies – building the knowledge base and mapping good practices.

The Co-ordination for Gender Research. University of Copenhagen:
[koensforskning.soc.ku.dk/projekter/transgen/eu-rapport-transgen.pdf/](http://koensforskning.soc.ku.dk/projekter/transgen/eu-rapport-transgen.pdf)

Nordic Webportal on gender and climate, including transport, energy, consumption, food:
equalclimate.org/se/

EU-report 2012: *Køn, ligestilling og klimaforandringer: Undersøgelse af gennemførelsen i EU af Beijinghandlingsplanens problemområde K: kvinder og miljø.*

Read about the main findings:
eige.europa.eu/da/content/document/gender-equality-and-climate-change-main-findings



Photo: M. Jeremy Goldman

Gender Research Centers in DK

Center for Gender Research

University of Copenhagen

The Center for Gender Research provides a framework for inter-disciplinary, humanistic research and education. The main focus lies on the historical, cultural and linguistic dimensions, and on more general questions pertaining to theory of science and history of science. Reproduction and sexuality constitutes an overarching theme. The research done at the Center builds on the study of identity, norms, and power relations as they are expressed in intersectional interplay with social categories and phenomena such as e.g. gender, sexuality, race, class, nationality and handicap, newer and older forms of kinship, and affect/feelings, employing feminist and queer theoretical perspectives. Contemporary debates, historical sources, new media, literature and pop culture are all examples of the empirical material that is used.

Visit the website koensforskning.ku.dk

CKMM – Center for Gender, Power and Diversity

University of Roskilde

CKMM is an interdisciplinary research center with 31 affiliated researchers ranging from ph.d.-level to professors, and based in 4 different institutes. The aim of the center is to understand how gender – and other categories – interact on different levels (local, national and global) and thus reproduce or transform societal power relations. CKMM collaborates with leading gender research groups in the Nordic countries, in Europe and in Africa. The center currently offers courses on BA and MA levels in collaboration with the relevant boards of studies, and it regularly hosts academic events such as gender cafes and lunch meetings.

Visit the website ruc.dk/forskning/forskningscentre/ckmm

EDGE – Centre for Equality, Diversity and Gender

Institute for Culture and Global Studies, University of Aalborg

EDGE has expert knowledge on equality, inequality and social differentiation, diversity, diversity leadership, gender mainstreaming, and related subjects. EDGE was established in 2011 at the initiative of FREIA, as a part of a strategic venture. Where FREIA can be defined as the overarching research unit, EDGE represents the “shop” which is engaged with fundraising and with responding to external inquiries. Tasks of the knowledge center are:

- the solving of larger evaluative tasks posed by external stakeholders
- to offer research-based consultancy, knowledge exchange and co-operation with authorities

- to give input to relevant public hearings and
- to communicate and present research results through publications, lectures and seminars

○ Visit the website edge.aau.dk

Unit for Medical Research on Women and Gender

Institute of Public Health, University of Copenhagen

The Unit for Medical Research on Women and Gender aims to investigate biological, social and psychological gender differences, the origins of these differences, and their significance for illness and health.

The primary focus is:

- to show how gender-specific life circumstances, social roles, the mind and biology interact to create effects on illness and health.
- to make visible gender relations that are oppressing and pathogenic, e.g. violence, stress and self-oppression, as well as relations that are health-promoting, and strategies for how illness can be prevented respecting gender differences, such as differences in physical strength, and in reproductive functions.

○ Visit the website ifsv.ku.dk/afdelinger/almen_medicin/kvinde

FREIA – Center for Gender Research

Institute for Culture og Global Studies, University of Aalborg

FREIA is an interdisciplinary gender research center covering a wide range of disciplines such as sociology, politology, statistics, anthropology, history, and European and international Studies. A focal point of the research conducted at FREIA is to investigate the interplay between gender and other categories that create difference and inequality (especially class, ethnicity, and race). A specific area of focus is masculinity research, exploring the living conditions and equality of men.

Important research themes of FREIA are:

- democracy, power and citizenship
- mobility, migration and multiculturalism
- policies of welfare, integration and equality
- labor market and work life
- family, the everyday, and civic life

FREIA is working in close collaboration with EDGE, and the researchers of FREIA and EDGE participate in several larger research projects together, e.g. 'The Global Periphery – gender, diversity, and mobility'.

○ Visit the website freia.cgs.aau.dk

Other institutions

KVINFO – Gender, Knowledge, Information and Research

KVINFO is the Danish national knowledge center and research library for gender, equality, and diversity. The six letters in the name stand for Gender, Knowledge, Information and Research (in Danish: Køn, Viden, Information og Forskning)

KVINFO

- is a physical research library
- communicates knowledge, documentation and research to the public
- initiates research ventures
- gives access to extensive material on Danish women's history, and the history of equality in Denmark
- host regular debates and cultural events
- stands behind several concrete equality projects in the Middle East and in Northern Africa
- initiates and supports projects that develop and foster equality processes and tools, both nationally and internationally

○ Visit the website kvinfo.dk

The Women's Museum

The Women's Museum in Denmark is responsible for collections, research and communication with a focus on women's life and work within the Danish cultural heritage. The museum has conducted an array of research projects through the years, and constructed exhibitions on historical as well as contemporary topics. The museum has got two permanent exhibitions: 'Women's lives from prehistoric times until today' and 'The History of Childhood'. The museum is a meeting place for many who frequent the lectures, debates, seminars and network groups, and also for children who are given room to explore childhood and gender. The Women's Museum was created in the form of a grass-roots movement in the beginning of the 1980's, in the context of the new women's movements.

○ Visit the website kvindemuseet.dk

Nordic institution

NIKK – Nordic Information on Gender

NIKK is a Nordic co-operative body hosted by the national secretary for gender research in Sweden. The assignment of NIKK is to collect and communicate national research, policies, and equality practices in a Nordic perspective. Knowledge on gender should function as the basis for political discussions at meetings and conferences in the Nordic countries, in Europe and internationally.

○ Visit the website genus.se/om-oss/nikk

European Institutions

ATGENDER

ATGENDER is a broad organization for scholars, activists and institutions that work with gender research, equality and diversity. The organization is behind The European Feminist Research Conferences, which are held in different European cities tri-annually, and which constitute an important unifying force for European gender research and research institutions.

○ Visit the website atgender.eu

EIGE – European Institute for Gender Equality

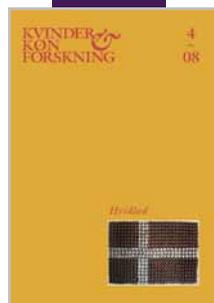
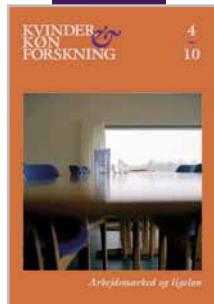
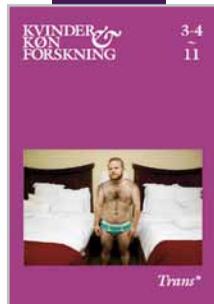
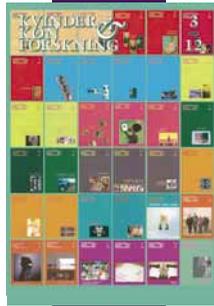
EIGE is an European organ which supports EU and its member states in fostering equality between genders, fighting gender-based discrimination and increasing the awareness on equality issues. The Danish representatives in the advisory body of the institute are Birte Siim and Steen Baagøe Nielsen. EIGE was established in 2007 and has its office in Vilnius, Lithuania.

○ Visit the website eige.europa.eu



RESEARCH IN GENDER AND EQUALITY

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