We are pleased to present the Annual Report 2022 of the Graduate School of Social Sciences at the University of Copenhagen.

PhD scholars conduct high-quality and extensive research, which is often considered to be the real deal. Of course, professors and associate professors also carry out important in-depth research, but a professor once mentioned that the time as a PhD scholar provides the best opportunities to conduct research. While this may not be perceived as such by PhD scholars during their research, it is not entirely inaccurate.

Certainly, when we observe the research carried out by PhD scholars at the Faculty of Social Sciences, we have absolutely no doubt: Highly exciting, in-depth, and significant research with potential societal impact is conducted in each of our six PhD programmes. The lists in this report of both new PhD scholars enrolled and PhD degrees awarded in 2022 confirm this, along with the two highlighted case stories. Indeed, PhD research in the Graduate School of Social Sciences is the real deal!

It is important to acknowledge that there is room for improvement in facilitating interaction among PhD scholars across different disciplines. In 2022, a “PhD Day at SAMF” event took place for all PhD scholars at the faculty. The event provided academic inspiration and opportunities for social interaction. Daily life for PhD scholars typically involves department-specific activities like seminars, writing retreats, and lunches. However, joint events like the “PhD Day at SAMF” can spark interdisciplinary dialogue and curiosity, leading to potentially fruitful and lasting collaborations.

Other things are also on the agenda. As our research and teaching staff is increasingly comprised of international employees, it has become more and more evident that we need to adjust our recruitment processes for PhD scholars to reflect this diversity. Data from the last four years demonstrate that the vast majority of PhD scholars are Danish citizens—over 80%. This demonstrates the quality of our graduates, but it also raises the question of why our recruitment of PhD scholars has not been internationalised to the same extent as the recruitment of scientific staff.

In other words, in the Graduate School of Social Sciences, we will keep on building on our strengths and identifying rooms for improvement.

We want to express our gratitude to all those who have contributed to the success of the Graduate School of Social Sciences. This includes the Heads of PhD Programmes, PhD supervisors, and everyone else involved. Most importantly, a big thank you goes out to our outstanding PhD scholars!

Professor Mikkel Vedby Rasmussen, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences

Associate Professor Kasper Tang Vangkilde, Head of the Graduate School of Social Sciences
A positive intergenerational workplace climate improves employees’ view of their own aging

As part of her PhD thesis, Anette Tybjerg-Jeppesen has studied how the intergenerational workplace climate is related to employees’ views on their own aging. She has discovered that a positive intergenerational workplace climate is related to employees’ work engagement and motivation to stay in their jobs. And there are very important workplaces.

In her work as a PhD fellow at the University of Copenhagen, she has discovered a significant correlation between the intergenerational workplace climate and people's most common reason for their own aging.

"Aggregation takes place not just in working life, where there can be many age stereotypes and negative views of older people’s abilities," says psychologist Anette Tybjerg-Jeppesen.

The study also shows that employees of all age groups benefit from positive cross-age relationships. As part of her PhD thesis, Anette Tybjerg-Jeppesen has studied how the intergenerational workplace climate is related to employees’ views on their own aging.

Ageism is costly.

When an older employee has a negative view of their own aging, it often leads to lower levels of output and commitment to workplace interventions that do not contribute to further stigmatisation of older staff members, but actually addresses a need for all employees," says Anette Tybjerg-Jeppesen.

"I would like to further clarify the role that views on age play across generations. If we gain this insight, it will be much easier to introduce measures to minimize ageism in the labour market and in society in general," she says.

A more positive intergenerational workplace climate is also linked to employees’ work engagement and motivation to stay in their jobs. This, and there are very important workplaces.

"When an employee chooses to resign, it is often less harmful consequences for the workplace, especially when it is a highly qualified employee who quits," Anette Tybjerg-Jeppesen emphasizes and elaborates.

Recruiting and training new employees is costly, and the loss of qualified employees can jeopardise task performance. "This is an important finding because we can now point to workplace interventions that do not contribute to further stigmatisation of older staff members, but actually addresses a need for all employees," says Anette Tybjerg-Jeppesen.

"I would like to further clarify the role that views on age play across generations. If we gain this insight, it will be much easier to introduce measures to minimize ageism in the labour market and in society in general," she says.

Dissemination in many guises.

During her PhD, Anette Tybjerg-Jeppesen has disseminated her research in a myriad of different contexts. In the summer of 2022, she participated in a panel debate at Folkemødet (she will participate again in 2023), where the topic was stereotypes and prejudices in relation to age.

She has contributed to a number of articles on the topic of ageism (including in Politiken), and she has shared her knowledge with management networks, folk festivals and at conferences on work environment.

"I believe that it is important that we see ourselves as representatives of UCPH and the research community work hard to disseminate research in a relevant format to the surrounding society. It is not always easy to translate research results into useful information outside the university context," she says and elaborates:

"But I believe that it is necessary if we are to maintain support for our work in these times when resources are scarce in many parts of the welfare society, and where perhaps especially the social science disciplines are seen as a 'luxury' that can be cut if necessary."

ABOUT THE STUDY

The study is based on a representative population of duals aged 18 – 74 years, living and working in Denmark. A cross-sectional study was conducted via an online survey including a representative sample of the Danish working population. It was conducted by Anette Tybjerg-Jeppesen as part of her PhD thesis at the Department of Psychology and Center for Healthy Aging.

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In addition, the foci that these correlations were within age and age groups. The findings point to the potential benefits of introducing cross-age relationships in workplaces.

The study is published in Journal of Applied Gerontology.

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By 31 December 2022, the Graduate School of Social Sciences had a total of 147 enrolled PhD students. The number includes PhD students on leave. A total of 37 new PhD students were enrolled in 2022.

PhD students enrolled

37 new PhD students were enrolled in 2022
147 enrolled PhD students at the Graduate School of Social Sciences

PhD students enrolled by place of employment

This figure shows the distribution by place of employment in six overall categories: University of Copenhagen, private institution/corporation in Denmark, other public or self-governing institution/organisation in Denmark, other institution/organisation in Denmark, no employment and abroad.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place of Employment</th>
<th>2022</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University of Copenhagen</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private institution/corporation in Denmark</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other public or self-governing institution/organisation in Denmark</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other institution/organisation in Denmark</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No employment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abroad</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### PhD enrolments by funding

This figure shows the distribution of PhD funding in five overall categories: UCPH funding and co-financing, Danish public funding, Danish private funding, International funding, Self-financed and other means.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>UCPH funding and co-financing</th>
<th>Danish public funding</th>
<th>Danish private funding</th>
<th>International funding</th>
<th>Self-financed and other means</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **UCPH funding and co-financing**: PhD enrolments by UCPH funding and co-financing in 2022.
- **Danish public funding**: PhD enrolments by Danish public funding in 2022.
- **Danish private funding**: PhD enrolments by Danish private funding in 2022.
- **International funding**: PhD enrolments by International funding in 2022.
- **Self-financed and other means**: PhD enrolments by Self-financed and other means in 2022.
Enrolled PhD students by qualifying degree

Most newly enrolled PhD students held a qualifying degree from UCPH.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>External</th>
<th>University of Copenhagen</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PhD students by gender and nationality

The gender distribution of the 37 new PhD students enrolled in 2022 is 54% female and 46% male. The number of international PhD students is more or less constant except in 2018, and the majority of PhD students are Danish.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>International</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Gender

- Female
- Male
- International

Nationality

- Danish PhD students
- International PhD students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Danish PhD students</th>
<th>International PhD students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A total of 36 PhD degrees were awarded in 2022. The numbers include PhD degrees awarded without prior enrolment (also known as §15.2). The PhD degree is awarded when the PhD thesis is positively reviewed by an assessment committee and afterwards successfully defended at a public defense.

**PhD degrees awarded during the year**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>PhD Degrees Awarded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The average length of the PhD study at the Faculty of Social Sciences is 3.5 years in 2022. This length of time is almost equal to the average of the University of Copenhagen. The average is calculated as the period of time from enrolment date to the date of submission of the thesis. Periods of all kinds of leave are excluded.

**Duration of PhD study in 2022**

- Faculty of Social Sciences: 3.5 years
- University of Copenhagen: 3.5 years

**Average duration of PhD study**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Average Duration (Years)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Users of high-cost loans have personality traits in common

PHD fellow Emil Toft Hansen has studied the users of high-cost consumer loans. These loans are controversial and the subject of much debate. But who typically takes out such loans – and what is the money used for?

It is not without reason that high-cost consumer loans are often accused of doing more harm than good. There are examples where the costs of these payday loans have been as high as 1,000% annually.

Critics argue that the high costs of payday loans are oppressive and that lenders take advantage of consumers with poor self-control. The proponents argue that the quick loans benefit people who have a sudden, temporary need for extra money.

Used for gambling and impulse buying

Emil Toft Hansen, PhD student in the Department of Economics, has investigated whether sudden events really drive the demand for quick loans, or whether the loans rather attract certain types of people. He finds nothing to suggest that the typical payday loan is affected by unexpected expenses at the time of the loan.

“Some borrowers suffer from a sudden drop in income, but they are too few to explain the total demand for these loans. On the other hand, I find evidence that points to borrowers’ personality traits as decisive for loan demand,” explains Emil Toft Hansen.

Self-control is low

For the study, Emil Toft Hansen used high-quality transaction data from Danske Bank, which has more than a quarter of the adult Danish population as customers.

Based on Danske Bank’s data, the PhD fellow has gained a detailed insight into the customers’ income, consumption, liquidity and, most importantly, the use of fast, expensive consumer loans.

“There is a clear tendency for quick borrowers’ expenses to rise significantly around the time of taking out the loan. Quick loans are typically used to finance impulsive purchases and gambling debts – they widen and more present-biased than other consumers. ’’

Users of high-cost loans are generally more present-biased than other consumers.

“They generally spend more than they earn, they tend to spend large sums on gambling, and they appear to be considerably more present-biased than the average consumer,” explains Emil Toft Hansen.

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Emil Toft Hansen finds no evidence suggesting that borrowers suffer expenditure, health or social shocks at the time of the loan. Instead, the PhD fellow finds evidence pointing towards a dominant role for borrowers’ personality traits in explaining loan demand.

Overall, the results suggest that the typical payday loanee has low financial self-control. For the same reason, Emil Toft Hansen believes that restricting access to quick loans is not sufficient if one is to seriously help the users of high-cost loans. This received widespread attention, highlighting the fact that this was really an understudied topic.

When the research paper was ultimately published in July 2022, it resulted in a feature article in the Danish newspaper Politiken. It was especially the strong connection between high-cost loans and that attracted attention. 

“By coincidence, I finished the research paper at a time where the discussion about gambling and debt dominated the public. My results spoke directly into these discussions and, I hope, helped inform the public debate. This was not my intention, but it is nice to know that the research has attracted attention,” observes Emil Toft Hansen.

Emil Toft Hansen, PhD fellow at the Center for Economic Behavior and Inequality at the Department of Economics.

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Widespread attention

Emil’s research on high-cost consumption loans has generated considerable public interest. In the summer of 2019, Emil, together with Danske Bank, released the first preliminary findings in the paper and presented profiles of high-cost borrowers. This received widespread attention, highlighting the fact that this was really an understudied topic.

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PhD students enrolled by programme in 2022

This figure shows the distribution of enrolled PhD students by the PhD programmes at the Graduate School of Social Sciences.

PhD students enrolled during the year by PhD Programme

- Department of Anthropology: 13
- Department of Economics: 6
- Department of Political Science: 8
- Department of Psychology: 3
- Department of Sociology: 2
- Copenhagen Center for Social Data Science: 5

PhD degrees awarded by programme

This figure shows the distribution of the 36 PhD degrees awarded by the PhD programmes at the Graduate School of Social Sciences (by the end of the year).

PhD degrees awarded in 2022

- Department of Anthropology: 1
- Department of Economics: 11
- Department of Political Science: 5
- Department of Psychology: 8
- Department of Sociology: 5
- Copenhagen Center for Social Data Science: 1

PhD degrees awarded

- 2018: 16
- 2019: 13
- 2020: 11
- 2021: 15
- 2022: 1

Total PhD degrees awarded: 36
The list below contains the names of the PhD students enrolled in 2022, the title of the PhD project and the name of the principal supervisor.
PhD degrees awarded in 2022

The list contains the names of those who have been awarded a PhD degree in 2022, the title of the PhD thesis and the name of the principal supervisor.
Key PhD statistics for the Faculties of Humanities, Law, Social Sciences, and Theology

In these figures we present a comparison of the above mentioned faculties at the University of Copenhagen on key numbers: PhD enrolments and PhD degrees awarded during the year, as well as the number of enrolled PhD students by the end of the year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faculty of Humanities</th>
<th>Faculty of Law</th>
<th>Faculty of Social Sciences</th>
<th>Faculty of Theology</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total number of enrolled PhD students at the end of the year</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PhD students enrolled during the year</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awarded PhD degrees during the year</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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