Introduction

We are pleased to present the Annual Report 2023 of the Graduate School of Social Sciences at the University of Copenhagen. Graduate students constitute the backbone of much of the high-quality and pioneering research being undertaken at our faculty. The fundamental goal of our school is research training at a high international level, and we achieve this goal by letting our graduate students work in the strong academic environments at our faculty and by letting them visit strong research environments abroad. Across the six PhD programs, we see exciting research that holds real potential to impact the society around us – how we make policies, how we think about salient political issues, and how we should go about our life. The lists in this report of both new graduate students enrolled and PhD degrees awarded in 2023 confirm this, along with the highlighted case story.

We are also looking to improve our school with the hope of facilitating more interaction among graduate students across PhD programs. In 2023, we have begun working on setting up new courses that are relevant to all graduate students. One course will focus on how to make one’s research count outside academia, including how to impact policy-makers and other stakeholders. Another course will focus on the transition to the job market after the PhD is completed, with a specific focus on the transition to the non-academic job market in the public or private sector. We hope that these course initiatives will not only provide graduate students with important skills and insights, but also give them the opportunity to interact across disciplines, potentially fostering new collaborations.

We are also continuing our focus on being better at recruiting internationals for our PhD programs. Data show that about 4 out of 5 of our graduate students are Danish citizens, and this proportion has not changed much in past five years. We are therefore looking into ways of improving our searches for new PhD scholars when we advertise new positions. We hope to find inspiration in other European universities that have been successful in creating highly internationalised PhD schools.

To summarize, in the Graduate School of Social Sciences, we will keep on providing the best opportunities for our graduate students to become researchers at a high international level, and we will continue to work on facilitating better opportunities for interdisciplinary interactions among our graduate students.

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

Professor Mikkel Vedby Rasmussen, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences
Associate Professor Kristian Bernt Karlsen, Head of the Graduate School of Social Sciences

Professor Kristian Bernt Karlsen, Head of the Graduate School of Social Sciences
What kind of professional skills are particularly needed in a labour market characterised by technological breakthroughs? And how can individual employees acquire new skills that are in high demand and ultimately better paid?

These questions are at the centre of a new scientific study that has mapped and valued 962 work-related skills and their interrelationships. The study shows that there are significant differences in the value of specific professional skills. AI-related skills in particular are significantly better paid than most others. On average, acquiring specific AI skills increases remuneration by 21 percent.

"The higher value of this type of work reflects the fact that artificial intelligence is developing rapidly and that competencies in this area are in demand," said Ole Teutloff from the Copenhagen Centre for Social Data Science (SODAS) at the University of Copenhagen.

In the study, the two researchers use data from 50,000 freelancers advertised on a large US online platform between 2014 and 2022. Since such online platforms both indicate salary levels and specify requirements for qualifications and skills, data analyses make it possible to map the interrelationships and value of the various skills in detail.

This also applies to specialised AI skills. Here, skills related to ‘machine learning’ top the list with a relative extra value of 40%, followed by a range of other AI-related skills such as knowledge of ‘deep learning’ (27%), ‘data analysis’ (14%) and AI-related programmes such as Python (8%) and Java (5%).

Study can guide the choice of continuing education

More generally, the study shows that the value of a skill or competency is significantly higher if it can be fruitfully combined with skills from other areas. In other words, it is a plus if you can add a completely different but complementary skill to your professional toolbox.

For example, specific skills from the software and tech field are generally of high value to people working in marketing or law and finance. This is a case of what the researchers label complementarity. Conversely, ‘photoretrieval’ is an example of a narrow skill that is harder to combine with other competences and therefore less complementary and valuable.

Our findings have profound implications for individuals, businesses, and policymakers. By recognizing the value of complementarity, we can better guide workers on their individual reskilling journeys," he says.

According to Fabian Stephany, mapping such relationships provides new insights into how individuals can best develop their skills to match labour market demand.

But when it comes to AI skills, I would argue that they are hard skills, just as projects posted on freelance platforms can contain very complex tasks.

"Permanent employees will often work in teams and organisational hierarchies that also require a range of softer social skills," explains Ole Teutloff.

"But when it comes to AI skills, I would argue that they are hard skills, just as projects posted on freelance platforms can contain very complex tasks. Therefore, a project on machine learning doesn’t have to be very different from a project in a company when we talk about skills. So also here in Europe, I think we can learn from the US.

"Permanent employees will often work in teams and organisational hierarchies that also require a range of softer social skills," explains Ole Teutloff.

Behind the study are Fabian Stephany, who is a research fellow at the Copenhagen Centre for Social Data Science (SODAS) at the University of Copenhagen.

The study examines the value of 962 different work-related skills and their interrelationships. The data is based on approximately 50,000 jobs advertised between 2014 and 2022 on a large US online platform for freelance work. The specific platform is anonymised in the study.

The study’s visual mapping of skills, showing how individual work skills are connected and clustered.
By 31 December 2023, the Graduate School of Social Sciences had a total of 151 enrolled PhD students. The number includes PhD students on leave. A total of 48 new PhD students were enrolled in 2023.

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>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2022</th>
<th>2023</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University of Copenhagen</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private institution/corporation in Denmark</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other public or self-governing institution/organisation in Denmark</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other institution/organisation in Denmark</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No employment</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abroad</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

PhD enrolments by funding

- **12 PhD enrolments by UCPH funding and co-financing in 2023**
- **15 PhD enrolments by Danish public funding in 2023**
- **14 PhD enrolments by Danish private funding in 2023**
- **7 PhD enrolments by International funding in 2023**
Most newly enrolled PhD students held a qualifying degree from UCPH.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>University of Copenhagen</th>
<th>External</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2023</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The gender distribution of the 32 new PhD students enrolled in 2023 is 48% female and 52% male. The number of international PhD students is higher than previous years and the majority of PhD students are Danish.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Female students</th>
<th>Male students</th>
<th>International PhD students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2023</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Gender

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2023</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PhD degrees awarded

A total of 33 PhD degrees were awarded in 2023. 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.

Duration of PhD study

The average length of the PhD study at the Faculty of Social Sciences is 3.3 years in 2023. 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.
PhD students enrolled by programme in 2023

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

PhD degrees awarded by programme

This figure shows the distribution of the 33 PhD degrees awarded by the PhD programmes at the Graduate School of Social Sciences (by the end of the year).

PhD degrees awarded in 2023

- Department of Anthropology: 13
- Department of Economics: 6
- Department of Political Science: 15
- Department of Psychology: 5
- Department of Sociology: 4
- Copenhagen Center for Social Data Science: 3

PhD degrees awarded in 2022

- Department of Anthropology: 11
- Department of Economics: 5
- Department of Political Science: 5
- Department of Psychology: 6
- Department of Sociology: 2
- Copenhagen Center for Social Data Science: 1
The list below contains the names of the PhD students enrolled in 2023, the title of the PhD project and the name of the principal supervisor.
The list below contains the names of those who have been awarded a PhD degree in 2023, the title of the PhD thesis and the name of the principal supervisor.
Kathrine Sørensen  
Leadership Behaviours and Workers’ Risk of Depressive Disorder and Health-related Early Exit From Employment.  
Supervisor: Paul Maurice Conway

Onyekachi Prince David*  
Internally Displaced Children and Adolescents in North-East Nigeria An Investigation of Traumatic stress Events, Coping Strategies, Coping Resources and Mental Health Problems.

Sophie Arnaud  
Affective cognition and brain serotonin in healthy individuals.  
Supervisor: Ove Jiggedt Stordal

Veclise Marone  
Testing the Infant Althencentrism hypothesis.  
Supervisor: Victoria Helen Southgate

Julie Kiani Samoy  
Ready to read. Exploring school-based tutoring interventions for struggling readers.  
Supervisor: Bente Halkier

Kira Solang Larsen  
Supervisor: Mads Meier Jæger

Mikkel Hiderup Larsen  
Limits of Solidarity in Increasingly Diverse Societies: The role of dehumanisation perceptions and the radical right in the formation of chauvinistic attitudes towards the welfare state.  
Supervisor: Merlin Schaeffer

Morten Weidler Jørgensen  
Dietary Change Toward Less Meat Consumption: A qualitative investigation of dietary change in overweight food practices.  
Supervisor: Bente Halkier

Copenhagen Center for Social Data Science

Torre Søth Tom Assadon  
Bias in Natural Language Processing.  
Supervisor: David Dreyer Lassen

Thye Kyong Enggaard  
Supervisor: Morten Axel Pedersen

Yangliu Fan  
Research in the era of social media: communities, methodologies, and author trajectories.  
Supervisor: Anders Blok

*Have submitted according to §15 section 2 and do not have an associated 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.

Total number of enrolled PhD students at the end of the year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faculty</th>
<th>Number of PhD Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Faculty of Law</td>
<td>151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty of Social Sciences</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty of Theology</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty of Humanities</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PhD students enrolled during the year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faculty</th>
<th>Number of PhD Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Faculty of Law</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty of Theology</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty of Social Sciences</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty of Humanities</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Awarded PhD degrees during the year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faculty</th>
<th>Number of PhD Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Faculty of Law</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty of Theology</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty of Social Sciences</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty of Humanities</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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