



RESEARCH PROFILE

Department of English, Germanic and Romance Studies

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RESEARCH PROFILE

Department of English, Germanic and Romance Studies

The Department of English, Germanic and Romance Studies (EGR) is an internationally oriented department at the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Copenhagen.

EGR offers a robust framework for carrying out research and research-based education in the major Western European – and globally widespread – languages and their associated literatures, cultures and societies.

The department's research covers multiple related research areas and approaches that extend, rethink and modernise the philological tradition of analysing and interpreting languages and texts in historical, cultural and discursive contexts.

The department's particular strengths lie in the interplay between comprehensive

academic insights into specific language areas; a literary, cultural and sociological understanding of texts and the significance for their respective cultures; as well as an intercultural orientation that emphasises the interaction between people, ideas, languages, and cultures.

This unique combination is supported by a research organisation that actively promotes interdisciplinary and cross-linguistic collaboration.

Based on this solid foundation, and by utilising a broad spectrum of theories and methods in the human sciences, we create new knowledge about language, literature, ideas, human interactions, socio-historical developments, and linguistic as well as cultural expressions at different times and places.

OVERALL OBJECTIVES

Strong basic research

The department aims to combine strong basic research with an a commitment to the humanities' role and impact in society, thereby creating the best conditions for research that benefits people and society.

We will strive to create academic environments that can provide a sound basis for innovative, cutting-edge research, both for the individual researcher and for work carried out in research teams.

Our researchers will continue to be leaders in their respective fields and disseminate the results of their research in the most prestigious journals and with the best publishers in the field. They will also participate in and develop joint international research projects of the highest quality.

We will strengthen our already internationally recognised research and continue to challenge and develop it by implementing digital methods and by examining the use of artificial intelligence through established research methodologies.

This process will take place organically within existing research environments, drawing on the department's current research in artificial intelligence as an empirical field with implications for translation studies, social interaction and education, as well as many other fields.

We will support researchers across disciplines who contribute to research-based knowledge that can tackle a wide range of issues and find practicable solutions to complex societal challenges – locally, nationally and globally.

Transformative research

Transformative humanities is a research orientation that actively applies humanistic knowledge and methods to understand, analyse and influence societal change.

With its strong grounding in humanistic concepts and analytical models from language, literature, history and cultural studies, the department has a robust research foundation from which to act as a driving force in tackling complex societal issues.

The department will develop experience with innovation

and transformative research in a humanities context and support researchers in establishing external partnerships that can contribute to societal change – e.g. in the workplace or in educational settings – through co-creating projects with relevant societal actors and decision-makers.

Such collaborations can, for example, lead to the development of new analytical frameworks that serve as a springboard for innovative solutions to specific challenges or as a basis for changes to existing practices.

Research organisation

EGR will create the best conditions for research by promoting excellent and inclusive research communities. This means that all researchers on permanent contracts must be committed to actively contributing to the internal research environment.

Flexible frameworks for curiosity-driven research provide fertile ground for cutting-edge research. We will ensure that our organisation enables researchers to easily form new bottom-up collaborations to pursue and test new ideas across existing groups and disciplines.

It is a priority to ensure that PhD students and postdocs are fully integrated into the department's research groups and given the opportunity to take on meaningful, trusted responsibilities.

Through active dialogue and leadership development, we aim to provide research group coordinators with the knowledge and tools to lead and motivate research groups effectively.

Publishing of research results

As a department encompassing diverse disciplines and academic traditions, we recognise and appreciate a variety of publication cultures.

Our ambition is to promote research of the highest academic quality rather than chase purely quantitative publication targets.

We consider publications in leading double-blind peer-reviewed journals and monographs published by recognised international publishers as important quality indicators of research excellence. At the same time, we recognise the value of other publication channels when they contribute to strengthening professional

networks and promoting international research collaboration.

In alignment with the international Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA), which is working towards more qualitative evaluation practices, we will contribute to the evaluation of research results and quality, taking into account blind spots in bibliometric indices such as Scopus and Web of Science.

The department's researchers are expected to consistently produce research and document active research. For multi-year book projects, a specific plan must be agreed upon in consultation with the head of department.

Integrating research into teaching

The department's research must have both scientific and societal impact, so that it simultaneously makes clear how our research areas contribute to society and can attract ambitious students.

We will integrate the knowledge and output from our research into our teaching so that our graduates combine academic depth, critical

thinking and the courage to challenge conventional systems of thought with a clear sense of the skills required to do so.

By integrating our teaching with our research environments, we also open doors for students who want to pursue an academic career at the highest international level.

Research dissemination

Our researchers are expected to play a leading role in shaping public dialogue, both within Denmark and on the international stage. Therefore, the department's researchers must disseminate their knowledge to the media, public, politicians and society at large, and they must interact with relevant actors in the education system, cultural sectors and internationally oriented companies and organisations.

We will make our research accessible and relevant to a wide audience through both traditional and innovative communication channels. We will ensure that all researchers are familiar with the [Danish Universities' Seven Principles for Good Research Dissemination](#) (in Danish) and, in the ongoing dialogue with the research groups, recognise the challenges, opportunities and limitations associated with the different genres of research dissemination.

STRATEGIC TARGETS

A great place for great ideas

The department will attract and retain outstanding researchers from around the world by offering a vibrant and inclusive research environment where academic excellence goes hand in hand with kindness, openness and collegial respect.

We value both basic and strategic research equally, provided they adhere to the central principles of integrity and good research practice as formulated

in the [Danish Code of Conduct for Research Integrity](#) (in Danish) and the [UCPH Code of Good Research Practice](#) (in Danish).

The department's researchers are expected to actively and constructively engage in shaping the department's research portfolio by joining a research group and attending joint research presentations and seminars.

A great place for great ideas ...

- recognises all the department's research fields with no hierarchy of importance among these fields
- promotes a research culture where new ideas are welcomed and discussed constructively
- appreciates different academic traditions and professional perspectives as a source of new insights and innovation.

A great place for the best applications

The university's research is increasingly funded through external sources, particularly private foundations.

We do not view external funding as an end in itself but rather as a means for researchers to develop their field, develop a subject area, strengthen talent development and create dynamism and vitality in the department's research environments.

While some areas at UCPH have already reached a maximum limit for the externally funded research they can handle, our department still has both the capacity and potential to increase the amount of external funding.

It is crucial that time and resources are directed towards winning grants that support the department's and research environments' own research agendas and contribute to

developing both curiosity-driven research and strategic research.

In a constantly changing funding landscape, there is a need for ongoing dialogue about how we can optimise the use of resources at the intersection between day-to-day research practice, independent research funding and funding for strategic research. The research management team will prioritise qualifying this important conversation among the department's researchers.

For all researchers, applying for external funding is a process that involves having applications accepted and rejected, and experiencing successes and disappointments. Through collegial sparring and systematic exchange of experiences, we can help and inspire each other to transform feedback and rejections into article writing, networking, seminars and similar activities.

A great place for the best applications...

- optimises application processes through targeted management initiatives in close collaboration with the research support unit and the Research Committee
- explores opportunities for establishing strategic seed-funding initiatives
- supports major applications through creating strategic research centres in areas where EGR is particularly strong and has untapped potential
- strengthens peer-review processes to ensure competitive applications, both within the department and through collaboration at faculty level
- provides forums for feedback and further development of unsuccessful applications.

A great place for top talents

It is the department's clear aim to ensure there is equality in providing good career and development opportunities, from PhD to professor, for all researchers regardless of background.

Especially early-career researchers with fixed-term contracts face important considerations about future career choices.

Not all early-career researchers have the opportunity, or the desire, to continue their career at the university.

Therefore, the department, in collaboration with the faculty and through targeted career development and mentoring in the early stages of an employee's career, aims to ensure that they can acquire skills that will enable them to pursue their ambitions both within and outside academia. In this way, they are able to draw on their research experience in other sectors and at other knowledge-intensive workplaces.

A great place for top talents ...

- integrates PhD students into active research environments to ensure research synergies between new and ongoing projects
- provides all PhDs with a postdoc mentor if they want one
- prepares a plan at the beginning of their appointment for the whole period that postdocs (and other fixed-term employees) are at the department
- ensures that all postdocs have a fulltime academic staff member as a contact at the department
- provides continuous feedback on career development, funding opportunities and networking, both within the department and externally.



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