

Public Health & Epi News

NO. 2, 3RD VOLUME, FEBRUARY 2017

Is philosophy important for public health?

Philosophy has always been alluring to me and I have never understood why philosophy is not playing a more prominent role in the health science curriculum. Thus, I was happy to learn that Professor of Philosophy Alex Broadbent had devoted his career to addressing the philosophy of epidemiology. And I am even happier to announce that he will be participating in a seminar on the topic here at University of Copenhagen in April. The seminar will discuss whether philosophy can be of any use to epidemiology either in charting the discipline's development at a high level or in day-to-day epidemiological practice. Please see the invitation in the newsletter. I am looking forward to engaging in this philosophical debate with you.

Funding is often a scarce resource in research, but please remember that we in the Graduate Program in Public Health & Epidemiology have some funds available for arranging

scientific seminars or workshops. We also support research stays abroad and arrange writing retreats for third year students. Please see further details in the newsletter.

Finally, the annual GRASPH summer school will be in May and I hope you will use this opportunity to share your research and build a scientific and social network.



Naja Hulvej Rod
Head of the Graduate
Program in Public
Health & Epidemiology

Editorial info

Public Health & Epi News is distributed to PhD students and supervisors affiliated with the graduate program in Public Health and Epidemiology.

The newsletter is published four times a year and is meant to be a dynamic platform for exchanging information within the graduate program. Any inputs on events, new books, international courses, writing groups etc. are very welcome.

Please send your input in an e-mail to Lisbeth Lyng Hansen, llh@sund.ku.dk.

Editors: Naja Hulvej Rod, nahuro@sund.ku.dk and Lisbeth Lyng Hansen, llh@sund.ku.dk

Deadline for next issue of Public Health & Epi News is **21st of April, 2017**.

Previous editions to be found at: <http://phd-pubhealthepi.ku.dk/>

Conference calendar

Society for Epidemiologic Research (SER) annual meeting

20-23 June 2017, Seattle, USA

<https://epiresearch.org/annual-meeting/50th-anniversary/>

World Congress of Epidemiology

2017, 19-22 August, 2017, Omiya Sonic City, Japan,

<http://wce2017.umin.jp/index.html>

NordicEpi 2017

13-15 September, 2017, Lund, Sweden

http://www.malmokongressbyra.se/nordicepi/abstract_info

SLLS Annual Conference 2017

11-14 October, Stirling, Scotland

<http://www.slls.org.uk/conf>

6th International Conference of Epidemiology & Public Health, 23-25

October, 2017, Paris, France

<http://epidemiology.conferenceseries.com/>

10th European Public Health

Conference, 1-4 November, 2017,

Stockholm, Sweden

Sustaining resilient and healthy communities

<https://ephconference.eu/>

GRASPH Summer School

17-18 May, 2017 at Comwell

Klarskovgaard (close to Korsør)

Registration:

<https://service.health.au.dk/modules/Content/view/mypage/coursecalendar>

Read more under Up-coming courses

PhDs of the Month

The health reception of refugee children in Denmark and other Nordic countries – a part of the Coming of Age in Exile (CAGE) project

Amina Barghadouch

MSc in Public Health, The Danish Research Centre for Migration, Ethnicity and Health (MESU), Section for Health Services Research, Department of Public Health



I have a background in Public Health Science and have always been interested in health, well-being and human rights of vulnerable people. In 2013-2014, I studied mental health and psychiatric contacts of refugee children in Denmark. After finishing my master with a qualitative thesis on the diabetes management of blind and visually impaired persons and a maternity leave, I was enrolled as a PhD student in June 2016.

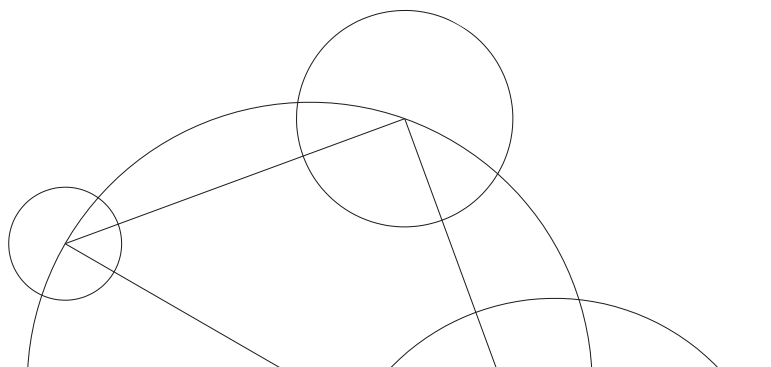
The influx of refugee children to the Nordic countries has increased in the past years. By their ratification to the Convention of the Rights of the Child and the UN Refugee Convention, Nordic countries are obliged to provide protection, reception, healthcare and resettlement for these children. The increased influx has followed new and more intensified demands of national welfare policies, which challenges the efforts to secure such child and refugee rights. As part of the cross-Nordic collaborative project, Coming of Age in Exile (CAGE), my PhD project will investigate the health reception of refugee children.

Health reception of refugee children entails health assessments during the asylum phase and in

municipalities when residence permission is obtained. But what is the vision behind these examinations, the problems they are ought to solve and what efforts are made in policies and in practice? How are refugee children taken into consideration when regulating and practicing these examinations, are they primarily perceived as *refugees* or as *children*? And how are professionals involved in these practices given agency? I hope to answer these questions by exploring health reception policies, practices and experiences regarding refugee children.

I will perform a comparative policy analysis of the legal framework regarding the health reception in Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden. The main part of my project will be based on qualitative fieldwork: I plan to perform observations in asylum centers and municipalities and to interview professionals (doctors, nurses and social workers) as well as refugee children and their families.

Contact: Amina Barghadouch, ambar@sund.ku.dk



Julie Volk

The Danish Cancer Society

Childhood cancer in Denmark in relation to selected parental occupations and exposures

Though childhood cancer is a rare disease it is nevertheless one of the leading causes of death in children in the western world. Not much is known about the causes of childhood cancer, but parental occupational exposures, in particular before birth, are suggested as contributing factors.

The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has classified around 50 chemicals, which are prevalent in certain occupations, as being carcinogenic to humans, and a number of parental occupations and exposures have been linked to childhood cancer, primarily CNS tumors and lymphohematopoietic cancers.

However, common limitation in these studies are small study size, heterogeneity in definitions of exposure and outcome when pooling of data from different countries, lack of maternal employment history and use of proxy informants or self-reported exposure assessment prone to recall bias.

Thus, conditions in Denmark are excellent to perform research on both maternal and paternal occupational exposures in relation to childhood cancer due to the ability to perform linkage of a number of nationwide registers of high quality and completeness, a high proportion of female employees, detailed work history and existing job-exposure matrices, which make assessment of exposure levels possible.

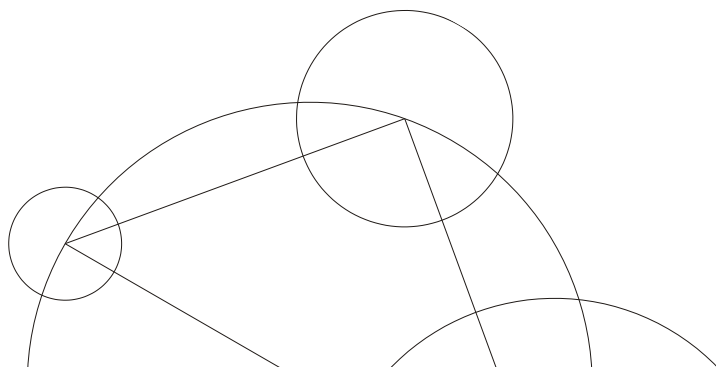


I am conducting a series of nested case-control studies of selected childhood cancer cases in Denmark from 1968-2012 to determine risk of childhood cancer in relation to maternal and paternal occupations with exposure to paint, diesel exhaust fumes and organic dusts i.e. paper, wood and textile. I will put particular emphasis on maternal exposures and the relevance of exposure in specific time periods i.e. preconception, during pregnancy and during early childhood.

About me:

After obtaining my medical degree from University of Copenhagen in 2012, I have worked in internal medicine, as a general physician and in the field of occupational and environmental medicine. Working in a big research institution is very different from the world of hospitals, but the combination of great people and different professional backgrounds makes for a great learning environment.

Contact: Julie Volk, julvol@cancer.dk



Maria Helena Guerra Andersen

Research group on Particles and Oxidative Stress,
Section of Environmental Health,
Department of Public Health,
University of Copenhagen

Biobrand – study on military conscripts participating in a rescue educational course for firefighting

Biotrack – study on volunteers performing as train conductors



Human exposure to particles may increase the risk of cardiovascular disease and cancer. Soot particles are generated from combustion processes. They can penetrate deep into the airways and elicit toxic reactions in the lung. My PhD project is based in two human biomonitoring studies. The human studies aim to investigate how and to what extent two specific working conditions (firefighters and train conductors) are exposed to particles during work, and to identify possible health effects thereof.

The project Biobrand was initiated by researchers from the National Research Centre for the Working Environment, Bispebjerg Hospital, University of Copenhagen and the Danish Technological Institute, and implemented in close cooperation with the Danish Emergency Management Agency. The project Biotrack was initiated by researchers from the National Research Centre for the Working Environment and the University of Copenhagen and implemented in close cooperation with DSB.

I am in very good hands with the supervision of Professor Peter Møller (principal supervisor) and Professor Steffen Loft, from the Department of Public Health, Senior Researcher Anne Thoustrup Saber and Professor Ulla Vogel from the National Research Centre for the Working Environment. All four are involved and are drivers of the two mentioned human studies with extended and complementary knowledge and expertise.

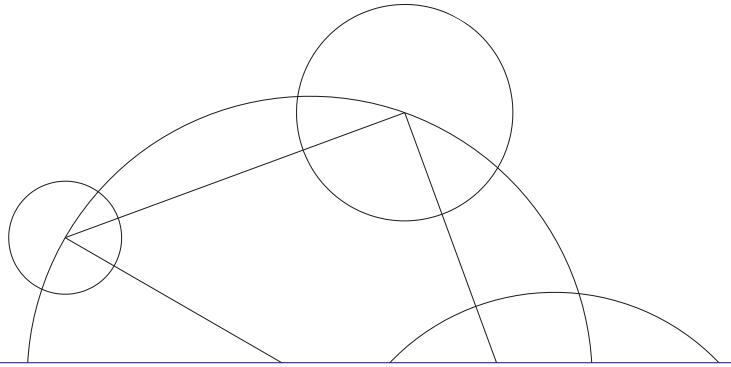
Specifically, in the Biobrand project, I am responsible for collecting, analysing and reporting data of the effects on the vasculature, report data from DNA damage, assist in the measurement of particles and collect particles for further characterization. In the Biotrack project I am involved in the preparation and planning of the project, collecting, analysing and reporting data of the effects on the vasculature and lung function, assessing the exposure to particles, collecting particles for further characterization and measuring DNA damage in mononuclear blood cells.

About me

I am Portuguese and I moved to Denmark in 2012. I used the change as an opportunity to pursue my dreams of returning to university to complement my environmental science studies with the human health subject. Prior to my enrolment as master's student I was working as Assistant Environmental Specialist in the public sector in Portugal. In March 2015 I obtained my Master's degree in Environmental Chemistry and Health at the University of Copenhagen. From May 2015 to January 2016, I worked as Research Assistant at the University of Copenhagen. In February 2016 I was enrolled as a PhD student.

Contact:

Maria Helena Guerra Andersen, mhar@sund.ku.dk



Seminar invitation

Arranged by the graduate program in Public Health & Epidemiology

26th of April 2017 at 2 to 4 pm

Center for Health and Society (CSS), Øster Farimagsgade 5, København, room CSS 2.0.63

Epidemiology and Philosophy

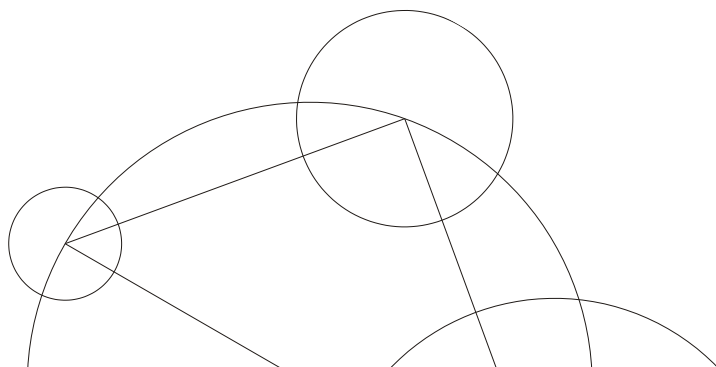
By Professor Alex Broadbent

Faculty of Humanities, University of Johannesburg, South Africa

Epidemiology is a relatively new science and one whose identity is still being determined. In particular, there is currently a move towards formalizing causal inference in epidemiology, in contrast to the traditional ad hoc, detective-style reasoning that characterized the paradigm-setting exemplar of the discipline, the attribution of lung cancer to smoking. This seminar will discuss whether philosophy can be of any use to epidemiology either in charting the discipline's development at a high level or in day-to-day epidemiological practice.

Alex Broadbent is Professor of Philosophy and Executive Dean of the Faculty of Humanities at UJ. Previously he held various research, teaching and visiting positions at Cambridge, Vienna, Athens and Harvard, before joining the University of Johannesburg in 2011. Alex is a philosopher of science with particular interests in philosophy of epidemiology, philosophy of medicine, and philosophy of law, connected by the philosophical themes of causation, explanation, and prediction. He is committed to finding philosophical problems in practical contexts, and to contributing something useful concerning them. He holds a P-rating from the National Research Foundation of South Africa (2013-2018) and is a member of the South African Young Academy of Sciences. He has published a number of articles in top international journals across three disciplines (philosophy, epidemiology, law). His first book, *Philosophy of Epidemiology*, was published by Palgrave Macmillan in 2013, and has been translated into Korean. His second book, *Philosophy for Graduate Students: Metaphysics and Epistemology*, was published by Routledge in 2016. He is currently working on his third book, *Philosophy of Medicine*, under contract with Oxford University Press.

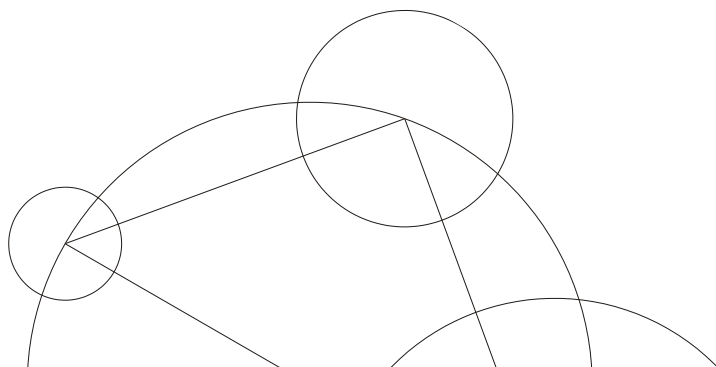
Everyone (also those not enrolled under the Graduate Program in Public Health & Epidemiology) is welcome and participation is free. Please sign up for the seminar by sending an e-mail to Head of the Graduate Program Naja Hulvej Rod (nahuro@sund.ku.dk) no later than April 20th 2017.



Welcome to the new PhD students

14 new PhD students have been enrolled between 1st of November 2016 and 1st of January 2017.

Name	Project titel	Supervisor
Beverly Lim Høeg	Toward patient-centeredness in cancer follow-up. A project based on the MyHealth randomized control trial	Christoffer Johansen
Carsten Robert Hamann	Atopic dermatitis: pregnancy and fertility	Jacob Pontoppidan Thyssen
Christopher Scott MacDonald	The potential in lifestyle changes for people with type 2 diabetes	Henning Langberg
Frederik Taylor Pitter	Epidemiology, organization, morbidity and mortality in adult spinal deformity surgery - a nationwide study	Benny Dahl
Frederikke Hørdam	Treatment-resistant depression - Risk factors and consequences	Merete Osler
Karen Schou Møller	Transmission of Taenia solium taeniosis: Risk identification and behavioural change following health education	Maria Vang Johansen
Lea Nordahl Christoffersen	Cognitive Ability and Psychiatric Comorbidity in Men Seeking Outpatient Treatment for Alcohol Use Disorder	Trine Flensburg-Madsen
Liv Riisager Wahlstén	Hip fractures - Risk factors, morbidity and mortality: A nationwide Danish cohort study	Stig Brorson
Marie-Louise Hee Rasmussen	Metabolic and Transcriptomic Profiling of Women with Postpartum Depression	Mads Melbye
Paul Vignir Axelsson Bryde	Delivery by cesarean section and use of antibiotics in early infancy: Possible implications for offspring risk of psychiatric disease	Ellen Christine Leth Løkkegaard
Rie Poulsen	Evaluation of an Integrated Mental Health Care and Vocational Rehabilitation Intervention to promote Return to Work for People with Common Mental Disorders	Ulla Christensen
Rikke Terp	Elderly patients' competence, opportunities and needs in relation to participation, empowerment and use of health technology	Lars Kayser
Sabrina Islamoska Imeroski	Does stress reactivity in midlife increase the risk of dementia in old age?	Kirsten Nabe-Nielsen
Thomas Bo Jensen	Rational use of new biological anti-inflammatory drugs in hospitals	Espen Jimenez Solem



Up-coming PhD courses

Public Health courses at HEALTH-UCPH

Mixed Methods in Health Sciences Research

Course director: Bente A. Espensen
20 – 22 March

Food, Health and Philosophy in East and West

Course director: Per Sangild
30 March – 8 April

Epidemiologic issues relating fertility research

Course director: Elvira Vaclavik Bräuner
19-21 April, 2017

Quantitative Bias Analysis for Epidemiologic Research

Course director: Naja Hulvej Rod
14-16 August, 2017

Advanced Social Epidemiology: A focus on Concepts, Methodology, Context and Life-course

Course director: Ingelise Andersen
28 August – 1st of September 2017

Other courses

European Educational Programme in Epidemiology (EEPE)

Residential 3-week Summer Course in Epidemiology, 19 June – 7 July 2017

Pre-Course week, 13 – 16 June 2017 (*can be attended independently from the 3-week residential course*)

Contact: eepe@eepe.org and www.eepe.org

Statistics courses at HEALTH-UCPH

Statistical analysis of survival data

Use of SAS statistical software

Programming and statistical modelling in R

Regression models

Introduction to Stata

Use of the statistical software R

Programming and statistical modelling in Stata

Introduction to scale validation

Modern scale validation and using IRT and Rasch models

Analysis of correlated and repeated measurements

Read more at:

<https://phdcourses.ku.dk/Kursusliste.aspx?printPreview=1&TermId=337&KatId=53&OCatID=4300117&sitepath=SUND>

Applications for public health and statistics courses through the Graduate School:

<https://phdcourses.ku.dk/Default.aspx?sitepath=SUND>

GRASPH Summer School 2017

17-18 May, residential course at Comwell Klarskovgaard

Registration:

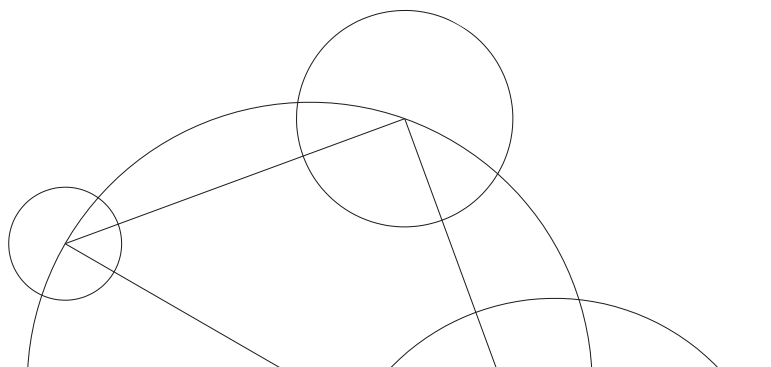
PhD students:

<https://service.health.au.dk/modules/Course/mypage/coursecalendar>

Supervisors: send e-mail to Grethe Elholm: gelh@ph.au.dk

Read more:

<http://phd-pubhealthepi.ku.dk/summer-school/>



PhD defenses

3rd of February at 14:00-17:00

Mie Sara Hestbech

Current dilemmas in cervical cancer screening: The impact of HPV vaccination and provision of information to women

http://healthsciences.ku.dk/phd/calendar/q1-2017/phdforsvar_hestbech030217/

27 February at 14:00-17:00

Camilla Bjørn Jensen

Prenatal vitamin D exposure, birth weight and BMI at 7 years of age

http://healthsciences.ku.dk/phd/calendar/q1-2017/phdforsvar_jensen270217/

Funding opportunities for research stays abroad in 2017

The Graduate Program in Public Health and Epidemiology will provide up to 10.000 DKK in financial support to research stays abroad of *at least three months duration* in 2017 in order to encourage internationalization.

Please send a brief description of your research stay abroad and a budget to Lisbeth Lyng Hansen (llh@sund.ku.dk) in order to apply for these funds. Everyone who meets the qualifications will be awarded funding up to a maximum of 10.000 DKK depending on their budget.

Please be aware that these funds are in addition to the funds you can apply for through the PhD School:

<http://healthsciences.ku.dk/phd/studyabroad/financial-support-for-studying-abroad/>

There is also an excellent 'PhD supervision service' for going abroad handled by International Staff Mobility (ISM) who assists PhD students with practical issues such as visa, insurance, de-registration, social security and funding. More information can be found at: <http://phd.ku.dk/english/abroad/>

Financial support for seminars

If you wish to organize a seminar, the graduate program in Public Health & Epidemiology has some means to support for instance travel and accommodation for guest lecturers. The only condition is that the seminar is open for PhD students in the program. Please contact Naja Hulvej Rod, nahuro@sund.ku.dk or Lisbeth Lyng Hansen, LLH@sund.ku.dk for more information.

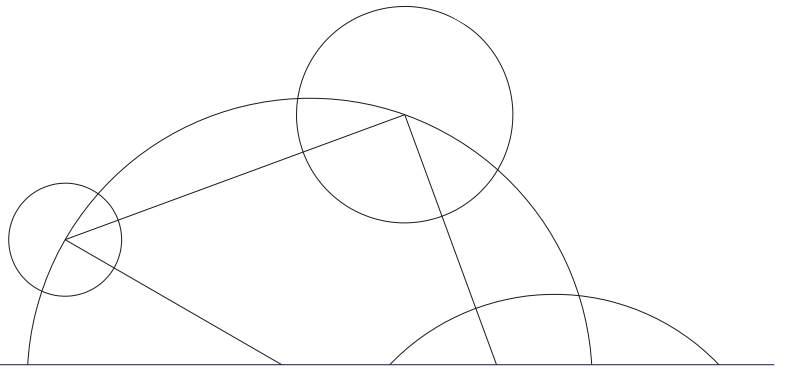
Financial support for writing retreats



We offer a number of writing retreats of one week duration at Fuglsang Manor House, https://intranet.ku.dk/employeeguide/buildings_and_facilities/fuglsang-manor-house/Pages/default.aspx

Please send a short motivated application to Lisbeth, LLH@sund.ku.dk.

Application deadline for stays in the Autumn semester: **17 April, 2017**.



Coaching sessions

We offer coaching sessions to PhD students that experience challenges in their projects. We have contact to three coaches with specific experience in PhD coaching.

This is an **on-going offer**, so if you feel in need of this kind of support, please contact Lisbeth Lyng Hansen, llh@sund.ku.dk. She can mediate the contact to the coaches. All requests will be handled confidentially.

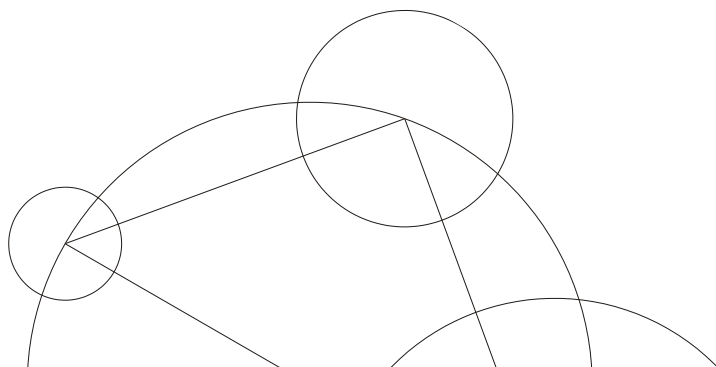
Courses on supervision for PhD supervisors

Supervision of PhD students

Department of Science Education, University of Copenhagen

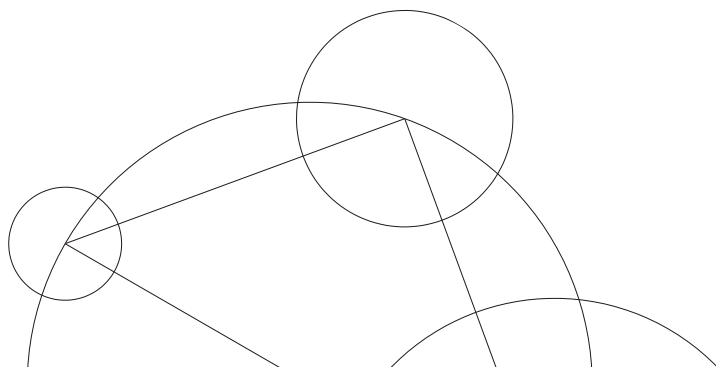
This course aims to provide participants with the practical and theoretical basis supervising PhD students - both as principal or supplementary supervisor. The course is designed for new as well as experienced supervisors.

For course dates, see http://www.ind.ku.dk/english/course_overview/teacher_training/phd_supervision/

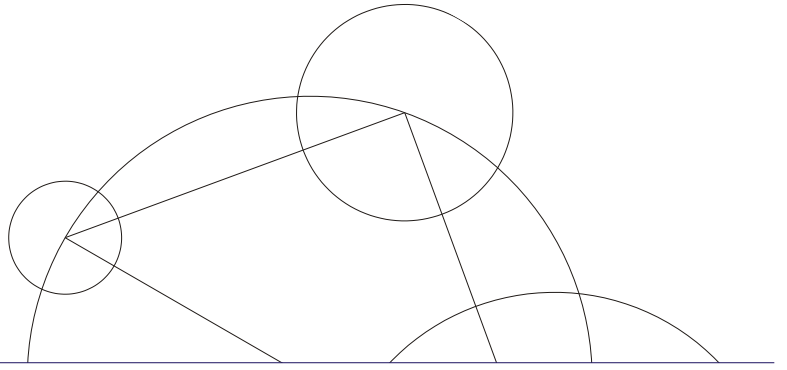


Congratulations to the 40 PhD students who have been awarded their PhD degree in 2016 within the graduate program 'Public Health & Epidemiology'.

Name	PhD project	Workplace
Anne Marie Lyngsø	Optimering af tværsektorielt sammenhængende patientforløb for mennesker med kronisk obstruktiv lungesygdom	Bispebjerg Hospital
Anne Mette Flenstrup Bender	Hvilken betydning har socioøkonomisk faktorer for deltagelse i og effekt af en individorienteret livsstilsintervention	Glostrup Hospital
Annette Rasmussen	Anti- VEGF behandling af nethindelidelser med fokus på optimering af patientforløb, livskvalitet og sundhedsøkonomi	Glostrup Hospital
Camilla Tea Præstegaard	Socioeconomic status and tobacco smoking as prognostic factors for ovarian cancer survival	Danish Cancer Society
Cathrine Lawaetz Wimmelmann	Den psykologiske profil og den psykiske tilstand hos patienter, som gennemgår fedmeoperation	Department of Public Health
Charlotte Crim Tamason	Laying the foundation for a new approach to understanding cholera risk: a study on water availability and water consumption	Department of Public Health
Christina Bording Rasmussen	Pelvic inflammatory disease and risk of ovarian cancer.	Danish Cancer Society
Dennis Winge Hallager	Revision risks in surgical treatment of adult spinal deformities. A clinical and biomechanical study	Rigshospitalet
Ditte Hjorth Laursen	Effekt af patientuddannelse i følge patienter med type 2 diabetes mellitus	Bispebjerg Hospital
Dorthe Gaby Bove	Development and testing of nurse initiated palliative care targeted patients with severe COPD	Nordsjællands Hospital
Ellen Frøsig Moseholm Larsen	Factors associated with mental health among patients with non-specific symptoms that undergo a diagnostic work-up for cancer, and their perspectives about the process. The DiagMIXED study.	Nordsjællands Hospital
Gry Juul Poulsen	A study of socio-economic disparity in preterm birth: Using European birth cohort studies to investigate mechanisms responsible for social variations in risk	Department of Public Health
Heidi Maria Bergenholtz	Basal palliativ sygepleje på hospital	Sygehus Nord
Ida Behrens	Exploring the link between pre-eclampsia and the risk of cardiovascular disease in women and their families	Statens Seruminstitut
Janet Froulund Jensen	Recovery of post intensive care patients - RAPIT study A clinical multicenter interventional study	Nordsjællands Hospital
Jeppe Lerche la Cour	Stråleinducerede bivirkninger ved behandling med radiojod af benign thyroidea sygdom.	Glostrup Hospital
Jeppe Schultz Christensen	Road traffic noise, fecundity and postnatal health outcomes in children	Danish Cancer Society
Julie Aarestrup	Childhood body size, growth, and pubertal timing and the risk of endometrial, ovarian, and prostate cancer in adulthood	Frederiksberg Hospital
Karoline Beate Kragelund Nielsen	Gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM) in Tamil Nadu, India & from antenatal care attendance to postpartum follow-up	Department of Public Health



Lars Hermann Tang	Training assessment, exercise- capacity and context and quality of life in a mixed cardiac population: a practical clinical approach based on CopenHeart	Rigshospitalet
Louise Thirstrup Thomsen	Absolute risks of severe intraepithelial neoplasia and cervical cancer following infection with high-risk human papillomavirus. The impact of virus type, multiple infections and viral load.	Danish Cancer Society
Maiken Winther Pontoppidan	The effects of a very early intervention for disadvantaged families with children aged 0-1 years.	The Danish National Centre for Social Research
Malene Frøsig Svahn	Epidemiological aspects of HIV-associated cancers in Denmark - focus on head and neck cancer	Rigshospitalet
Maria Lurenda Westergaard	Medicine Overuse Headache: Burden, Consequences, Prevention	Glostrup Hospital
Maria Rudkjær Mikkelsen	Patients' coping and rehabilitation after alcohol-related hepatic coma in the interaction with health professionals and relatives. A controlled intervention and multicenter study	Bispebjerg Hospital
Marianne Agergaard Vammen	Betydningen af emotionelt krævende arbejde for udvikling af udbrændthed og depression	Bispebjerg Hospital
Marie Fog Topp	Predicting adherence in patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	Hvidovre Hospital
Mille Løhr	Metabolisk syndrom og alders betydning for oxidativ beskadigelse af DNA i humane celler	Department of Public Health
Nina Glasser Heede	Epidemiology of eczema disease - a characterization of socio-economic consequences and genetic predisposition	Gentofte Hospital
Nynne Nyboe Andersen	Safety of Anti-tumor Necrosis Factor alpha (TNF-a) Treatment - A Nationwide Cohort Study	Statens Seruminstitut
Pia Elena Wichmann Henriksen	Fysisk inaktivitet blandt børn og unge: kvantitativ og kvalitativ analyse af betydningen af sociale relationer og social position	Department of Public Health
Rikke Hodal Meincke	The influence of early life intelligence on mortality and physical performance in midlife	Department of Public Health
Sandra Søgaard Tøttenborg	Predictors for λ and effects of - smoking and medicine compliance in Danish COPD patients	Department of Public Health
Sascha Wilk Michelsen	Immune recognition of Mycobacterium tuberculosis in Greenland	Statens Seruminstitut
Sofie Biering-Sørensen	Providing early BCG vaccine to low-birth-weight infants - Effect on Mortality, Morbidity and Growth	Department of Public Health
Sofie Mandrup Hansen	Arbejds miljøet for beskæftigede med leddegigt	Glostrup Hospital
Susanne Hansen	Foetal programming of asthma and allergy: Significance of dietary components from sea food	Department of Public Health
Tanja Thomsen	Joint resources. A study of sedentary behaviour in patients with rheumatoid arthritis.	Glostrup Hospital
Tina Drud Due	Facilitatorbesøg som udviklingsredskab for håndtering af kronisk sygdom i almen praksis	Research Unit for General Practice



Xiaoqiang Li

Copenhagen Child Cohort 2000 Øjenundersøgelse

Glostrup Hospital