

General Information

Conference Venue

Copenhagen Business School (CBS)
Solbjerg Plads 3
DK-2000 Frederiksberg

Conference Language

English (no translation services will be provided)

Programme and Registration

The 2nd Announcement will include the call for abstracts, the preliminary programme and a conference registration form. Please see the conference website: www.dpu.dk/konferencer

Conference convenor:

Finn Thorbjørn Hansen
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Conference fee

Before 1 May 2004	DKK 2000
After 1 May 2004	DKK 2500
Students before 1 May 2004	DKK 1200
Students after 1 May 2004	DKK 1600

PLEASE NOTE THAT ACCOMMODATION IS NOT INCLUDED IN THE CONFERENCE FEE

Conference Organizer

The Danish **Danmarks
Pædagogiske Universitet**
University of Education

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Conference website: www.dpu.dk/konferencer

The 7th International Conference
on Philosophical Practice

The Danish University of Education
Copenhagen
3-6 August 2004

– in cooperation with Copenhagen Business School,
The International Society for Philosophical Practice (IGPP)
and The Danish Society for Philosophical Practice (DSFP)

Philosophical Practice – A Question of **Bildung**?

First Announcement and Call for Papers

Important dates	
October 2003	1 st announcement and call for papers
January 2004	2 nd announcement
April 2004	Deadline for submission of abstracts
June 2004	Deadline for registration

Danmarks
The Danish **Pædagogiske Universitet**
University of Education

Dear colleagues

On behalf of the organizing committee, I am pleased to invite you to the 7th Conference on Philosophical Practice which will take place from 3 to 6 August 2004 in Copenhagen. Welcome to Denmark!

Finn Thorbjørn Hansen

Organizing Committee:

The Research Unit on Guidance and Counselling, The Danish University of Education in cooperation with the Center for Leadership and Art, Copenhagen Business School and The Danish Society for Philosophical Practice
Ole Fogh Kirkeby, Professor of Philosophy, Copenhagen Business School
Boye Katzenelson, Professor of Psychology, University of Aarhus
Regner Birkelund, Associate Professor, University of Aarhus
Willy Aastrup, Director, Study Center, University of Aarhus
Finn Thorbjørn Hansen, Assistant Professor, The Danish University of Education
Anne Slej Kristensen, Communications Consultant, The Danish University of Education

Invited Keynote Speakers

Richard Shusterman, Professor of Philosophy (USA)
Hartmut von Hentig, Professor of Philosophy (Germany)
Robert Spaemann, Professor of Philosophy (Germany)
Gerd Achenbach, Dr, Chairman of IGPP and Philosophical Practitioner (Germany)
Anders Lindseth, Professor and Philosophical Practitioner (Norway)
Lars-Henrik Schmidt, Rector and Professor of Philosophy (Denmark)
Ole Fogh Kirkeby, Professor of Philosophy (Denmark)
Petra von Morstein, Professor of Philosophy and member of The Canadian Society of Philosophical Practice (Canada)
Kari Martinsen, Professor (Norway)

Conference Theme:

With the increasing individualization and pluralization of lifestyles in late modernity and the decline of the 'grand narrative' of academic philosophy we are heading towards what Lars-Henrik Schmidt, professor of philosophy and Rector of the Danish University of Education, has called "the epoch of self-formation". As individuals trying to orient ourselves in a rapidly changing world, we have to create ourselves as a work of art. In antiquity, philosophy was an 'art of life' and a practice of ethical self-care, that is, both an aesthetic and an ethical endeavour.

Contemporary philosophers have advanced the classical notion of 'the philosophical life' as an edifying ideal for individuals in late modernity. As the American professor of philosophy Richard Shusterman claims: "In short, Wittgenstein's disrespect for mere academic philosophising stems from a view he shared with Dewey and Foucault, that philosophy had a much more crucial, existential task: to help us lead better lives by bettering ourselves through self-knowledge, self-criticism, and self-mastery. Philosophy, for these three great thinkers, was more than thought; it was a life practice where theory derived its real meaning and value only in terms of the life in which it functioned, in the concrete pursuit of better living". (*Practicing Philosophy – Pragmatism and the Philosophical Life*, 1997, p. 21).

In the discipline of Philosophy of Education the German concept of *Bildung* (Schiller, Goethe, Humboldt and later Gadamer) is enjoying a renaissance. The term is difficult to translate. It is opposed to therapy and vocational training and is related to what in the English-speaking world is called liberal education, self-edification or, in Richard Rorty's words, a way of "redescribing ourselves" in the era of contingency.

Philosophical Practice and Counselling is a new field in philosophy which bears a remarkable resemblance to the notion of ethical self-care and *Bildung*. It was first described in 1981 by the German philosopher Gerd Achenbach and has since established itself as an international discipline and practice. It represents an attempt to unite reflection and action: to improve life through philosophical dialogue with a philosophical practitioner.

The aim of Philosophical Practice and Counselling is to help the "guest" become more aware of his or her philosophical self-understanding and assumptions and indeed to critically investigate these assumptions. Philosophical practice should not be confused with therapy or educational training. It is a practice that opens up a space for inquiry into ethical, value-based and existential questions.

The result of merging philosophical thought and real-life practice is neither a hybrid between philosophy and psychology nor a cross-breed of philosophy and pedagogy, but philosophy "proper".

Today, philosophical practice is gaining ground, not only in individual counselling, but also in supporting companies, organizations and associations in their attempts to critically investigate and discuss their convictions, values and orientation.

With this 7th International Conference on Philosophical Practice we seek to examine the nature of philosophical practice, its relation to the concept of *Bildung* and the need for dialogue that can strengthen individual self-formation, while at the same time acknowledging the limitations of self-formation. The conference will discuss the possibilities for developing philosophical practice beyond the academy in the fields of education, human resource development, health and care as well as business and management. And of course to critically reflect on this practice in strictly academic disciplines such as, for instance, philosophy of education.

