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1. Highlights

The center is an interdisciplinary "Center of Excellence" funded by the Danish National Research Foundation, with supplementary funding from the University of Copenhagen (Faculty of Humanities, Faculty of Theology and Faculty of Health Sciences). The current research program of the center, which runs from March 1, 2007 – February 28, 2012, is entitled "The Self: An Integrative Approach".

The center's research is divided into six sections:

- Self and consciousness
- Core self and extended self: A viable distinction?
- Infantile self-experience: A developmental perspective
- Self, emotions and understanding
- Disorders of self
- Self and normativity

During 2008 the Center organized, co-organized, and/or co-sponsored 9 conferences and workshops (with more than 140 speakers) as well as 8 individual guest lectures by invited speakers, and it had more than 60 foreign visitors.

The staff of the Center published 65 books and articles, and presented papers in Australia, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, Norway, San Marino, Sweden, Switzerland, UK and USA.

The Center's interdisciplinary meetings have attracted foreign PhD students from Australia, Austria, Belgium, Colombia, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Russia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, UK and USA.

Among the conferences and workshops organized by the Center in 2008, the following three might be singled out as having attracted particular attention in terms of international attendance:

March 13-15: *Religion and Subjectivity: Reconsidering the relational self.*

July 7-13: *Social Cognition and Social Narrative*

August 25-27: *Self and self-disorders.*

Among the Center's many 2008 publications one might highlight the following:

- Kendler, K. & Parnas, J. (eds.): *Philosophical Issues in Psychiatry: Explanation, Phenomenology, and Nosology*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2008. (424 p.)
- Raffnsøe, S., Gudmand-Høyer, M. & Thaning, M.S.: *Foucault*. Samfundslitteratur, 2008. (391 pp.).
- Welz, C.: *Love's Transcendence and the Problem of Theodicy*. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2008. (437 p.)
- Welz, C. & Verstrynge, K. (eds.), *Despite Oneself. Subjectivity and its Secret in Kierkegaard and Levinas*. London: Turnshare, 2008. (243 p.)
- Zahavi, D. (ed.): *Internalism and Externalism in Phenomenological Perspective*. Special issue of *Synthese* 160/3, 2008, 309-416.

During 2008 two of the Center's PhD students successfully defended their theses:

- Rasmus Thybo Jensen: Perception and Action - an Analogical Approach
- René Korsholm Rosfort: Subjectivity and Ethics: Ricoeur and the Question of Naturalizing Personhood

2. Staff

Scientific board

- Professor, dr.phil., PhD, Dan Zahavi, Director
- Professor, dr.theol., Arne Grøn
- Professor, dr.med., Josef Parnas

Post.docs

- Post.doc. PhD, Thor Grünbaum
- Post.doc. PhD, Joel Krueger
- Post.doc. PhD, Dorothée Legrand (until 30.9.2008)
- Post.doc. PhD, Claudia Welz
- Post.doc. PhD, Kasper Lysemose (since 1.8.2008)
- Post.doc. PhD, Anne Marie Pahuus (since 1.9.2008).

PhD students (all are enrolled at the University of Copenhagen)

- Cand.mag., Christian Beenfeldt
- MA, Wenjing Cai (since 1.9.2008)
- Cand.scient.soc., Gry Ardal Christensen (since 1.2.2008)
- M. Phil., Johan Peter Gersel (since 1.2.2008)
- Mag.art., Johan Eckart Hansen
- Mag.art., Mads Gram Henriksen (since 1.8.2008)

- Cand.mag., Line Ryberg Ingerslev
- Cand.mag., Rasmus Thybo Jensen (until 8.12.2008)
- MD, Andrea Raballo
- Cand.mag., Ulrik Houliind Rasmussen (since 1.1.2008)
- Cand.teol., René Korsholm Rosfort (until 4.6.2008)

Research assistants

- Cand.scient.soc., Gry Ardal Christensen (until 31.1.2008).

Technical Staff

- Ditte Sæbye, statistician

Administrative personnel

- Pia Kirkemann, administrator
- Merete Lynnerup, secretary (since 1.3.2008)
- Simon Rodovský, student assistant

Visiting professors

- Anthony Steinbock, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, USA (5.3.2008-2.4.2008)

Visiting researchers

- Dorothee Legrand, Centre de Recherche en Epistémologie Appliquée, CNRS, Paris, France (18.11.2008-16.12.2008)
- Rebekka A. Klein, University of Zürich, Switzerland (4.8.2008-18.8.2008)

Visiting PhD students

- Morten Sørensen Thaning, cand.phil., University of Aarhus, Denmark (1.1.-31.12.2008)
- Somogy Varga, Institut für Sozialforschung, Frankfurt am Main, Germany (1.1.-31.12.2008).
- Sarah Thorngreen Evald, stud.theol., University of Aarhus, Denmark (since 1.9.2008).

3. Research

Christian Beenfeldt's doctoral project concerns our two basic perspectives on consciousness: The detached third-person perspective (TPP) where we observe the physiology and behavior of other people and the first-person perspective (FPP) where we use self-awareness to directly inspect our own consciousness. The aim of the project is to bridge the gap by investigating the nature and epistemic status of FPP data. In 2008 Beenfeldt has investigated 1) Daniel Dennett's heterophenomenology, 2) British associationism, 3) introspectionism, 4) functionalism, and 5) the phenomenal and access consciousness distinction. Publications were submitted in areas 1, 4 and 5 during the year. Preparations are currently being made for publication in areas 2 and 3.

Wenjing Cai's doctoral project concerns the problem of reflection in phenomenology, in particular the methodological role of reflection in Husserl's transcendental phenomenology and in Heidegger's hermeneutical phenomenology. Currently she is investigating 1) how reflections are at work in the two phenomenologists' thinking, 2) whether reflection is a reliable tool, and 3) what is distinctive of phenomenological reflection vis-à-vis ordinary reflection.

Gry Ardal Christensen PhD project is entitled "Trust and Ethical Selfhood". The aim of the research is to clarify in what way trust and distrust relates us to others and to the world in an ethically significant manner. The first semester was spent reading literature on the philosophy of trust in general and on the ethical perspectives of the trusting relationship in particular. On the basis of this work the thesis was formed that trust is a part of our ability to orient ourselves morally in the world in terms of moral judgment. The second semester continued along the same lines as she explored and clarified the relationship between trust and moral judgment with special attention to how we, as selves, are related to others and to the world. The questions of selfhood, intersubjectivity, moral judgment and trust will continue to be discussed within a philosophical framework of Kant, Heidegger, Arendt and Lévinas.

Sarah Thorngreen Evald was a guest researcher at the Center from September 2008. She worked on a PhD project entitled "The whole man – a unified reading of Kierkegaard's pseudonymous writings and signed works". The project intends to investigate the two different tracks in the authorship 1843-1844, where Kierkegaard published 18 Edifying Discourses concurrently with his more famous pseudonymous writings. It will be argued that both the pseudonymous and signed works treat the same issue: Temporality as a way to relate to one's self.

Johan Gersel works on an elucidation of the conditions that are necessary for our experiences to appear to us as representations of an objective inter-subjective world. More specifically Gersel's research focuses on the degree to which a given experience needs to be related to other experiences as well as thought in order to acquire such an objective appearance. The goal is to argue that a rather extensive set of relations is necessary, and furthermore that such relations must be conceived as rational and internally accessible. The further prospect of such a conclusion is that it enables us to severely restrict what accounts of experience we can accept. A separate area of focus has been an investigation into the possibility of an account of concept possession that employs demonstrative singular thoughts as the central element in concept acquisition.

Thor Grünbaum has in his research primarily focused on the following topics: 1) Self-consciousness and consciousness: does phenomenal consciousness entail a minimal form of self-consciousness and if it does what are the philosophical implications? 2) Perceptual attention, action-control, and knowledge of one's own action: If an agent's perception is essential to her control of action, does this have any implications for our understanding of an agent's knowledge of her own intentional action? 3) Perceptual control and action-individuation: Does one's views on the individuation of intentional action have implications for one's theory of intentional control of action? 4) Imagination, narrative perspective and the self: how is the nature and phenomenology of sensory imagination related to the structure of perspective (so-called focalization) in literary narratives?

Arne Grøn has worked primarily on the following projects: 1) Studies on sociality and selfhood, focusing on a) limits to understanding selfhood as social, especially in b) further developing the notion of selfhood as self-relation, in c) further clarifying the relation of singularity and alterity, and in d) discussing the notion of trust in terms of alterity and selfhood. 2) Studies on subjectivity, religion, and the question of transcendence, focusing on a) horizon, immanence and transcendence, and self-transformation, b) understanding religion in terms of interpretation and affectivity, c) the relation of selfhood and self-annihilation, d) discussing selfhood, temporality, and transcendence in Heidegger's *Sein und Zeit*.

Johan Eckart Hansen's dissertation project is an investigation of the relationship between a minimal or core form of self and an extended (narrative) self. In 2008 Johan Eckart Hansen has focused his research on the evaluative aspects of the narrative self (MacIntyre, Frankfurt, Taylor, Schechtman and others) and on the relationship between time and self both as seen from the perspective of minimal

self-awareness and as seen from the perspective of narrative self. In October and November Johan Eckart Hansen made a visit to the University of Central Florida to work with Professor Shaun Gallagher.

Mads Gram Henriksen PhD project concerns the relation between the self and the development of symptoms in schizophrenia patients. Through phenomenological and hermeneutical analysis of empirical data collected from patients suffering from schizophrenia spectrum disorders, the project aims at identifying primordial experiential manifestations of schizophrenia, defining structural changes in the field of awareness in the progress of the disorder, and exploring the relation between seemingly unrelated symptoms in schizophrenia. The further aim is to explicate the relation between self, emotions and understanding, and this will eventually lead to a clarification and revision of the notions of understanding and explanation in psychiatry.

Line Ryberg Ingerslev's dissertation project is entitled "Conflict and Autonomy". In three steps the project investigates the embodied, expressive existence of human beings and its social implications of tension, conflict and negotiation of meaning. The first step consists in a philosophical reflection on anthropological aspects of subjectivity; here, the focus is mainly on Helmuth Plessner's Philosophical Anthropology and the uniqueness of human expressivity. The second step consists in a discussion of different conceptions of social experience. Finally, a practical perspective considers the role of conflict and play in relation to the emerging self-understanding of children. In 2008 *Ingerslev* spent six months of study abroad. She visited the Philosophical Anthropology research colloquium in Potsdam, Germany. Here, she presented and discussed the first part of the dissertation.

Rasmus Thybo Jensen successfully defended his PhD-thesis *Perception and Action – an Analogical Account* on December 8, 2008. In the thesis he developed an embodied conceptualism concerning bodily agency in analogy to the conceptualism concerning perception proposed by John McDowell. The view was defended against objections inspired by the work of Merleau-Ponty and it was argued that the level of perceptual and motor intentionality described by Merleau-Ponty can be accommodated by the conceptualist approach.

Joel W. Krueger works on the relationship between consciousness and self. His current research focuses on issues related to social cognition and intersubjectivity. Specifically, Krueger investigates the ways that the body's expressive dynamics (i.e., movement, gesture, facial expression, etc.) mediate empathy and social understanding. Krueger draws upon empirical research from developmental psychology, and is also interested in Moebius Syndrome. Another research focus considers how Buddhist models of consciousness and no-self (anatman) theories might fruitfully enrich discussions of phenomenal consciousness in current philosophy of mind and cognitive science. Finally, Krueger plans to continue developing an enactive account of music perception, building off of the research he did for a forthcoming article.

Dorothee Legrand works on the problems of self and self-consciousness from phenomenological, neuroscientific and clinical perspectives. She intends to clarify the description of a minimal form of self-consciousness at the pre-reflective level, defined as the subjective dimension of conscious experience, the first-person perspective from which objects are experienced. She mainly focuses on the bodily form of such basic self-consciousness. On this basis, she seeks to identify the neurophysiologic processes underlying such a form of self-consciousness. She investigates how the latter might be grounded in sensori-motor integrative processes.

Kasper Lysemose has mainly worked within two fields: 1) Research within philosophical anthropology: Important works have been studied - Georg Simmel *Philosophie des Geldes*, Paul Alsberg *Das Menschheitsrätsel*, Hannah Arendt *Vita Activa*, Arnold Gehlen *Urmensch und Spätkultur* and Otto F.

Bollnow *Mensch und Raum*. The outline of a book containing various anthropological paradigms has been drafted. So far a chapter on “money” has been written. 2) Investigations regarding the concept of self-preservation and its relation to subjectivity: Attention has especially been given to the stoic concept *oikeiosis*. A paper with the title “Subjectivity and self-preservation” was presented at CFS and is in the process of being made into an article.

Anne Marie Pahuus has worked on three projects all related to the notion of trust. The first concerns the relation between trust and organisational change. The second investigates the notion of trust in the work of Løgstrup and Arendt. Finally, she has written a chapter on philosophy and organisational studies entitled ‘Meaning in Work Life.’

Josef Parnas mainly worked on the issue of experiential self-anomalies in early schizophrenia. He has spent time preparing a new prospective longitudinal study of children at risk for schizophrenia that is to be conducted in Israel (Dept. of Psychology, University of Haifa), and has also collaborated with a similar research group in Melbourne, Australia. Data analyses are continuing on the existing samples, both from a qualitative-phenomenological perspective and quantitative, nosology-relevant perspective.

Andrea Raballo started a triennial project on Self-Disorders supported by the European Commission under the Marie Curie RTN DISCOS (Disorders and Coherence of the Embodied Self). The main research goals are the validation of the Schizophrenia Spectrum construct, the definition of phenotypes of psychotic vulnerability, and the neuropsychological correlates of self-disorders in schizophrenia. Contextual to the psychopathological focus of his research, Andrea Raballo is developing a joint project on cinema as a didactic and anti-stigmatic resource to facilitate the empathic understanding of psychosis.

René Rosfort successfully defended his PhD-thesis *Subjectivity and Ethics – Ricoeur and the Question of Naturalizing Personhood* on June 4, 2008. The dissertation argued for the irreducible relation between subjectivity and ethics by focusing on the interrelatedness between subjectivity and personhood. Furthermore the thesis analysed the neurophysiological and psychological dimensions of human affectivity.

Ulrik Houliind Rasmussen has continued working on his dissertation "The Memory of God" which deals with Hans Blumenberg's philosophy of religion. From October until December he was an honorary research associate at The University of Glasgow, where he studied under the supervision of Prof. Werner Jeanrond.

Anthony Steinbock was a visiting professor at the Center in the period March 5 – April 2, 2008. During his visit, he worked on two projects. First, he conducted research on one of the main themes of his next book *Phenomenology, Vocation, and the Problem of Evil: The Verticality of Moral Experience*, namely, on the “vocational self” as an initial way to clarify the concept of person and interpersonal relations. Second, he continued his research into another book project, *Phenomenology of Personal Emotions*. Considering emotional experiences that arise on the level of “person” (like hope, despair, trust, betrayal, pride, humility, etc.), he has developed his work on the phenomenology of guilt and shame.

Morten Thaning's dissertation project is entitled “H.-G. Gadamer's hermeneutic philosophy”. Thaning departs from the question: In *what sense* can Gadamer's philosophical hermeutics be conceived as a transcendental form of philosophy? Gadamer's comments on the transcendentalism in Heidegger's *Sein und Zeit* points to a strong criticism of traditional forms of transcendental philosophy. This criticism however must be confronted with Gadamer's own claim concerning the transcendental status of

language. Thaning reinterprets Gadamer's thinking as a transcendental form of philosophy by comparing it with John McDowell's minimal empiricism

Somogy Varga works on the notion of authenticity. His research during 2008 has mainly focused on the question how to set social philosophy and phenomenology in a fruitful interplay. Within this framework, Varga has worked on issues related to a critical assessment of influential accounts of authenticity. Another research focus has been on the issue of play, intersubjectivity and autism.

Claudia Welz has mainly worked on the following projects: 1) In connection with an ongoing collaboration with Grøn, Pahuus and Christensen that focuses on Trust, Conflict and Recognition, she has worked on a book manuscript entitled *Vertrauen und Versuchung*; 2) In the context of her postdoctoral project "Witnessing Self-Transformation: Seeing Oneself in the Mirror of Conscience" she has focused on philosophy of emotion, with special emphasis on love and shame, and theories of memory and identity; and 3) She has finally explored the modes of self-understanding that are at stake in Luther and Kierkegaard.

Dan Zahavi has primarily focused on the following projects: 1) Ongoing work on social constructivist accounts of self; 2) An analysis of Schütz' account of interpersonal understanding; 3) A critical assessment of Bergson's early theory of consciousness; 4. A critical discussion of no-self doctrines; 5) An analysis of the relation between self and self-conscious emotions (in particular shame); and 6) A discussion of the relation between selfhood and unity of consciousness.

Milestones for 2009

By the end of 2009 the Center for Subjectivity Research

- Will have made significant progress on several interrelated areas pertaining to sections III and VI in the Center's research plan. Philippe Rochat from Emory University, Atlanta, USA will be visiting the Center twice, thus strengthening and extending CfS's cooperation with the Emory Infant and Child lab. Furthermore the Center will be hosting a number of inter-disciplinary conferences and workshops on topics concerned with developmental and normative aspects of human agency, which will provide researchers at the Center with a unique opportunity to combine the ongoing research on human subjectivity with perspectives and questions from moral philosophy and moral psychology. Expected outcome: various articles.
- Will have deepened its understanding of the extent to which phenomenal consciousness entails the existence of a synchronically and diachronically unified self (cf. section I of the Center's research plan). The clarification will in particular proceed by way of a direct confrontation with the challenge posed by various Buddhist no-self doctrines. A workshop with world-renowned experts on self and no-self accounts of consciousness is planned and will likely result in an edited volume and various articles.
- Will advance further in its understanding of the relation between minimal self and narrative self (cf. section II of the Center's research plan). A workshop with prominent defenders of a narrative account of self has been planned. One of the current PhD projects is making visible progress when it comes to clarifying the notion of narrative and the extent to which narrative theories can enrich (rather than replace) our understanding of the minimal self. Expected outcome: various articles.
- Will have made considerable progress in identifying the primary experiential manifestations of schizophrenia (cf. section V of the Center's research plan). In addition, we plan to provide the first

psychometric descriptions of the EASE scale that may be used in quantitative, empirical studies.
Expected outcome: various articles.

- Will focus on the study of self-conscious emotions such as guilt and shame, and seek to clarify the extent to which such emotions can illuminate the nature of selfhood and influence the character of our self-understanding (cf. section IV of the Center's research plan). In addition, through a study of love's afflictions, the interrelation between self and other will be investigated. Expected outcome: various articles.

Dan Zahavi