

The Søren Kierkegaard Research Centre

The Søren Kierkegaard Research Centre was founded in December 1993 and began work in 1994. It is located at the Faculty of Theology at the University of Copenhagen and is supported by the Danish National Research Foundation. The Centre is run under the direction of Niels Jørgen Cappelørn. The interdisciplinary research activity at the Centre is concentrated in two main groups and is perhaps best described as an ellipse with two foci. (1) One of these consists of researchers, whose work is centred in the field of Kierkegaard studies; (2) the other consists of philological researchers whose primary aim is the establishment of a new critical edition of Kierkegaard's works.

(1) The Centre's research in Kierkegaard studies is governed by an international committee, chaired by Professor Hermann Deuser. The committee works together with the Centre Director on the planning of research goals and participates in decisions concerning the awarding of fellowships. According to the guidelines established by this committee and the Centre Director, research at the Centre is focused on the fields of philosophical and theological anthropology, ethics, and hermeneutics. In addition, the Centre provides a stimulating environment for scholarly work related to the thought of Søren Kierkegaard in a variety of other fields, including epistemology, metaphysics, aesthetics and literary theory, and social, political, and historical studies.

The Centre hosts a Research Seminar every year in August. The Seminar is dedicated to a previously selected text or theme on which papers are given. International scholars participate in the Seminar along with the Centre's own researchers and visiting scholars. The papers given at the annual Research Seminar form the main content of the *Kierkegaard Studies: Yearbook*, which is one of the Centre's research publications. The *Yearbook* also contains guest lectures given at the Centre, book reviews, and information on the events and activities at the Centre over the previous year.

The other main organ of publication for Kierkegaard research at the Centre is the *Kierkegaard Studies: Monograph Series*. This series is constituted of independent works of original research by individual authors. It features doc-

toral dissertations, as well as works by junior and senior researchers, which have been written under the regie of the Centre. Both the *Yearbook* and the *Monograph Series* are published by the publishing house of Walter de Gruyter in Berlin.

(2) The philological research at the Centre has as its aim to establish a new critical edition of everything written by Søren Kierkegaard under the title *Søren Kierkegaards Skrifter*, which will appear in both book and electronic form. This edition is conceived as the first unified edition of Kierkegaard's complete published works along with his journals and papers. The book version of *Søren Kierkegaards Skrifter* will contain all the printed and unprinted writings of Kierkegaard, including articles, journals, notebooks, diaries, loose notes, letters and paralipomena, as well as Kierkegaard's annotations to his own works as well as those of others. The first editions of Kierkegaard's published works have been chosen as the textual basis for this edition. In addition to the information contained in the book version, the computer versions of *Søren Kierkegaards Skrifter* will include all previous versions and materials from all levels of composition for both printed and unprinted works, as well as an array of support and resource files. Since serious problems have resulted both from the chronological presentation as well as from the intercalation of Kierkegaard's posthumous papers in the two existing editions, *Af Søren Kierkegaards Efterladte Papirer* (1869-1881) and *Søren Kierkegaards Papirer* (1909- 1948; revised 1968-1978), a totally new and different organization of all the material will be made in the new edition. Kierkegaard's manuscripts are housed at the Kierkegaard Archive at the Royal Library in Copenhagen. By virtue of an advantageous agreement with the Royal Library, the Søren Kierkegaard Research Centre has access to the manuscripts for the purposes of their transcription and for preparations for publication.

Commentaries to this annotated edition will appear in separate volumes. These commentaries will be strictly historical, biographical, bibliographical, philological, etc., and will contain as little interpretation as possible. A large group of specialists, including consultants from all the relevant fields, will be engaged in the writing of these commentaries.

The edition, *Søren Kierkegaards Skrifter* is being published by G.E.C. Gad Publishers in Copenhagen and is projected to consist of 55 volumes, of which 28 are volumes of text and 27 volumes of commentaries. The edition is divided up into several sections: the printed books, including articles, the unprinted books, also including articles, journals, notebooks, and diaries, loose notes, letters and paralipomena, and Kierkegaard's annotations to his own books, as well as to those of others.

The Centre employs both Danish and foreign researchers whose specialization is in the field of Kierkegaard studies or who wish to incorporate consideration of Kierkegaard into research in other fields. Positions at the Centre are advertised internationally at universities, in professional journals as well as in major newspapers. The Centre provides space for researchers as well as for translators with external funding who also participate in research activi-

ties and in the life of the Centre. Such affiliation with the Centre is provided without cost. Visiting doctoral candidates work with senior scholars on an individual basis. Doctoral seminars are arranged in cooperation with the Department of Søren Kierkegaard Studies. Doctoral candidates may be recruited from Danish as well as from other research institutions.

Visiting scholars are chosen in view of the interdisciplinary and international character of research at the Centre. Particular consideration is granted to the education of Kierkegaard scholars from parts of the world where possibilities for such studies and traditions of Kierkegaard research have been lacking. Knowledge of Danish is not a necessary condition for employment at the Centre, but is taken into consideration. Ph.D. students from abroad are expected to work toward proficiency in Danish so as to enable them to work with the texts in the original language. Numerous programs of lange instruction are available in Copenhagen at nominal cost.

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