

Celebrating the 50th issue of RASK Editors' foreword

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It is with great pleasure we hereby present the 50th issue of *RASK: International Journal of Language and Communication*. Our journal was founded on the initiative of the research publication committee at the University of Southern Denmark's Department of Language and Communication in the early nineties to provide a publication channel for members of the department. Our first issue was published in October 1994; since then, the overall scope of research conducted at our department has continuously changed in light of new societal demands and the shifting trends in the humanities; over the years, RASK has changed along with them.

To commemorate our 50th issue, we have invited all seven research centres at the Department of Language and Communication to participate in our celebration by submitting two entries to the present issue: (1) The centre directors have written a short presentation of each centre, its *raison d'être*, its history, its members and the future perspectives for its research, and (2) One or more members of each centre have written an original research article, providing an example of the research activities taking place there. (Each centre's contribution is presented in the above order).

The result is a collection of articles that showcases the impressive range of research topics and the theoretical and methodological diversity that characterises our department; it also demonstrates its profound unity. All seven entries show a deep sensitivity to societal context and an interest in how 'language and communication' matters in people's lives.

To provide a bit of historical context, as one of several such initiatives, the committee has asked Hans Frede Nielsen, one of the original members of the department's research publication committee and the first editor of RASK, to give an account of the journal's history. Hans Frede's account follows below.

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Jacob Mey, Alexandra Holsting & Christian Johannessen
Editors