

Danish Centre for Welfare Studies

Danish Centre for Welfare Studies (DaWS) is an interdisciplinary research centre contributing to national and international academic and public debates on welfare-related issues. Established in 2005, DaWS is an internationally highly recognized, dynamic, thriving research unit. The Centre's research areas include the normative foundation of the welfare state and its development in a comparative and historical perspective, responses of the welfare state to external challenges and the impact of the welfare state on individuals. Through our research, we aim to address and contribute to solving major societal challenges.

DaWS emphasizes high-quality research, and we will continue to:

- Produce research at the highest level within the field of welfare research
- Contribute to the development of the field of welfare studies
- Be nationally and internationally recognized for top-class scholarship
- Offer a significant contribution to interdisciplinary research at SDU and internationally

With respect to teaching, we aim to offer high-quality teaching and training for students across different programmes at SDU. High-quality teaching is research-based teaching that gives students strong academic competencies and stimulates their curiosity and critical sense.

The university is not a castle. We believe our research should have impact also beyond the halls of academia. Researchers at DaWS work to broadly disseminate research findings and to address, cooperate, and contribute to solving major societal challenges.

Finally, we believe in the importance of a good research work environment that offers an intellectually stimulating and socially well-functioning workplace. A good work environment is characterized by pluralism, high academic standards, curiosity and social interaction.

For the next four years (2022-2026), we will continue our work to maintain and realize the above-mentioned goals. More specifically, we will focus on the following sub-goals:

Research

Goal	Actions
<p>Continue to be highly visible in leading social policy journals and relevant handbooks, top-disciplinary journals, publish books with the top-publishers in our field and through editorial roles (e.g., journals, book series, books)</p> <p>Continue to have a steady improvement measured by citations, impact, ranking</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update DaWS list of target journal and publishers. • Yearly evaluation of research impact within the group.

Continue to attract third party funding to support our research agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop coordinated long-term (5 years) strategy for applications including plans for prestigious national and international grants. • Internal evaluation of research proposals.
Continue to contribute to international research training activities for young researchers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1-2 annual workshops for young researchers (could be in cooperation with external partner). • Co-hosting international summer school.
Consolidate and improve cooperation with leading international scholars Continue to attract guest researchers to DaWS, including leading scholars in the field	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate projects and DAWS for financing guest researchers and guest lectures. • Semester plans for invited talks (virtual and on site).
Continue to spearhead interdisciplinary research at SDU and elsewhere	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play active role within cross-disciplinary initiatives at SDU (such as DiAS, C-POP, SAMF Clusters). • Develop new cross-disciplinary cooperation leading to projects and publications.

Education

Goal	Actions
Offer high-quality teaching and training for students across different programmes at SDU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teach in multiple teaching programmes at SDU.
Offer a significant contribution to the Political Science BA and MA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teach key courses and electives. • Cooperate across the sections with respect to teaching.

Societal Relevance

Goal	Actions
Increase contribution to national and international social policy debates through research-based interventions Increase cooperation with and dissemination towards policy makers and practitioners both in Denmark and internationally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop social impact plan (to be revised yearly). • Support and develop JUST SOCIETY Programme. • Appoint coordinator for societal relevance to collect most relevant social impact cases.

Work Environment

Goal	Actions
Continue to focus on our ability to attract top-quality junior scholars and offer them conditions to realize their potential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued cooperation with young researchers outside SDU. • Strong emphasis on active recruitment processes.
Integration of junior scholars (PhD students and postdocs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint discussions, projects and publications.
Continue to have a positive atmosphere allowing for critical dialogue, curiosity and a flexible research agenda across methodological approaches, disciplines and generations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bi-monthly section meetings for all staff and monthly “senior-staff meetings”. • Weekly lunch seminars. • 1-2 yearly retreats. • Bi-monthly social events.
Freedom of research at all levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emphasize open, supportive, pluralist, and critical discussions and dialogue across researchers in the group.