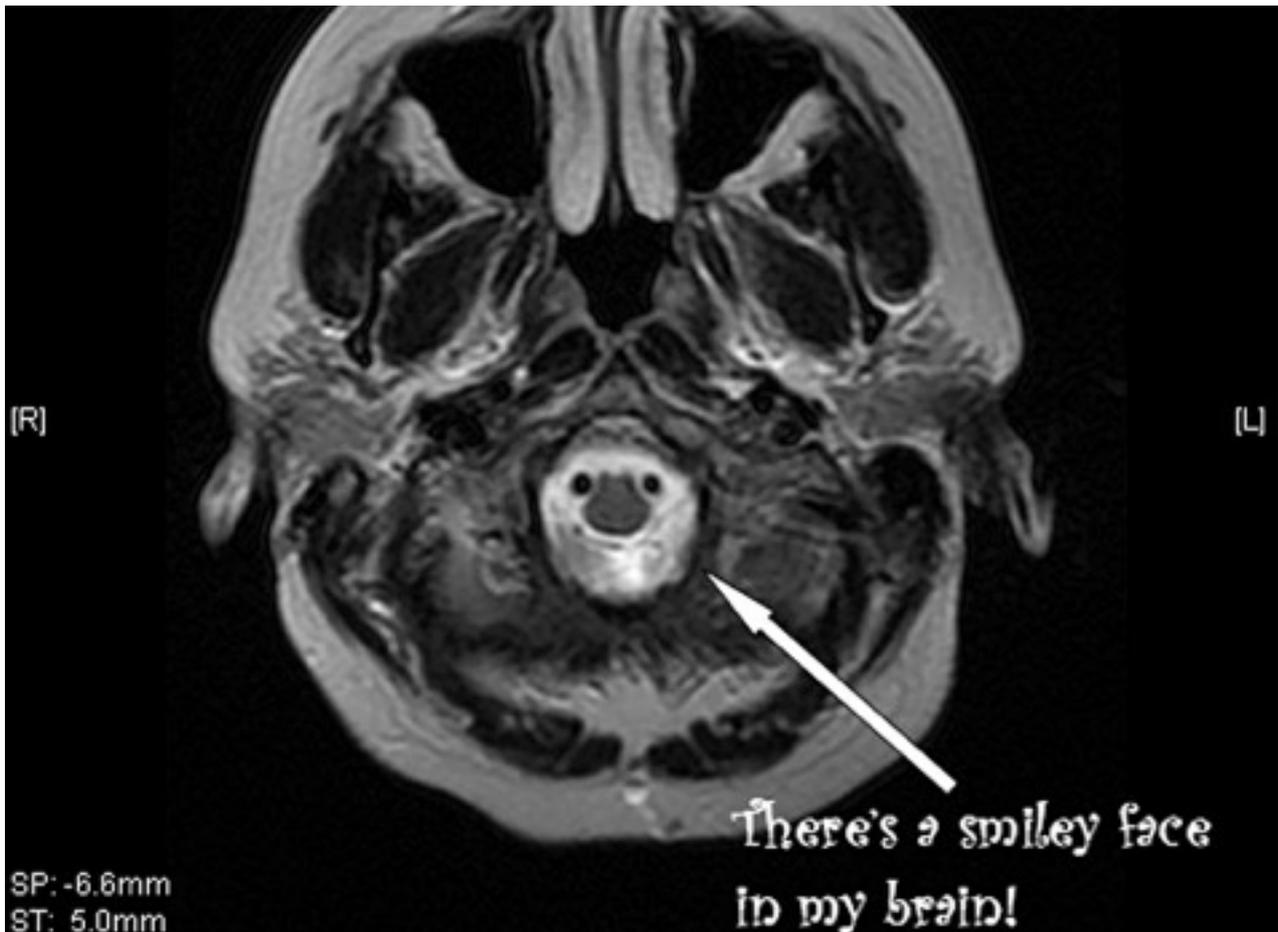


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# FAGLIG DAG

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**BrainFood Seminar - May 29th 13:15-16:30 room O97**



The Department of Language and Communication warmly welcomes you to its annual professional development event, or 'faglig dag' as it's known more locally. This year, as last, we offer a **BrainFood Seminar** featuring three invited speakers who we are sure will put **smiley faces** in our brains. Following their talks, there will be an open discussion and, rumor has it, there will be a reception afterwards.

Turn the page and find out more about our speakers and what they will speak on. The ambition of BrainFood seminars is to stimulate reflection and discussion on our two most important concepts within the department- **Language and Communication**.

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## **Program:**

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**13.15 - 14.00 - Eckhard Bick**

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**14.00 - 14.45 - Elisabeth Muth Andersen**

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**14.45 - 15.00 - Pause**

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**15.00 - 15.45 - Rasmus Nielsen**

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**15.45 - 16.30 - Open discussion**

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**16.30 – Reception**

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# A Swedish-Danish automatic translation system for Wikipedia articles

*Eckhard Bick*

This talk presents a Swedish-Danish automatic translation system for Wikipedia articles (WikiTrans). Translated articles are indexed for both title and content, and integrated with original Danish articles where they exist. Changed or added articles in the Swedish Wikipedia are monitored and added on a daily basis. The translation approach uses a grammar-based machine translation system with a deep source-language structural analysis. Disambiguation and lexical transfer rules exploit Constraint Grammar tags and dependency links to access contextual information, such as syntactic argument function, semantic type and quantifiers. In a direct comparison, the system outperformed both statistical and rule-based competitors (i.e. Google, Bing and Apertium) by a large margin.



**Eckhard Bick** is a computational linguist and project leader for the VISL lab at SDU's Department of Language and Communication (ISK). Over the years he has designed and developed grammars, corpora, lexical resources and applicational tools for a large number of languages, including most of the Romance and Germanic languages. Eckhard Bick is a leading expert in the field of Constraint Grammar, with a current focus on semantic annotation and machine translation. Eckhard Bick has published extensively on various aspects of computational linguistics and participated in a large number of international research projects.

# Recipient design in online postings: Outline of findings based on my PhD and reflections on the PhD process itself

*Elisabeth Muth Andersen*

The advancements of technologies provide us with new possibilities and constraints for how to accomplish social and practical activities and tasks, both in private and public settings. In my PhD I investigate how participants accomplish social actions in an online health discussion forum on the topic “metabolism” and in doing so how they accomplish a mutual understanding.

Affordances available to us, i.e. possibilities and constraints for how we can act, when we interact with others online, can be very different from face-to-face settings. Inspired by ethnomethodological conversation analysis I explore how participants make use of the resources available to them to accomplish recognizable social actions by writing with other forum participants in so called postings organized in threads. In my PhD I describe how such postings are structured as complex social actions. The talk will focus on methods participants use for constructing postings for particular recipients.

In the online forum investigated anyone who obtains formal membership by filling in a form can participate in the forum by writing postings that either initiates a thread or is organized as a response to (a) posting(s) in a thread. The postings are available to read for anyone who has navigated to the website. Hence, participants have no way of knowing or monitoring who – if anyone - will read and respond to postings. However, writers of postings that initiate threads construct their postings to be read and possibly responded to by someone, i.e. they design their postings to particular recipients.

Writers indicate that they are writing to particular recipients in several ways. Firstly, it is noticed that participants may use greetings and closings as well as other ways of addressing recipients, for example by using questions. Secondly, participants in fact orient to particular types of categories of recipients as relevant, i.e. they construct their postings to be (relevant) for particular categories of people. In the forum investigated particular membership categories (through analysis shown to be laypersons with bodily, social and/or medical problems related to metabolism, which they deal competently with acting in accordance with medical knowledge) are oriented to as relevant.

Through micro-analysis inspired by ethnomethodological conversation analysis of postings and responses this talk outlines ways in which participants make particular categories of recipients relevant by addressing and categorizing them in particular ways.

Ethnomethodological conversation analysis has been developed to empirically study social interaction in which talk is used as a resource for interacting. A central aim of my PhD has been to explore how to apply a method developed for the analysis of social interaction which focuses on talk-in-interaction to investigate the resources used for interacting by writing postings online. The talk will also include some reflections on how these methodological challenges have been dealt with during the PhD process as well as general reflections of the PhD process.



**Elisabeth Muth Andersen** has a master’s degree in Psychology of Language from the University of Copenhagen and has been employed as a PhD fellow under the research training programme Media, Technology and Social Interaction and is affiliated with the Center for Social Practices and Cognition (SoPraCon) at the Institute of Language and Communication at SDU. The PhD thesis has been submitted in February 2015. Currently she is employed as a research assistant and teaches courses at Danish and Audiopedics at the Institute of Language and Communication at SDU.

# Ethnoracial Categorizations in the Field of Sociolinguistic Variation

*Rasmus Nielsen*

This lecture problematizes ethnoracial categorizations in the field of sociolinguistic variation, and how salient linguistic features have been correlated with predefined sociological categories, such as race and ethnicity. Specifically, the lecture argues that the quantitative paradigm may benefit from being integrated with discourse analysis to highlight multifaceted, scalar variant meanings, although variation and discourse studies are often viewed as standing in stark contrast to each other. Whereas the traditional variationist focus centers on the quantitative patterning of linguistic variables at the community level, tabulating and abstracting linguistic tokens from their natural conversational settings, the discourse analytical approach takes the contextual employment of linguistic features in social interaction as the starting point of analysis. The benefit from such an interdisciplinary nexus is a more dynamic understanding of linguistic variation and by extension ethnoracial categorizations.

To demonstrate this nexus, the lecture concentrates on falsetto phonation (a feature traditionally linked to African Americans) used by 'Michael,' a fourteen-year-old African American male from Washington, D.C. The data comes from an hour-long sociological interview conducted during an 'at-risk-youth' summer camp. Falsetto speech is coded in terms of maximum  $f_0$ ,  $f_0$  range, and duration of falsetto measured in milliseconds.

The analysis shows that all instances of falsetto have related expressive connotations, and 'Michael's' most extreme cases of falsetto (in terms of max  $f_0$ ,  $f_0$  range, and duration) are used as a discursive practice in oppositional alignment to resist the interviewer's negative positioning of 'Michael' as someone who is constantly at odds with moral behavior. As such, falsetto speech in this case-study, and perhaps as a linguistic variable of African American English, proves to be a phonation type and stylistic resource that depends greatly on the interlocutor's rapid and fluid changing stances in the interview discourse. The lecture aims to demonstrate that linguistic variants, when studied in the interactional context, are complex and have multilayered meanings, problematizing a direct linkage between variant features and predefined social categories. The overarching goal is to shift our understanding of ethnicity as something we have to ethnicity as something we do through social and linguistic interaction.



**Rasmus Nielsen**, PhD, is Associate Professor at the Department of Language and Communication at the University of Southern Denmark and a member of the Centre for Communication, Culture and Society (CCCS). His research interests involve crosslinguistic influence, focusing on lexical styles produced by Danish learners of English, and his most current work centers on language variation and change, language and ethnicity, sociophonetics, and discourse analysis.