

Welcome to lectures by
dr. **Torben Jelsbak** (Copenhagen University)



Georg Brandes as Literary Critic and Public Intellectual
Thursday, the 9th of May, 13 00 Room 92

With the publication of *Emigrant Literature*, a series of public lectures given at the University of Copenhagen in November-December 1871, the Danish-Jewish Literary scholar Georg Brandes was to change the course of Danish and Scandinavian literary and cultural history. Brandes' seminal lectures are considered the birth certificate of modernity or the so called "modern breakthrough" in Scandinavian culture. By proposing a cosmopolitan perspective on literary history and by introducing the claim that literature should "provoke debate" Brandes made himself the standard bearer of a process of historical development that concerned not only literature, but the entirety of the social order and the modernization of Scandinavian culture in a broad sense. In my lecture I want to elaborate on Brandes' perception of modernity and the question how this relates to his understanding and empathy with emigrant experience.

From Bauhaus to Our House – Kritisk Revy, Popular Culture, and the Roots of "Scandinavian Design"
Friday, the 10th of May, 13 00 Room 314 A/B

The Danish architectural magazine *Kritisk Revy* (1926–1929) occupies an important position in Scandinavian avant-garde culture of the interwar period. Edited by a group of young architects and left-wing intellectuals, with the Danish designer and critic Poul Henningsen or "PH" as a driving force, the magazine served as an ideological platform for early Scandinavian modernism in architecture and design. As such the magazine may also be regarded as an early stage in the emergence and construction of the notion of "Scandinavian Design". This lecture will explore how *Kritisk Revy's* leading vision and concept of "humane art, art for society's sake" was formulated in a critical dialogue with contemporary currents and positions in international modernism such as Le Corbusier, Russian constructivism and the German Bauhaus School.

Torben Jelsbak is an Associate Professor at the Department of Nordic Studies and Linguistics, Copenhagen University. His current research concerns the interrelationship and exchange between the 20th century modernist avant-gardes and contemporary media and popular culture. For the list of Torben's publications and more information about his activities please visit his profile at [https://nors.ku.dk/english/staff/?pure=en%2Fpersons%2Ftorben-jelsbak\(385bf3e2-8189-4050-9b3a-7b63952e8fa6\)%2Fpublications.html](https://nors.ku.dk/english/staff/?pure=en%2Fpersons%2Ftorben-jelsbak(385bf3e2-8189-4050-9b3a-7b63952e8fa6)%2Fpublications.html)