

## The CALPIU Research Center – Studies of Cultural and Linguistic Practices in the International University

Seminar by **Prof. Hartmut Haberland**  
Roskilde University, Denmark

## Prejudices against Chinese students at Roskilde University: Origins, consequences, solutions

Seminar by **Dr Mads Jakob Kirkebæk**  
Roskilde University, Denmark

# Joint Seminar

Date: 18 March 2009 (Wednesday)

Time: 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Venue: B4-LP-12

The CALPIU Research Network is a network of about 50 scholars in about 20 countries which will be consolidated into a Research Center funded by the Danish Research Council for Culture and Communication from mid-2009 on. Network and Center join projects whose common aim is the study of cultural and linguistic aspects of the consequences of transnational student mobility. Central to the CALPIU effort is the collection of data into a large corpus, with special emphasis on recordings of naturally occurring speech. These data will be collected in four fields of practice:

1. The practice and self-conception of the university in a multilingual world,
2. Teacher-student relations,
3. Student-student relations, and
4. Administrative staff-student interaction.

The data will also document the use of several languages: international languages as *lingua franca*s (prominently English), the local languages and the students' first languages. Drawing on theories of language choice and language alternation, the projects are trying to describe aspects of these cultural and linguistic practices both on a macro and a micro level, touching on social and linguistic capital, language hierarchies, hegemonic discourses, multilingualism both as a resource for the speaker and a 'medium' in discourse, and social order in language alternation both between and within speech events. In my paper I will illustrate this by presenting some preliminary results from different sub-projects.

**Hartmut Haberland** was born in Hanover (Germany) 1948. He studied German, Philosophy and General Linguistics in Berlin and Stuttgart from 1966 to 1971. M.A. with a Thesis on Computational and Mathematical Linguistics in 1971. Taught in West Berlin (Germany) from 1971 to 1974, since 1974 at Roskilde University (Denmark), first as Associate Professor, then as Senior Reader, now at the Department of Culture and Identity of Roskilde University. Also taught for longer or shorter periods in Düsseldorf (Germany) and Copenhagen (Denmark) and as a guest lecturer in Athens (Greece). In 1995 and 1996, research stays at Dokkyo University in Soka (Saitama Province, Japan) and in Beijing (at 北外). Taught in 2006 at the Summer School in Pragmatics in Guangzhou (at GDUFS, 广外). Will visit Kansai University (Osaka, Japan) as a guest lecturer in the autumn of 2009. Founded the *Journal of Pragmatics* with Jacob Mey in 1977.

Using three Danish historical sources as examples, the origins and developments of popular Danish images of China and the Chinese will be discussed. It will be argued that developments in these images and prejudices against China and the Chinese were caused by changes in Denmark and Europe as much as changes in China itself. The discussion will provide the background for the introduction of the project, which aims to spot prejudices against Chinese students, analyse their origins and develop methods to prevent them from resulting in negative treatment or discrimination.

My working hypothesis is that "culture" is often used as a universal explanation of problems that may have other reasons or be more complex in nature. And that an understanding of cultures as limited and closed systems, containing a certain number of people with shared, innate and unchangeable, characteristics, puts obstacles in the way of finding proper solutions to occurring problems. In line with this, it is also my hypothesis that "bad language ability" is often used as an explanation of communication problems that might as well be caused by an insufficient introduction to study methods, lacking explanations of study objectives, differences in cultural capital etc. Therefore, the overuse of this explanation may prevent us from considering other reasons to communication problems and better ways to integrate transnationally mobile students into the university.

## All are welcome!

### **Mads Jakob Kirkebæk**

Lecturer in Danish as a Second Language and Intercultural Communication.  
LICS (Language and Intercultural Communication Services), Department of Culture and Identity, Roskilde University, Denmark.

Mads Jakob Kirkebæk teaches Danish for international students and intercultural communication for PhD students, lecturers and technical/administrative staff. His present research interests are language teaching, language acquisition and intercultural pedagogy.

He holds a PhD in Chinese, and is trained as a Teacher of Danish as a second language for adults (Copenhagen University).

He has previously taught various courses in Chinese, Danish as a Second Language and Intercultural Communication at Copenhagen University, Roskilde University and Language Centres in Slagelse and Roskilde.