



13 SEPTEMBER 2024

Teacher of the Year Award 2024

It is our sincere pleasure and honour to award Associate Professor Helle Bundgaard with our Teacher of the Year Award for 2024! In fact, not only is this an award that recognizes Helle's extraordinary efforts and achievements in the past year, this award marks our gratitude for the longstanding and lasting impact that Helle has had on our education programmes as Head of Studies (2007-2016), member of the Department's Study Council, teacher on many different courses, supervisor as well as through her many innovations in developing pedagogical approaches to improving the writing skills of our students.

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Most recently, Helle has developed the exciting elective called "Ethnographic Text" which was assessed as an A-course in both of its first two years, with one course evaluation stating: "This is a really inspiring course that has given me great joy and courage to write and explore anthropology. I have experienced a great joy in participating, and this course is very important for anthropology at KU!". Alongside this course, together with colleague Anne Line Dalsgård, Helle has written a textbook with the same title, *Etnografisk Tekst*, which is highly relevant to both students and researchers of anthropology and beyond. With the rapid emergence of generative AI in the past year, Helle was one of the first to begin experimenting with its possibilities together with her students.

In the past few years, Helle has had another teaching focus as well, namely on methods through her teaching with colleague Lars Richard Rasmussen on the third-semester methods course for our Bachelor students as well as on the field course that is part of our MSc in Global Development. Again, this pedagogical interest in methods has not been confined to the classroom as Helle took the lead with Hanne Mogensen and Cecilie Rubow to develop the much-appreciated *Antropologiske Projekter – en Grundbog* which is

currently set to come out in a second edition and which has become a curriculum staple not only at our department but also beyond, including internationally.

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We are therefore thrilled to award the 2024 Teacher of the Year Award to Helle Bundgaard for her deep-felt concern and care towards our students and their learning, not least those students who may be struggling in one way or another. This sentiment shines through so many of Helle's course evaluations, as for example:

“Our teacher has just been the best. I haven't had a teacher who is as good at creating a safe space as our teacher. She really is one of those teachers who makes a real difference to your professional development and who you don't forget. It's so nice that we can have equal and important conversations with her. And it's really inspiring to have a teacher who has produced – and produces – so much great text. Thank you for being such a great teacher!”

Sincerely,



Ayo Wahlberg

Professor

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