

## Law and Language in Scandinavia

Law and Language is attracting growing attention in Scandinavia, but is not a unified field. The statement by Peter Tiersma (2008), seems to hold true for Scandinavian research as well: "...the problem here is not lack of interest. Rather, it is that there are number of different groups producing work in this area, often with different background and interest."

In this presentation we focus on the current state of the art of the field of Law and Language in Scandinavia. The presenters are members of the steering committee of the interdisciplinary research network RELINE.<sup>1</sup> One aim of the Network has been to map ongoing research in the Nordic countries, and to establish a common framework for interdisciplinary studies in the field. This effort is presented in a forthcoming volume<sup>2</sup> covering four central subjects: the use of legal language, language as persuasion in a rhetorical sense, the hidden influence of legal language, and the role of language in legal interpretation.

The dual purpose of this presentation is to give examples from different areas of Law and Language studies in Scandinavia and to illustrate that the field is ambiguous and covers very diverse perspectives, which not only co-exist, but also benefit from joint investigation. We will discuss the latter claim after presenting three lines of research. Anne Lise Kjær will give a talk on the discursive implementation of ECtHR judgments in the case law of the Scandinavian supreme courts, Lin Adrian will present research on the language of mediated agreements in Denmark and Norway demonstrating how legal language is reproduced in this informal setting. And Jonas Gabrielsen will discuss the term 'rhetoric' in a juridical context, arguing that rhetoric is understood in at least three different ways in Scandinavian research.

---

<sup>1</sup> RELINE is an abbreviation for Retslingvistisk Netværk (legal linguistics network). For information regarding RELINE please visit: <http://jura.ku.dk/reline/>

<sup>2</sup> *Retten i Sproget – En antologi om samspillet mellem ret og sprog i juridisk praksis*, København: Djøf 2015.

## Brief presentation of presenters

**Lin Adrian**, Ph.D., is assistant professor in mediation at the Faculty of Law, Copenhagen University. She teaches law students as well as executive master students mediation and she is also a practicing mediator. Her research focuses on mediation in and outside legal systems. She has published a number of books and articles on mediation and related topics. She is a RELINE steering committee member. For more information, see

<http://jura.ku.dk/ansatte/forskningsomraadet/?pure=da/persons/62609>

**Jonas Gabrielsen**, Ph.D., is associate professor in rhetoric at Roskilde University, and external lecturer at the Faculty of Law, Copenhagen University. Among others, he teaches law students legal rhetoric and makes trainings in argumentation for students participating in moot court competitions. He has published numerous books and articles on rhetoric in theory as well as practice. He is a RELINE steering committee member. For more information, see

[http://rucforsk.ruc.dk/site/da/persons/jonas-gabrielsen\\_e0b2df49-33d6-4b7a-a8bf-058014d6d4d6.html](http://rucforsk.ruc.dk/site/da/persons/jonas-gabrielsen_e0b2df49-33d6-4b7a-a8bf-058014d6d4d6.html)

**Anne Lise Kjær**, Ph.D., is associate professor in legal linguistics at the Faculty of Law, Copenhagen University. She initiated the research network RELINE and heads the steering committee. For a number of years, she has worked with the relationship between law and language and among others she teaches classes on *Legal Communication and Rhetoric* and *Language Issues in International Law and EU Law*. In her research, she has had an interest in the role of language in European integration. Among her many publications, are “Nonsense: The CILFIT Criteria Revisited: from the Perspective of Legal Linguistics”, 2010, and *Linguistic Diversity and European Democracy*, 2011.

For more information, see

<http://jura.ku.dk/ansatte/forskningsomraadet/?pure=da/persons/87249>