

Curriculum Vitae

Sebastian Ørtoft Rasmussen,
Master of Arts (MA) in Comparative Literature

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Born 26.10.1994 in Hillerød, Denmark



Research profile

My academic work primarily focuses on the relationship between how our bodies sense and our minds make sense of the world around us – and how literature and arts can work as a historical archive of this relationship. As a literary critic, I am interested in studying how links between art and society can be used to match the challenge of taking meaningful political action, with a special interest in environmental forms, discussions, and discourses.

My PhD dissertation studies the nexus of sensibility, geological science, and aesthetic form by taking a closer at a cultural archive of inorganic matter and inorganic processes. In contrast to the many organic, vegetal, and aquatic models currently predominating the discourse on environmental aesthetic forms, my monograph reveals a specifically earthly way of sensing and representing the natural world in art. Its main point of study is a set of geological sensibilities, ways of conceptualizing the experience of the world through the signifying logics of geology, which it studies through a series of aesthetic case studies ranging from poetry written when the sciences of the earth were only just beginning to find its modern form, to contemporary art dealing with advanced mining technologies, remote sensing and highly artificial techniques of visualization, simulation and mapping.

I have also published and edited work about romanticism, including on Søren Kierkegaard, computational analysis and literary sociology. I am a bright reader and analyst, a well-liked and original teacher, and I have good knowledge of publishing, editing, and copy-editing.

I have recently been awarded, by the Danish Ministry for Higher Education and Science, the Elite Research Travel Grant (DKK 200.000) given “to support and encourage the most gifted and talented researchers.”

Education

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| 2023 - 2025 | PhD Fellow at Aarhus University |
| 2022 - 2023 | Combined MA-student and PhD Fellow at Aarhus University (a so-called 4+4 model) |
| 2019 - 2021 | MA-student in Comparative Literature at the University of Copenhagen |
| 2019 | Exchange at Peter Szondi-Institut für Allgemeine und Vergleichende Literaturwissenschaft, Freie Universität Berlin |
| 2015-2019 | BA in Comparative Literature at the University of Copenhagen |

Academic work

- 2024** **Visiting Scholar** at Cornell University. Situated at the German Department. Invited by Professor Jonathan Culler and Professor Cynthia Chase.
- 2022 –** **Teacher.** I teach a semiannual course at Rødning Højskole on romantic literature and its afterlife in contemporary art and culture.
- 2022 –** **Editorial secretary** at *Romantik – Journal for the Study of Romanticisms*, a peer-reviewed journal supported by NOP-HS.
- 2022** **Co-teacher** in *Hovedværksstudie: Jane Eyre/Study of a Major Work: Jane Eyre* at Aarhus University. Around 35 students. Great reviews from students, which can be forwarded upon request.
- 2021** **Research intern** at the research program *Measuring Modernity: Literary and social change in Scandinavia 1870-1900*
- 2020 – 2022** **Instructor, teacher, and coordinator** of a writing course for BA-students at the University of Copenhagen.
- 2020** **Editor in Chief** at the Student magazine: *Mosaikk - Institut for Kunst- og Kulturvidenskabs tværfaglige tidskrift.*

Professional positions held

- 2023** **Panel member** set to evaluate how well the Department of Comparative Literature at the University of Copenhagen realizes its educational goals.
- 2023** **Danish member** (together with Jens Bjerring-Hansen and Mads Rosendahl Thomsen) of the *World Literature Data Collective*: <https://worldliteraturedatacollective.wordpress.com>
- 2023 –** **Organizer** of *Litteraturseminar*. I voluntarily help organize a semiannual seminar with expert guests, writers, artists, local librarians and engaged members of the civil society in the countryside Danish city in which I live.
- 2021 - 2022** **Member of Fagudvalget** at the University of Copenhagen
- 2020** **Student representative** on the recruitment committee for positions of Assistant Professor - Tenure Track at the University of Copenhagen
- 2020** **Student representative** on the admissions committee for kvote-2 students at University of Copenhagen.
- 2019 – 2022** **Student policy work.** Member of several student organizations

List of publications

A) Articles

- 1) Fog Arndal, Martin, Kristoffer Balslev Willert and Sebastian Ørtoft Rasmussen: “Det metafysiske, det sanselige og det etiske: nye naturforståelser hos Schelling, Humboldt og Günderrode.” in *Slagmark: Naturen i Kriser* (2024)
- 2) Ørtoft Rasmussen, Sebastian: “Sensing the Worlds as Interconnected: Charlotte Smith’s Geographical Poetry” in *Studien zur Englische Romantik* (2023).
- 3) Bjerring-Hansen, Jens and Sebastian Ørtoft Rasmussen: “Litteratursociologi og fjernlæsning. Den historiske roman i det moderne gennembrud som case” i *Litteratursociologi. Passage 89* (2023)
- 4) Ørtoft Rasmussen, Sebastian: “‘At antyde det ubekendte lands grænse’: Filosofi, litteratur og ekstraskrivning”, i Lang, Hannah and Sebastian Ørtoft Rasmussen: *Fra kommando til kollaps. Otte aktuelle perspektiver på Søren Kierkegaards Frygt og Baven* (2020)

B) Contracted Publications (contracts can be forwarded upon request)

- 1) Fastrup, Anne, Christa Holm Vogelius, Sebastian Ørtoft Rasmussen and Stefanie Heine (editors): *Brill Companion to the Literary History of the Early Anthropocene* (2025)
- 2) Ørtoft Rasmussen, Sebastian: "Seismografisk sensibilitet: geologi og litteratur omkring år 1800" I *Norsk litteraturvitenskabeligt tidsskrift* 27/1 (2024)

C) Editorial Work

- 1) Egholm Lund, Sebastian, Tobias Skiveren, Søren Frank and Sebastian Ørtoft Rasmussen (editors): *Planeten. Passage* 90 (2023).
- 2) Magnusson, Gisli et al. (editors): *Romantik Journal for the Study of Romanticisms* 11 (2023)
- 3) Magnusson, Gisli et al. (editors): *Romantik: Journal for the Study of Romanticisms* 10 (2022)
- 4) Lang, Hannah, Ørtoft Rasmussen, Sebastian, Winkel Holm, Isak (editors): *Fra kommando til kollaps: 8 aktuelle perspektiver på Søren Kierkegaards Frygt og Bæven* (2020).
- 5) Lauridsen, Inge Høeg, Ørtoft Rasmussen, Sebastian (editors): *Mosaikk: Institut for kunst- og kulturvidenskabs tværfaglige tidsskrift. Nr. 11: Bevægelse* (2020).

D) Conference presentations

- 1) "Tracing Geology" at PhD Seminar at Sandbjerg Estate, April 2023
- 2) "Material Team Spirit: Literary Form and Ecological Sentiment in Charlotte Smith's Geological Poetry" at Romantic Ecologies 2022 Gesellschaft für englische Romantik (Society for English Romanticism), University of Augsburg, October 2022
- 3) "Tracing and Embodying Geological Sensibilities in Charlotte Smith and Ida Marie Hede" at Earth Sensations: Affects, sensibilities and attachments in an era of climate change, October 2022
- 4) "Geophila in contemporary Scandinavian art" at Connect/Cut. Infrastructures and collective activity, April 2022

Areas of Interest and Expertise

Contemporary literature, art, and culture (Danish, Scandinavian, American); Romantic literature and philosophy (British, German); Literature and natural Science (especially geology); Mineral Aesthetics; Søren Kierkegaard; Charlotte Smith; Sensibility studies, affect studies; Ecology and aesthetics; Ecocriticism; the Anthropocene; Close reading, formal analysis; Cultural Analysis, Computational Analysis.

Language skills

I read, write, and speak Danish natively. I read, write, and speak English on an advanced academic level, I read and write Swedish, and Norwegian on an academic level. I read German on an academic level.

External funding and prizes

- 1) The Elite Research Travel Grant (DKK 200,000) awarded by The Danish Ministry for Higher Education and Science, given "to support and encourage the most gifted and talented researchers."
- 2) Augustinus Fonden Travel Grant (DKK 25.000) for my stay as a visiting scholar at Cornell University 2024
- 3) Knud Højgaards Fond Travel Grant (DKK 13.000) for my stay as a visiting scholar at Cornell University 2024