



**INAUGURAL LECTURE, PROFESSOR STEN VIKNER**

## **WHY COMPARE ENGLISH TO OTHER LANGUAGES?**

Comparative linguistics examines both differences and similarities between languages.

Comparing English to Danish, German or French, for example, allows us to characterise English (and also Danish, German or French). An explicitly comparative angle brings out the specific properties of each language more sharply than when each language is treated in isolation.

Also interesting is that such comparisons provide indications as to which properties of e.g. English might be particularly problematic (or particularly unproblematic) for Danish or German or French learners of English.

Such comparisons are an important part of a larger enterprise, namely the investigation of which kinds of variation exist between languages, and which kinds do not exist. Given that only humans have a capacity for language, such investigations allow for important contributions to be made to our knowledge about the scope and the limitations of the human brain.

**Monday, April 11, 2016**

Jens Chr. Skous Vej 4  
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**LECTURE at 2:15 PM**

Building 1481, room 341

**RECEPTION at 3:00 PM**

Building 1481, room 366



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