

Employment opportunities for psychologists with a Ph.D.

The Danish Psychological Association

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About

10.000 members

cand.psych., cand.pæd.psych., mag.art. and psychology students at University of Copenhagen, Aarhus University, Aalborg University and University of Southern Denmark.

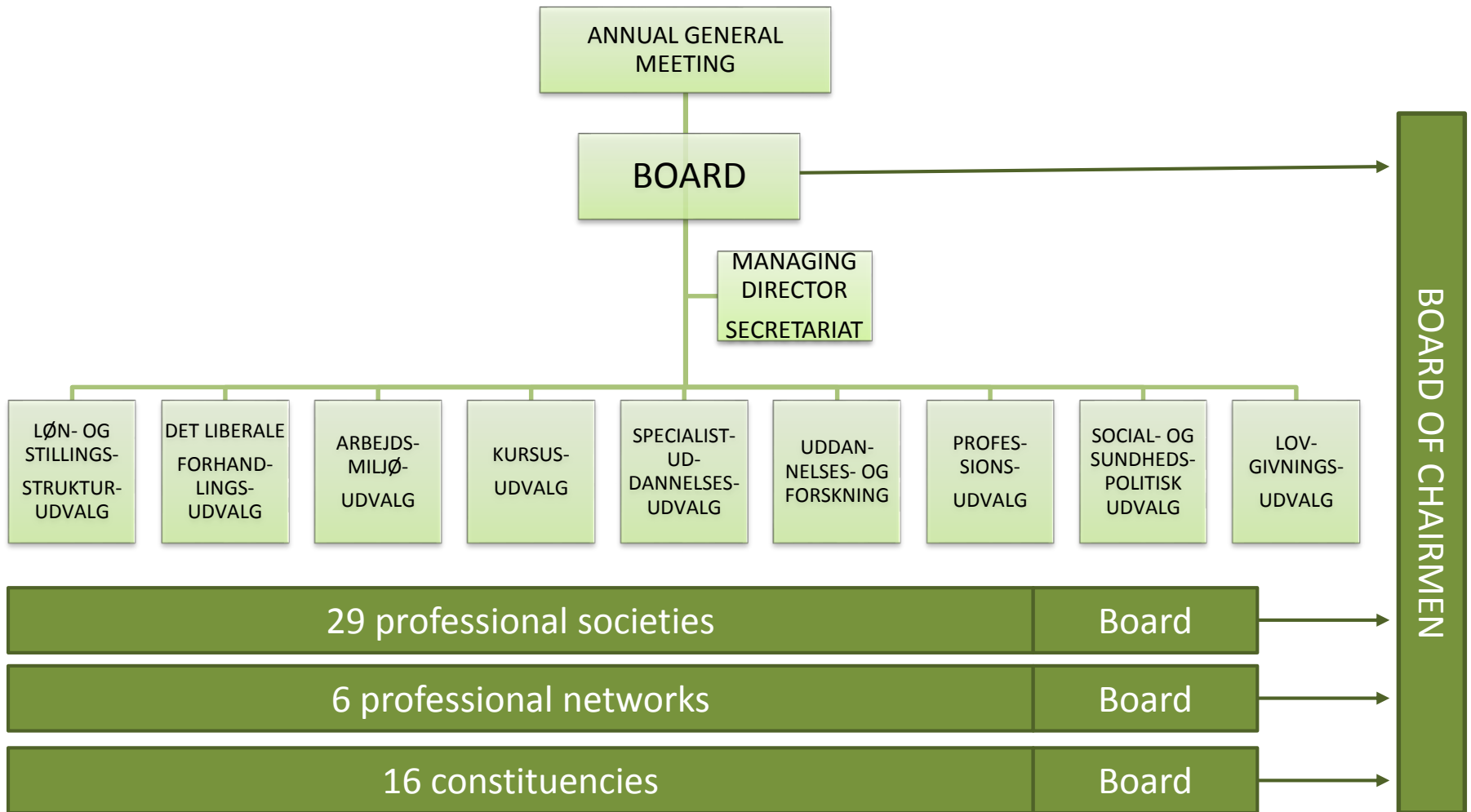
Our members work in both the public and private sector as employees, leaders and self employed (e.g. consultants and therapists)

They work with psychological assesment, development, therapy, treatment, leadership and communication in many different areas and industries.

What is our vision?

- Free and equal access to psychological services for those in need
- High quality and high ethical standards in professional psychological services
- Secure and improve working conditions of psychologists
- Create a professional profile of psychologists in public

ORGANIZATION DIAGRAM



Disposition

1. Employment opportunities among psychologists with a Ph.D. – a small qualitative study
1. Employment opportunities in the public sector -
Windows of opportunities for psychologists with a Ph.D. ?
3. Your experiences?

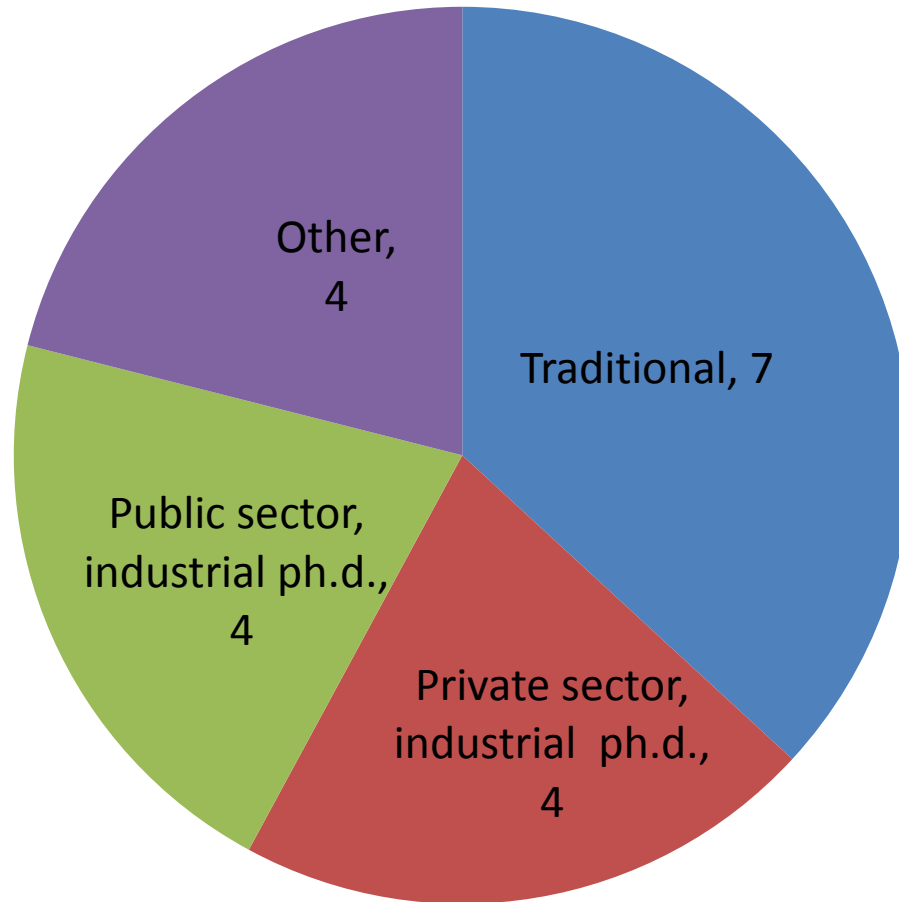
Employment opportunities among psychologists with a Ph.D. – a small qualitative study

What?

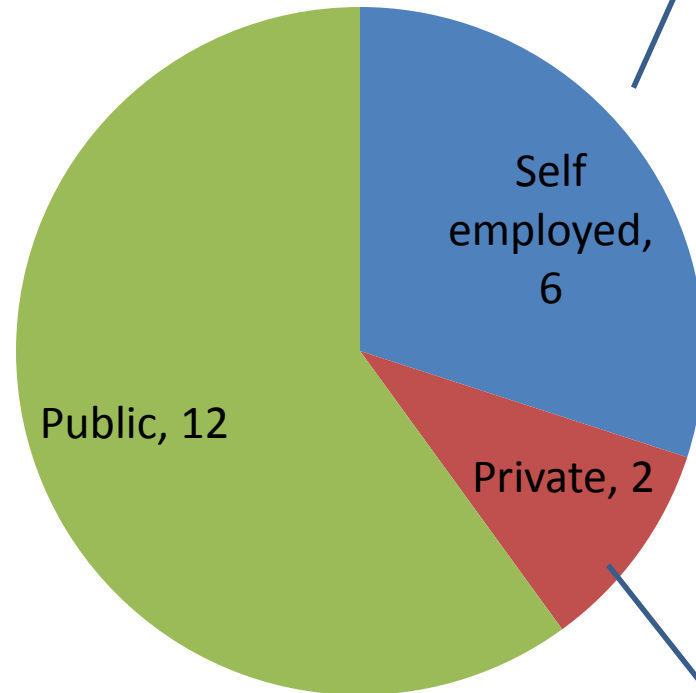
Survey and telephone interviews among *20 psychologists* with a Ph.D.

- Which type of PhD is most popular among psychologists?
- Where do they find work?

Which type of Ph.D. ?



Current workplace?



Example: Partner in own consultancy firm

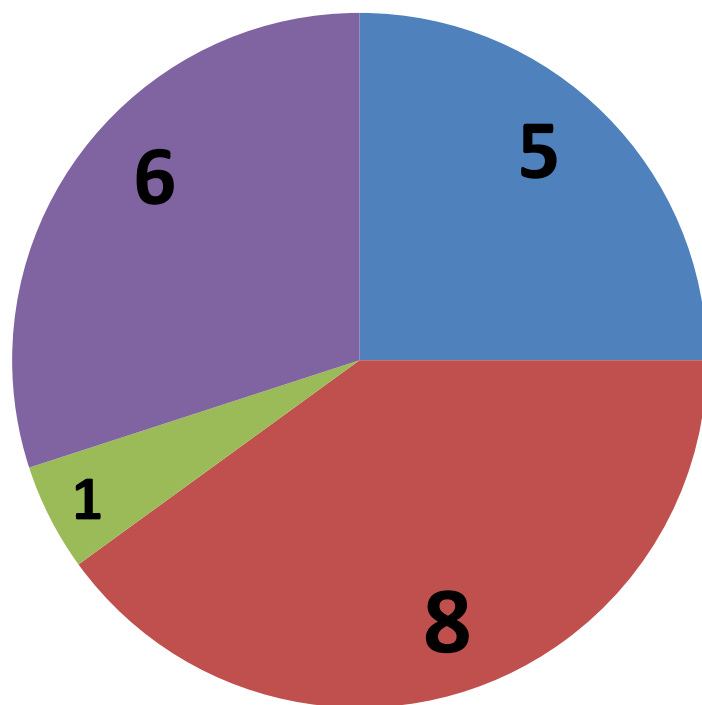
Example: Position in the psychiatry :part time research and part time patient contact

Example: Senior Researcher at DIGNITY – Danish Institute Against Torture and project leader.

Telephone interviews - what did we ask?

- How did you enter your current position?
- Experience with unemployment before your first position ?
- How to create employment opportunities during your Ph.D.?
- Good advice?

How did you enter your current position?



- Traditional application form
- Through network or by virtue of the Ph.D. degree
- Approached workplace on own initiative
- Independent/ start up of own business

How did you enter your current position?

Through my ph.d. -network

"I applied for a leadership position in the field of my Ph.D. study. It was a field, where they already knew who I was. Previously I had presented my project to that institution and had tried to make them help me with recruiting respondents for my research."

Helene Bygholm Risager
– Center leader at Center for Alcohol Abuse

What sort of knowledge is needed?

"Later I started my own company and experienced a lack of research in that field. I managed to finance a 'Professional Doctorate' and kept running my own company at the same time."

Andreas Granhof Juhl – CEO/
Founder of Granhof Juhl and partner at LEAD – Enter Next Level and Ovam A/S

In collaboration with my workplace

"I work the same place, as where I did my Ph.D. I also worked there before my Ph.D. The project was a collaboration between me and my workplace. When the position was available, I applied for it."

Nanne Johannesen. Psychologist at Tværfagligt Smertecenter, Herlev Hospital

How to create employment opportunities during your Ph.D.?

**Grow your
professional
networks**

**Be network oriented
in general**

We recommend...

Be proactive



Activities that create employment opportunities during a Ph.D.

Empty desk at Centre for System Analysis

"It fostered new contacts and taught me new ways of working in that field. Additionally they referred me to new, exciting literature"

Rune Nørager – Founder and Owner of Designpsykologi (company), external lecturer at the IT-University, Denmark

"I participated in two journal clubs; one of them was a stress journal club the other in psychiatry. Both were held across professional groups with a shared interest in the different fields. I used both of them for several purposes : To get to know more about reserach in related fields, for feedback and as a networking possibility".

Simon Bamberger – psychologist at Arbejdsmedicinsk Klinik, Aalborg University Hospital



Do you make a difference with a Ph.D.?

"It means a lot. It gives great legitimacy to be the one who knows best in your field. It is also an important signal when we have a speaker – the customer often thinks that the guy with the Ph.D. knows what he's talking about. "

Anders Trillingsgaard- Partner at
Udviklingskonsulenterne

"It certainly makes a difference that you hold a Ph.D. I definitely use my Ph.D. background - including the knowledge about how to manage an economy, business partners, agreements to be made, and project management in general. "

Sune Bo Hansen - Psychiatric
Reserach Center, Region Sjælland



Good advice from Ph.D's on how to create employment opportunities



1. Be proactive and grow your network
2. Make yourself attractive for employers and be practice-oriented
3. Focus on being a great communicator

1. Be proactive and grow your professional network

"Be proactive; make yourself visible, nurture potential future employers / key personnel (gatekeepers) "

Andrew M. Jefferson - Senior researcher at DIGNITY - Danish Institute Against Torture.

"Participate in small conferences instead of enormous conferences. I went to a conference in Sweden on criminology already when I was doing my master. It has been very important for my professional development. They were constructive, friendly and loved to teach.

"Network! Go to meetings –both formal and informal."

Hanne Würtzen –
Multidisciplinary Pain Center,
Capital Region

2. Make yourself attractive to employers and be practice-oriented

"It's a shame that there are so many who study something where there is no need. It is important to make a link between theory and practice. "

Andreas Granhof Juhl – CEO/ Founder of Granhof Juhl, Partner at LEAD – Enter Next Level and Ovam A/S

Make yourself and your field attractive and accesible – show that you are an attractive business partner

Laura Mott -
Owner, Dr. Laura Mott

"Always have an idea of how you can be attractive for a company. We need general research, but you must realize that if you primarily conduct theoretical / general research rather than direct practice-oriented research, you have to create career opportunities in a theoretical / research-based world "

Lotte Lüscher – Business psychologist at Clavis

3. Focus on being a great communicator

"Create a profile, that makes your skills visible. Say yes to do lectures and presentations - it is an advertisement in itself "

Mads Lindholm Owner,
Mads Lindholm

"Present your project in relevant circles. It doesn't generate large fees, but it can provide contacts. People talk – suddenly everybody knows that you are the one doing a Ph.D. in that special field.

Mads Greve Haaning –
Psychologist at Psychiatric Centre,
Amager

What do the employers say about hiring a psychologist with a Ph.D. ?

BANG & OLUFSEN 

Søren Bech
Head of Research

- You play an important part role in interdisciplinary teams
- Very good at research and investigation but less solution focused
- Need to learn the language of other professions



- Only 2 psychologists
- Ph.D.'s need more training in quantitative research methods.
- Psychologists rarely apply for a job at SFI.

Udviklingskonsulenterne

We really would like to hire a psychologist with a Ph.D. In organizational psychology AND who I would like to work as a consultant.

Anders Trillingsgaard- Partner at Udviklingskonsulenterne

Employment opportunities in the public sector

4 areas of growth

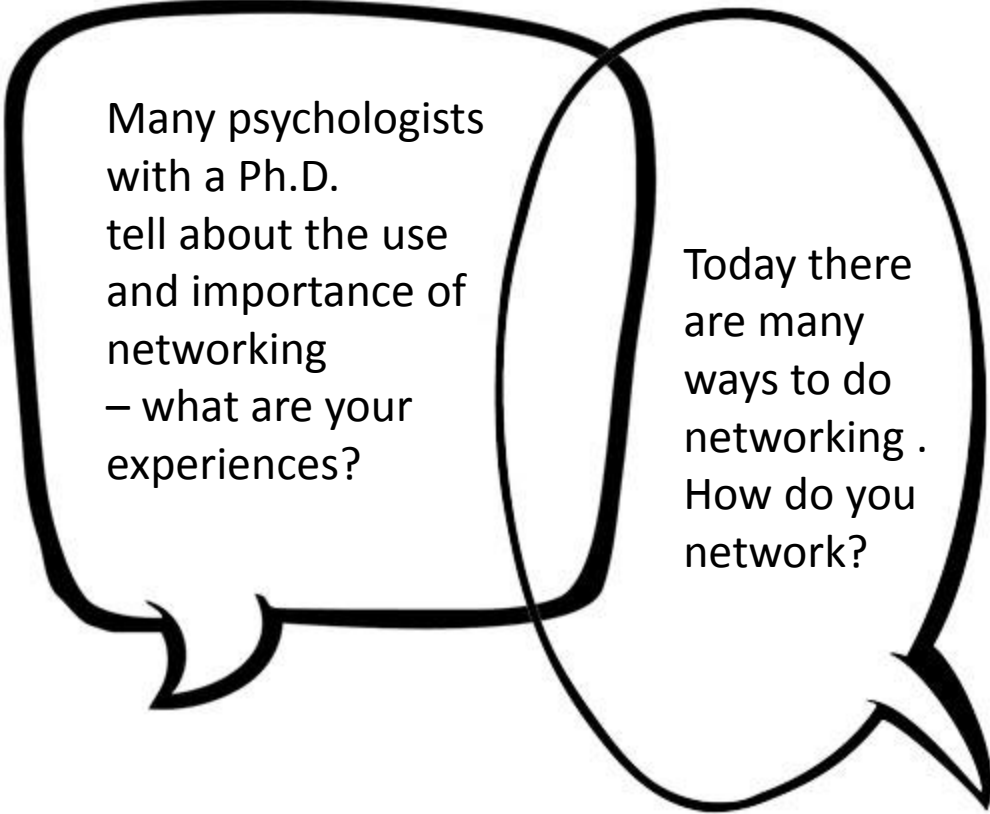
- The elderly
- Alcohol and substance abuse
- PPR
- The employment sector

Windows of opportunity

The public sector is in need of psychologists with a PhD who can...

- Secure evidence-based treatment
- Evaluate and document the effect of activities
- Develop new methods
- Contribute in policy development (strategic positions in municipalities, regions, KL, The Danish Region)
- Conduct research in the 4 growth areas (e.g. KORA, SFI, Danish Dementia Research Centre, Centre for Alcohol and Drug Research, Centre for Intervention Research)

What are your experiences?



Many psychologists with a Ph.D. tell about the use and importance of networking – what are your experiences?

Today there are many ways to do networking . How do you network?

SOCIAL MEDIA NETWORKING



psykologkampagnen
sats på den menneskelige faktor

HJEMME FOR UDBILDTE FOR JOBØGENDE FOR STUDEREDE OM PSYKOLOGKAMPAGNEN

Psykologer kan meget andet end terapi.

Psykologkampagnen er et sæt af aktiviteter, der sætter fokus på psykologernes kompetencer og giver mulighed for at møde psykologer med det private og offentlige erhvervs.

psykologkampagnen
- sats på den menneskelige faktor

Psykologkampagnen bygger bro mellem psykologer og de områder i erhvervslivet og den offentlige sektor, hvor psykologernes kompetencer er afgørende for kvalitet, trivsel og produktivitet.

Aktivitetshalender Kompetenceprofil Portretten



ANY INPUTS?

Feel free to send us an email...

[Ditte Darkó, consultant: did@dp.dk](mailto:did@dp.dk)

[Monica Lorenzo Pugholm, consultant and project leader: mlp@dp.dk](mailto:mlp@dp.dk)

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