



Rita Felski

Location:	University of Southern Denmark
Host professor:	Anne-Marie Mai
Total grant:	28 million DKK

How will Rita Felski enrich Danish research?

Anne-Marie Mai: Professor Felski's work brings new methodologies to literary studies and encourages innovative forms of interdisciplinary collaboration that allow for a stronger understanding of the relations between literature and the social world. Questioning the sway of a hermeneutics of suspicion, with its assumption that literary texts conceal ideological meanings behind alluring surfaces, her research allows for a multi-faceted approach to the uses of literature, including narratives of illness and



social exclusion. Danish researchers have built an organizational framework that will embed Felski's program in SDU's long-term strategy for research in the humanities.

What makes the Department for the Study of Culture, University of Southern Denmark attractive to you?

Rita Felski: SDU is a leader in interdisciplinary collaboration. Moreover, the research group on "Uses of literature - The social dimension of literature" in the Department for the Study of Culture consists of talented and energetic scholars who are eager to explore new approaches to the study of literature. The group has developed a number of specific projects relevant to my own work.

How are you going to increase the internationalization of the Department for the Study of Culture in the five-year grant period?

Rita Felski: Internationalization must take place on two fronts. First, by bringing more overseas scholars to Denmark; excellent candidates have already been identified for our new positions, while conferences will bring internationally renowned scholars to SDU. Second, by promoting the work of Danish scholars overseas; workshops are planned on strategies for publishing in English language journals and publishing houses and strengthening international networks.

What will the long-term effects on Danish research be with this grant?

Rita Felski: The long-term aims of this grant are to increase academic excellence in literary and cultural studies at SDU, while also making this research more visible to an international audience. We also plan to establish research networks that will allow for continued co-operation beyond the period of the grant.