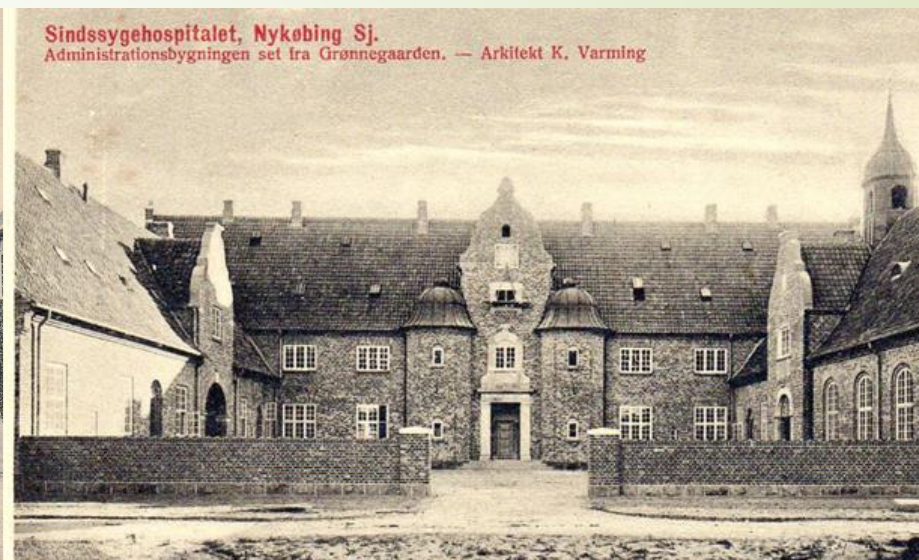


How Danish appraisal policy  
affects Faroese research - Faroese  
psychiatric patient records in  
Danish archives

Hanna S. Christiansen





There are approximately 300 psychiatric patient records concerning Faroese patients (that should be) preserved by the Danish National Archives. Due to Danish appraisal policies many of them no longer exist.

What are the affects on Faroese historical research?

# Danish appraisal policies regarding all patient records

- In 1992 the Danish National Archives decided to preserve patient records based on patient's date of birth – 1st of every month (for patients born 2-31 of a month, only epicrisis are preserved)
- This was applied to patient records established in 1950 and onward
- All patient records established before 1950 are to be preserved

# Issues regarding the Danish appraisal policy


## Records follow the patient

- For every admittance the older record is very often transferred to the new
- Hospitals did not follow the same routine in keeping their records
- A patient admitted in 1949 or 1909, but discharged in 1950 or after, will only have their record preserved if their date of birth is on the 1st of a month

## Psychiatric vs. Somatic patient records


- No distinction is made between psychiatric and somatic records
- Not unusual for a psychiatric patient to be admitted for many years
- No reservations regarding where patients came from





Most likely  
status  
regarding  
Faroese  
psychiatric  
patient records  
in Danish  
archives

- From 1866 to 1970 there were approximately 300 Faroese psychiatric patients sent to Denmark for treatment
- At least 100 patients were admitted after 1950 (therefore not preserved)
- From 1866 to 1941 there were four patients, out of a total of 205, whose date of birth was the 1st (many of these patients were still admitted after 1950)
- Out of a total of 205 patients, 19 died as patients after 1950, and 64 died as patients before 1950.

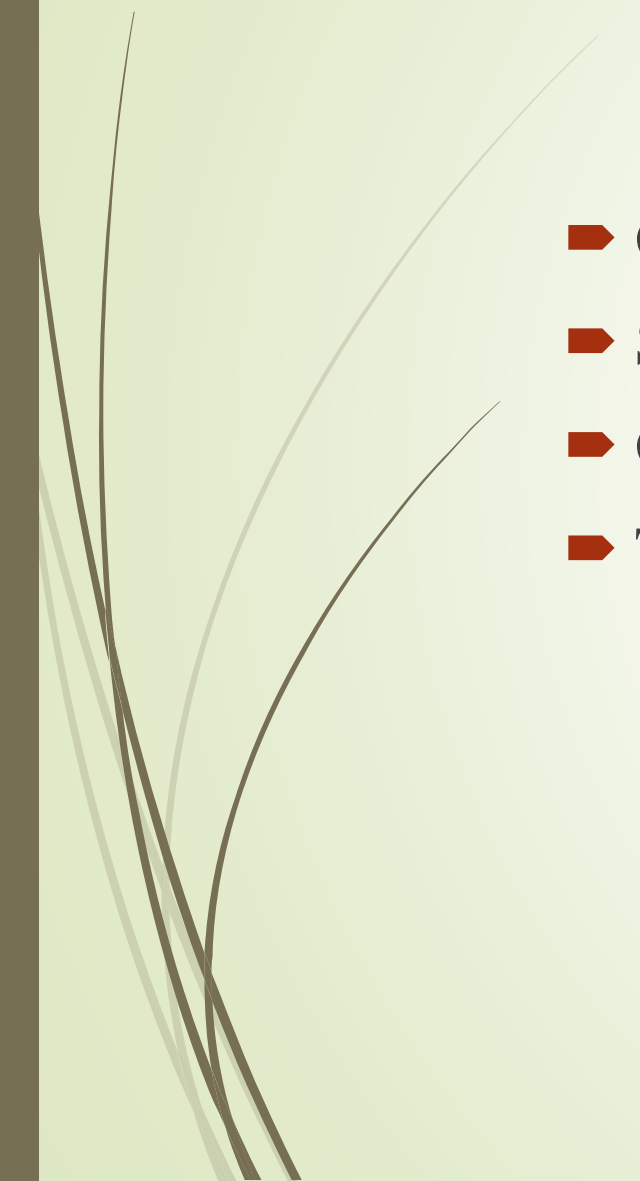


## Value of a psychiatric patient record in terms of research

- Contains a vast amount of information regarding the patient – medical, family relations/history, behaviour, thinking, diagnosis and illness
- Information regarding psychiatric diagnosis and treatments from a historical medical point of view
- Resources regarding genetic research
- Personal experience of the patients in terms of being sent to another country for treatment



# Affects on Faroese research

- Genetic/Medical research
  - Social research
  - Genealogy (Personal interests)
  - The right to be preserved is lost
- 



# Other appraisal policies/theories



Appraisal policy regarding patient records in Norway

Appraisal theory of Terry Cook