



NATIONAL CENTRE FOR REGISTER-BASED RESEARCH  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS  
AND BUSINESS ECONOMICS  
AARHUS UNIVERSITY

## PhD- defence

### Early risk factors for eating disorders

Janne Tidselbak Larsen

September 9, 2020, at 1 p.m.

Eduard Biermann Auditorium (Building 1252, room 204)  
Lakeside Lecture Theatre, Aarhus University  
Bartholins Allé 3, 8000 Aarhus C

---

Eating disorders including anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa and eating disorder not otherwise specified are characterised by pathological eating behaviour, and have severe negative effects on physical and mental health, quality of life and life expectancy. Studies have established that genetic factors contribute to the variation in incidence of eating disorders, but very little of the variation has been explained so far, leaving room for exploration of other possible aetiological pathways that may trigger disordered eating behaviour.

A new PhD project from Aarhus University, Health, explores genetic and early life risk factors for eating disorders, specifically the associations between a range of early childhood adversities, with various maternal pregnancy conditions, birth complications and offspring perinatal conditions, and with inflammatory bowel diseases and later development of eating disorders. The project was carried out by Janne Tidselbak Larsen, who is defending her dissertation on 9/9/2020

Eating disorders are complex illnesses that are influenced by both genetic susceptibility and environmental factors. The findings suggest that early life is a vulnerable period where environmental exposures affect later mental health and may trigger eating disorders in susceptible individuals. Further, our results, in combination with recent findings from other studies, indicate that alternative mechanisms are at play in the aetiology of anorexia nervosa, compared to other types of eating and other psychiatric disorders.

The defence is public and takes place on 9/9/2020 at 1:00 PM in the Eduard Biermann auditorium (1252-204) at the Lakeside Lecture Theatres, Aarhus University, Bartholins Allé 3, Aarhus and via Zoom. Access to the online defence can be achieved by contacting Janne Tidselbak Larsen on [jtl@econ.au.dk](mailto:jtl@econ.au.dk) no later than 8/9/2020.

The title of the project is "Genetic and early life environmental risk factors for eating disorders". For more information, please contact PhD student Janne Tidselbak Larsen, email: [jtl@econ.au.dk](mailto:jtl@econ.au.dk), Phone +45 8716 6062.

Assessment committee:

Øyvind Rø, MD, PhD

Regional Department of Eating Disorders

Division of Mental Health and Addiction

Oslo University Hospital, Norway

Merete Osler, MD, PhD, DMSc

Section of Epidemiology

Department of Public Health

University of Copenhagen, Denmark

Mette Vinther Skriver, MSc, PhD

Section of Health Services Research

Department of Public Health

Aarhus University, Denmark