

# English Abstracts of Articles in the Present Volume of "Fortid og Nutid"

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## **Democracy and Fellow Citizenship. Social and Gender Strategies in the Debate on Common Municipal Franchise 1886-1908**

April 20th, 2008, was the Centenary of the introduction of the common municipal franchise in Denmark. The Centenary provided an opportunity to celebrate a number of anniversaries, which focused primarily on the fact that women were given the vote in consequence of the common franchise. Less well remembered was the fact that also men, who were in private service, i.e. as domestic servants or farmhands, were given the right to vote for the first time in 1908. Absent in an anniversary context were also the restrictions that continued to limit the general franchise. The present article examines how the franchise was defined both locally and on the national level from the incipient inclusion by the absolute monarchy of the citizen until the revision of the constitution in 1915. Based on an analysis of the parliamentary debates on the local franchise it is argued that the gender of the voters was not a controversial issue prior to the revision of the municipal election act in 1908, but that social affiliation and the way in which democracy was handled were far more disputed.

*Peter Henningsen:*

## **Unholy greed. Moral Economy and fair trade ethics in Denmark and Western Europe, app. 1200-1800. A note on medieval and early modern business culture**

In the autumn of 2008, the so-called financial crisis swept across Denmark and the rest of Europe. It suddenly became clear that the last ten years of economic growth had been nothing more than a shiny mirage, heavily inflated by banks and speculators. The European economy turned out to be a financial bubble that had been manipulated so heavily by greedy banks and shareholders that it had to burst eventually. Such economic bubbles are far from unknown in European history. The same can be said about greedy profit-mongers and scrupulous capitalists who, throughout time, have been feathering their own nests at the expense of the common good. Public debates about the profit-maximising nature of Capitalism and the consequences that traders manipulating the economy could have for a state and its population firstly surfaced in Denmark in the second half of the 18th century. This article makes an initial attempt to encircle this problematic and show how the new international trade collided with a traditionalist approach to economy rooted in ethics: How economically selfishly could the individual behave whilst still upholding his position as a morally irreproachable human being and useful citizen?