

# *Exploring the Issues of Asylum and Immigration in a European Context*

A blue gradient background with silhouettes of a diverse group of people, including men, women, and children, standing and sitting. The silhouettes are positioned in the lower half of the slide, behind the author's name.

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# France and Denmark

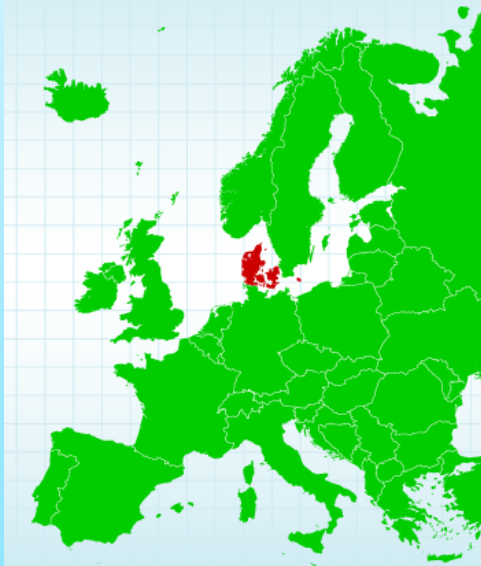
Besancon, France:

- Knox College's Program
- Fall Semester 2008



Copenhagen, Denmark:

- Danish Institute for Study Abroad
- Spring Semester 2009



# *Danish Institute for Study Abroad*

- Migration and Identity Program
  - Politics, International Relations, Sociology
  - Immigration, Multiculturalism, National Identity
  - Denmark as a base
  - Refugees and asylum: a key political and social issue
  - Homogenous society to a diverse one

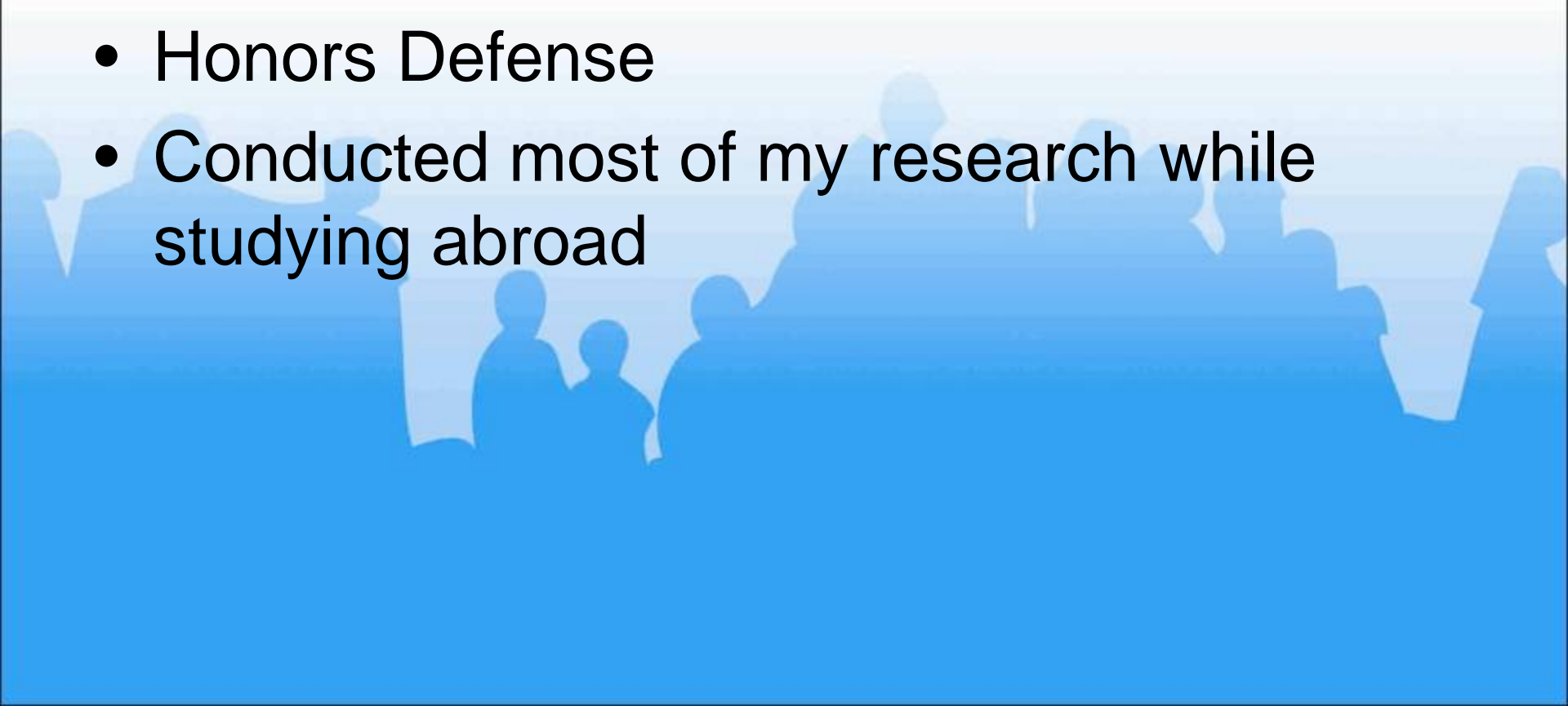
# *Immigration and Asylum in Denmark*

- Denmark's complex relationship with refugees
- A key issue in politics
  - Important in election platforms
  - “new country of immigration”
  - Homogenous society to a diverse one
  - Immigrants from Northern Africa, The Middle East and Southwest Asia

# *Denmark's right turn*

- Intolerant political discourse
  - The Former Prime Minister
  - Negative perception of immigrants and refugees
    - Unemployment, Crime, Oppression of women
    - Role of the media
- Stricter immigration policies
  - More difficult to acquire asylum
  - 24-year year rule
  - Representative of trends within Europe

# Honors Research Project

- Year long project research project
  - Work closely with professors
  - Honors Defense
  - Conducted most of my research while studying abroad
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- The background of the slide features a blue gradient with silhouettes of a group of people. The silhouettes are arranged in a way that suggests a group of people standing or sitting in a room, possibly during a meeting or a classroom discussion. The silhouettes are dark blue against the lighter blue background.

# *Denmark: Field Research*

- New Times Newspaper-
  - “a paper about refugees run by refugees”



# *Denmark: Field Research*

- Visits to the Ministry of Integration, schools with large numbers of refugee children, local integration councils
- Guest speakers: Refugee Council, academics, refugees



# *Denmark: Meeting Refugees*

- Visits to Asylum Centers
- Friendships with Refugees



# *Service Learning Seminar: Muhabet*

- Richter Grant- Going Back This January



# *Honors Research*

- Cross- National Comparison of the Integration of Refugees
- Comparing Denmark and Mexico- Integration of refugees in two regions of the world
- Deviating from politics and public discourse- narrating their lives in their new host countries from their perspectives

# *Integration*

- Concepts to study the immigrant experience: Integration, Assimilation, Adaptation
- Goal of research project: to address how individuals integrate into host society.
- Cultural, Socioeconomic and Social Integration
  - Reconstructing social networks
  - Their role within their families. GENDER
  - Their relationships with host society

# *Female Refugees*

- Gender plays a key role in the entire experience of female refugees.
    - a decisive cause for fleeing their countries (gender inequality and gender violence)
    - particular challenges in the women's flight, transit and resettlement.
    - Women have a different experience than men when trying to integrate into their host society. (triple discrimination: as refugees, as women, as poor.)
- intersection between gender and migration:  
gender roles and relations*

# *Comparisons*

- Contributing to the refugee literature
- Understanding the refugee perspective
- Important policy changes
  - Formal Programs of Integration (large expenditures)  
or a grassroots approach to integration

