

1135-01-2391 **Toke Lindegaard Knudsen*** (toke.knudsen@hum.ku.dk), Dept. of Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies, University of Copenhagen, Karen Blixens Plads 8, Building 10, 2300 Copenhagen S, Denmark. *Johannes Hjelmslev and the Didactics of Geometry*. Preliminary report.

The first decades of the 20th century saw an intense discussion in Denmark of the didactic method of geometry. It became clear early on that there were only two viable paths for the teaching of geometry. One was to uphold the Euclidean ideal and teach geometry according to the axiomatic method, the other was to consider geometry as a natural science in which connections are seen through experiments. In the “experimental method,” outlined in textbooks already from 1904, the pupils go as far as they can through experiments, then switch to deduce new results from the set of “axioms” brought forth by the experiments. Johannes Hjelmslev (1873–1950), who was professor of mathematics at the University of Copenhagen, considered classical geometry a crude and poor approximation to the physical world and constructed what he called “the geometry of reality” as a better model for the physical world. Some of Hjelmslev’s claims, including that a tangent of a circle has a line segment in common with the circle, were rejected by some, but others took to his ideas. In particular, his followers wrote school textbooks according to his geometry. The talk will trace the discussion of the didactics of geometry in Denmark with an emphasis on the contributions by Hjelmslev. (Received September 26, 2017)