PESSIMISM OF THE INTELLECT
OPTIMISM OF THE WILL

May 3rd | 4PM | Luskin Centennial Ballroom

Using Gramsci’s famous phrase from his prison letters as a starting point, Danish author, reporter, and cultural critic Carsten Jensen will discuss the impact this idea has had on his travel writing, reporting, and novels. Following will be a mediated talk with Claus Elholm Andersen, Professor and cultural critic.

Carsten Jensen is one of Denmark’s leading authors and cultural critics. His work has appeared in the Copenhagen daily, Politiken, among other news outlets, and he is widely recognized for his laser wit, and exceptional critical insight. He has authored over twenty novels, collections of travel writing, and essay anthologies, and these have all received significant international attention, with his epic novel, Vi de druknede (2006) available in an excellent English translation (We, the drowned). It is also the basis for a new Danish television mini-series. He is the recipient of the Danish booksellers’ highest award, De gyldne laurbær (1996), as well as the Olof Palme prize (2009) and the Søren Gyldendal Prize (2012). He has recently been named the recipient of the "Admiral Carl Hammerich Memorial Prize" from the Foundation for Danish-Norwegian Cooperation.