ANALYSING THE PRACTICES OF (ORGANISED) CULTURAL ENCOUNTERS

Om kurset

Uddannelse: ph.d.
Undervisningssprog: English
National_online: Kurset vises på den nationale database
Vært: Ph.d.-skolen for kommunikation og humanistisk videnskab
Ects: 4

Indhold

International PhD course and workshop ANALYSING THE PRACTICES OF (ORGANISED) CULTURAL ENCOUNTERS November 4-6th 2015 Venue: Roskilde University, Cultural Encounters Roskilde, Denmark

Contents: The PhD course will consist of a 2-day research seminar with international keynotes and panel sessions and a 1-day interactive PhD workshop.

The aim of the seminar is to explore practice-oriented analytical frameworks within the field of cultural encounters. How may we conceptualise and analyse the practices that constitute social interactions associated with cultural encounters? And in particular: how may we analyse transformative aspects of these practices?

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS: Mariana Valverde (University of Toronto) Dace Dzenovska (Oxford University, COMPAS) Anne-Line Dalsgård (Århus University)

“Cultural encounters” has become an increasingly popular term, which is used in a variety of ways across the humanities and social sciences. In this seminar we are in particular interested in formalised encounters that are self-consciously organised around notions of cultural difference in order to do something to, with or for these differences. Formalised encounters of this kind may for instance be related to institutional practices/interventions; social work and governance; educational settings; religious and spiritual spaces or associations and NGOs working to promote cultural dialogue. The transformative ideas associated with these encounters may analytically be conceptualised through the use of figures/metaphors like the laboratory, the ritual, the classroom, the kitchen or the greenhouse.

In the research group, which organises this seminar, we have coined the notion organised cultural encounters (OCEs) to explore the kind of social spaces, described above. OCEs are scripted spaces, where the organisers intend to manage and/or harvest from cultural differences in various ways. OCEs are invested with high hopes of a transformation that may also have an effect outside (or indeed after) the particular encounter. In the research group, we are both interested in the scripts governing the set-up of particular encounters, and in the interactions that occur because of, despite, or in opposition to the scripts.

The aim of the PhD workshop is to give participants an opportunity to work explicitly on their analytical frameworks in dealing with practices pertaining to cultural encounters of various kinds. During interactive sessions, we will explore the effects and limitations of various analytical approaches, for instance: • What might be made (im-)possible or (in-)visible through adopting particular analytical strategies, and what are the consequences of these choices, as opposed to others? • How may one work dialogically, drawing on multiple interpretative frameworks and utilizing ambiguities, doubts, confusions and uncertainties? • How may one articulate and work analytically with particular elements of empirical material, such as researcher’s embodied/sensory impressions or histories/spatiotemporalities and materialities of cultural encounters?

Format: The PhD workshop will be structured around group discussions of participant papers with senior researchers and PhD students. The discussions will be informed by the preceding seminar sessions, as well as perspectives from the course literature. There will also be some time for writing and joint discussions in plenum.

Literature: List of readings (max. 300 pages) will be made available by the end of August 2015. Selection of texts will be based on the theme of the seminar and abstracts submitted by course participants.

Requirements: In order to be awarded course credit, the participants are required to submit a course paper of 5-6 pages (absolute maximum 10 standard pages, 2400 characters per page) prior to the course. The paper should consist of 1-2 pages of empirical material related to practice of cultural encounters (excerpts from field notes, interviews, etc.) and a proposal for one or more analytical frameworks or strategies, as well as initial considerations regarding the effects of these analytical choices. After submission deadline, papers will be circulated. Participants will be requested to read the papers of their respective group and to be an opponent for one of these.

Participation is free of charge for all PhD students, and we will provide seminar materials, as well as beverages and lunch during the conference. Participants are responsible for their own travel and accommodation costs. Successful participation will be awarded with 4 ECTS.

Organisers: Lene Bull Christiansen, Lise Paulsen Galal, Kirsten Hvenegård-Lassen, Anne-Line Dalsgård, Linda Lapina, Astrid Andersen
Deadlines: Abstract submission: Please send an abstract of 250 words by June 15th by e-mail to llapina@ruc.dk
Applicants will be notified of acceptance by July 1st. Paper submission: October 15th PhD students are also welcome to submit abstracts for paper presentations at the seminar.

BACKGROUND The international research seminar Analysing the practices of (organised) cultural encounters is organised by the research project: “The organized cultural encounter: rethinking the conceptual and contextual framework of interculturality through the study of practice”. It is hosted by Department of Culture and Identity at Roskilde University, Denmark, and is funded by The Danish Council for Independent Research, Humanities (DFF – 1319-00093). The project examines how cultural differences are practiced and thus produced and reproduced within settings that are organised around the attention to cultural diversity considered an obstacle or challenge. Five different cases of organised cultural encounters (OCE) (interfaith dialogue meetings, volunteer programmes, dance culture, management training courses, arts-based method) are examined. Taking a point of departure in social practices, the theoretical perspective is cross-disciplinary and aims at understanding how processes of cultural subjectification, performance, performativity, and reflexivity are constitutive of OCEs. See more about the project at the project’s website: http://organisedculturalencounter.wordpress.com/

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