

International Conference:
FEMINIST MATERIALISMS

Gender, Nature, Body, Materiality
26th-27th of April 2012

Coordination for Gender Research
University of Copenhagen

INTRODUCTION

Feminist materialisms contribute to a growing demand for new ways of thinking about matter related to timely issues in late modern society, such as material culture, geo-political space, food, climate and environmentalism, gender, body, nature, and culture. Feminist materialisms are a part of the call for new understandings of crucial developments and challenges in science and technology, which have implications for ethics and politics. These endeavors have been called body materialism, feminist materialism, material feminism, all of which seem to interrelate and intra-act as branches within a 'material turn'. The aim of this conference is to address the issue of matter in philosophical and analytical ways, both in the everyday taken for granted character of the material world, and in the reconsideration of key theoretical ideas. It will focus on new ways of thinking about matter in relation to questions such as:

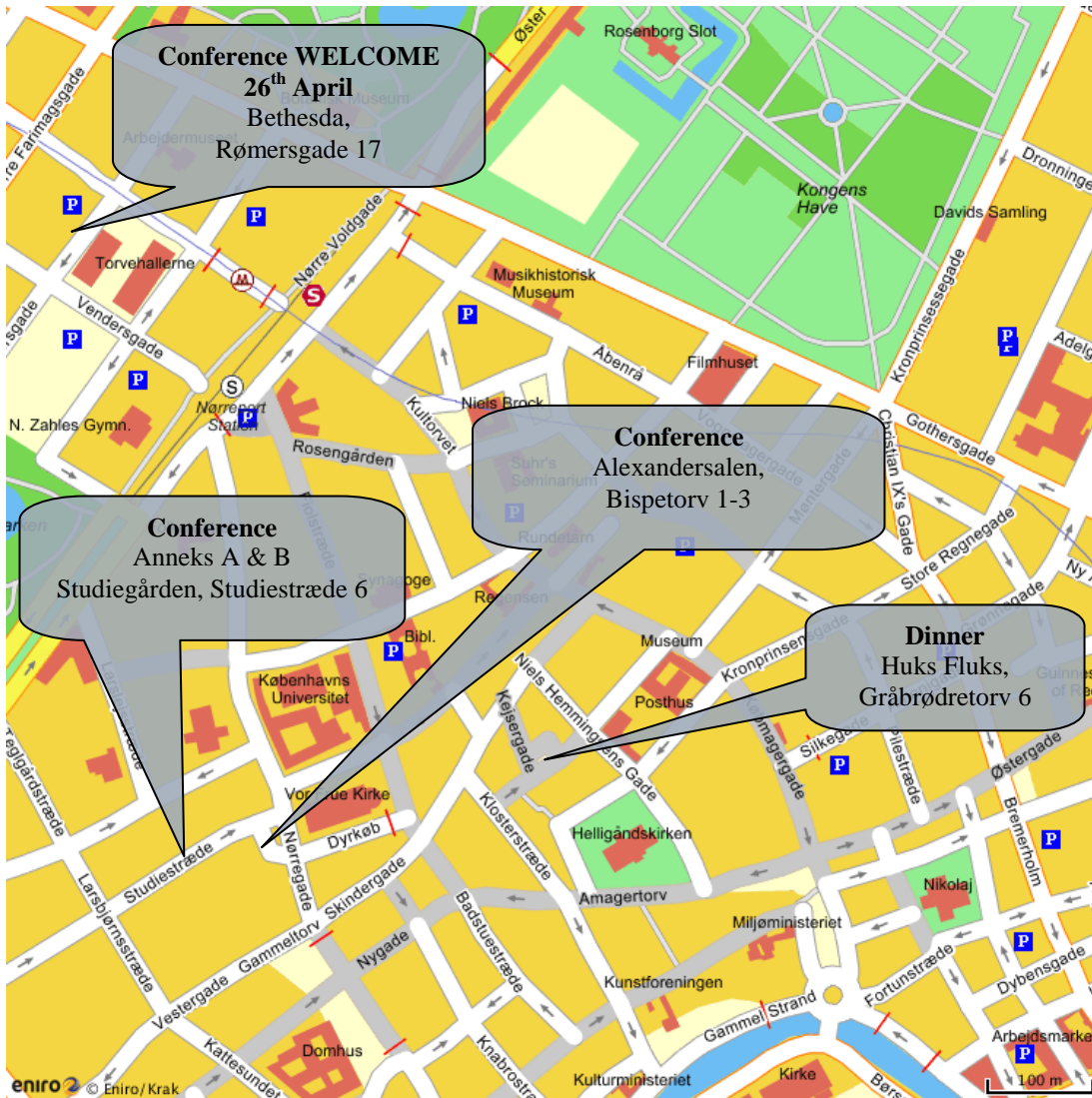
- How can feminism relate to bodily differences and the agency of materiality without ending in biology and essentialism?
- How can notions of intra-active agency be used in practice – what are its strengths and weaknesses?
- How can meetings between body, technology and discourse be analyzed?
- What are the effects of theorizing body and gender when including agency of materiality?

The conference *FEMINIST MATERIALISMS Gender, Nature, Body, Materiality* is organized by the Coordination for Gender Research, University of Copenhagen and has received financial support from the Department of Sociology, University of Copenhagen.

MAP

FEMINIST MATERIALISMS

Gender, Nature, Body, Materiality
Copenhagen, 26th-27th of April 2012



Conference and Dinner Locations

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PROGRAMME

THURSDAY 26th OF APRIL 2012:

09.00-09.30: REGISTRATION & COFFEE

Location: Bethesda, Rømersgade 17, Copenhagen K

09.30-10.00: WELCOME

by Hilda Rømer Christensen, Head of the Coordination for Gender Research,
Professor John Renner Hansen, Head of Niels Bohr Institute
Professor Birgitte Sloth, Vice Dean of Social Science Faculty, University
of Copenhagen.

Location: Bethesda, Rømersgade 17, Copenhagen K

10.00-12.00: PLENUM

Professor Karen Barad, University of California

“Re-membering the Future: Material Entanglements and Temporal Diffractions”

COMMENTS:

Cecilia Åsberg, Associate Professor, Ph.D., University of Linköping

Malou Juelskjær, Associate Professor, Ph.D., University of Aarhus

Cecilia Milwertz, Senior researcher, Ph.D., NIAS, University of Copenhagen

Location: Bethesda, Rømersgade 17, Copenhagen K

12.00-13.00: LUNCH at Alexandersalen, Bispetorvet 1-3, Copenhagen K

13.00-14.30: WORKSHOP SESSION I

14.30-15.00: BREAK & COFFEE

15.00-16.30: WORKSHOP SESSION II

16.30-17.00: BREAK

17.00-18.00: GUIDED TOURS

Choose between three tours. Register for the tours at the conference registration on Thursday morning. Each tour has room for a limited number of participants. (More information on page 6-7)

I: Medical Museion Guided Tour:

“Museum Materialisms: Investigating Medicine through Objects at Medical Museion”

II: Niels Bohr Institute Guided Tour:

“Guided Tour through the Institute visiting Old Archives and Bohr’s Memorial Room”

III: Guided walk through Copenhagen:

“Copenlady – Herstory in Copenhagen”

19.00 – 21.00: DINNER

Location: 'Huks Fluks', Gråbrødretorv 6, Copenhagen K

PROGRAMME

FRIDAY 27th OF APRIL 2012:

08:30-08.45 WELCOME & COFFEE

Location: Anneks A, Studiegården, Studiestræde 6, Copenhagen K

08.45-10.30: PLENUM:

Vicki Kirby, Associate Professor, University of New South Wales
"What if Culture was really Nature all along?"

COMMENTS:

René Rosfort, Postdoc., Faculty of Theology, University of Copenhagen
Nina Lykke, Professor, Department of Gender Studies, University of Linköping
Location: Anneks A, Studiegården, Studiestræde 6, Copenhagen K

10.30-10.45: BREAK

10.45-12.30: WORKSHOP SESSION III

12.30-13.30: LUNCH

13.30-14.30: PLENUM:

"New Materialisms - Feminist Materialisms"

Karen Barad, Professor, University of California

Vicki Kirby, Associate Professor, University of New South Wales

Hanne Petersen, Professor, Centre for Studies of Legal Culture, University of Copenhagen.

Location: Anneks A, Studiegården, Studiestræde 6, Copenhagen K

14.30-15.30: RECEPTION

Location: Alexandersalen, Bispetorvet 1-3, Copenhagen K

GUIDED TOURS

Thursday 26th of April 17.00-18.00

Choose between three tours:

I: Medical Museion Guided Tour:

“Museum Materialisms: Investigating Medicine through Objects at Medical Museion”

Join this special tour by Ph.D. student Morten Hillgaard Bülow about the museum’s thoughts about telling stories through objects. You will be guided through older, newer and not yet opened exhibitions about Psychiatry, Metabolism and Human Remains.

Location: Medicinsk Museion, Bredgade 62, 1260 Copenhagen K
(Approximately 1,8 km from the conference)

II: Niels Bohr Institute Guided Tour:

“Guided Tour through the Institute visiting Old Archives and Bohrs Memorial Room”

Join this special tour at University of Copenhagen, Niels Bohr’s Institute looking closer at the old archives and visiting the Niels Bohr Memorial Room.

Location: Niels Bohr Institutet, Blegdamsvej 17, 2100 Copenhagen Ø
(Approximately 3,5 km from the conference)

III: Guided walk through Copenhagen:

“Copenlady – Herstory in Copenhagen”

Walk through the city while hearing about Nina Bang - the world’s first female minister, the women’s hotel, the women’s house and Copenhagen’s only statue of a Queen.

Location: We will meet just outside Alexandersalen at Bispetorvet 1-3
(Just next to the conference)

Practical information:

See tour locations on the MAP page 7. Register for the tours at the conference registration Thursday morning

GUIDED TOURS

Takes place Thursday 26th of April 17.00-18.00.



Overview of Locations including Guided Tours

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Thursday 26th of April 10:00-12.00

Location: Bethesda, Rømersgade 17, Copenhagen K

Karen Barad: “Re-membering the Future: Material Entanglements and Temporal Diffractions”

How much of philosophical, scientific, and political thought is caught up with the idea of continuity? What if it were otherwise? This talk experiments with the disruption of continuity. The audience is invited to participate in a performance of spacetime (re)configurings that are more akin to how electrons experience the world than any journey narrated through rhetorical forms that presume actors move along trajectories across a stage of spacetime (often called history). The hope is that what comes across in this dis/jointed movement is a felt sense of *différance*, of intra-activity. That is, rather than presenting a paper on how entanglements change our thinking about ethics, this talk is an invitation to enter into the scene of re-membering in an effort to glimpse the possibilities of justice-to-come.

About Karen Barad

Karen Barad is Professor of Feminist Studies, Philosophy, and History of Consciousness at the University of California at Santa Cruz. Her Ph.D. is in theoretical particle physics. She held a tenured appointment in a physics department before moving into more interdisciplinary spaces. She is the author of *Meeting the Universe Halfway: Quantum Physics and the Entanglement of Matter and Meaning* (Duke University Press, 2007) and numerous of articles in the fields of physics, philosophy, science studies, poststructuralist theory, and feminist theory. Her research has been supported by the National Science Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the Hughes Foundation, the Irvine Foundation, the Mellon Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Barad is the Co-Director of the Science & Justice Graduate Training Program at UCSC.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Thursday 27th of April 08:45-10.30

Location: Anneks A, , Studiegården, Studiestræde 6, Copenhagen K

Vicki Kirby: “What if Culture was really Nature all along?”

Feminism has a long tradition of interrogating what we mean by Nature. As the identity of woman and the defining attributes of the feminine are routinely explained in naturalized terms, analysis of this purported intimacy is an enduring feminist preoccupation, and one that has contributed to a more broadly based politics of alterity. Aligned with origins and corporeal immediacy, woman is often regarded as more emotional, empathic and caring than man, and as a consequence, less rational and certainly more helpless. And yet representations of woman’s sexuality very often replace these images of benign nurturance and corporeal vulnerability with representations of wilful treachery, threat and voracious impropriety. Given these conflicting aspects of woman’s essential constitution, some feminists have responded by embracing the category Nature and revaluing its denigrated attributes and capacities: others have eschewed the category altogether, and argued that inasmuch as all valuations are cultural mediations, then Nature proper remains elusive, inaccessible, and therefore radically outside what it is to be human. Importantly, both positions share the same conceptual investment in Nature’s primordial status. In sum, Nature comes first, and this “firstness” must, by definition, be very different from what comes second. But what is this unnatural “world of difference” that locates the human – the break from Nature that marks the complexity of the ideational, the conceptual, language and technology? Does the human mark a departure from Nature, a creature divided from itself as Descartes assumed?

In this paper I want to revisit the question of Nature because any attempt to thoughtfully re-engage feminist concerns, or posthumanist, or any of the vanguardist “turns” that may attract us among contemporary theoretical possibilities (e.g. the linguistic turn, the pragmatic turn, the affective turn, indeed, the materialist turn) will need to reference its special claims in terms of this familiar conceptual territory of agonistic oppositions and competing political alignments. Is it possible to do critique in a way that does not rest comfortably on either the inclusions, or exclusions, of the logic of the supplement: this *and* that; or this *or* that? What is matter if the logic of the supplement can’t be deployed to identify and contain it?

My aim in this paper is to try to marry two apparently contradictory notions. The first will rework Judith Butler’s conflation of cultural mediation with human exceptionalism. What happens if there is no previous system from which the identity of the human can break free in order to identify itself as uniquely different? In other words, what if Culture was really Nature all along? In order to underline why this assertion is not a simple reversal of Butler’s position, nor an assemblage of different entities that now fall under the comprehensive category, Nature, I want to call on Jacques Derrida’s early interest in anthropological questions. How might his “originary writing,” an originary technicity, be read as an originary humanicity whose implications actually decentre the human? And how might this manoeuvre resonate with Karen Barad’s notion of diffractive intra-action and its reconfiguration of matter and ideation?

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Thursday 27th of April 08:45-10.30

Location: Anneks A, , Studiegården, Studiestræde 6, Copenhagen K

About Vicki Kirby

Vicki Kirby is Associate Professor in the School of Social Sciences at The University of New South Wales, Sydney. She is the author of *Telling Flesh: The Substance of the Corporeal* (Routledge, 1997) and *Judith Butler: Live Theory* (Continuum, 2006). Her most recent book, *Quantum Anthropologies: Life at Large* (Duke 2011), considers the relevance of Derrida's work for posthumanism by reading "textuality" as Nature. Several articles that further this theme include, "Feminist Conversations" with Elizabeth Wilson in *Feminist Theory* Vol. 12, No. 2, (2011); "Anthropomorphism, Again" *CR: The New Centennial Review* Vol. 10, No. 3, (2010); "Original Science: Nature Deconstructing Itself" *Derrida Today*, Vol. 3, No. 2, (2010); "Tracing Life: *La Vie La Mort*" *CR: The New Centennial Review*, Vol. 9, No. 1, (2010). She recently completed an Australian Research Council Discovery Project on the life of language as the language of life.

COMMENTS AND PANELS

Cecilia Milwertz

Senior researcher, Nordic Institute of Asian Studies (NIAS), University of Copenhagen, Denmark. Cecilia Milwertz's current research is on non-governmental organizing in the People's Republic of China. She has written books on population policy in China and on women's organizing in Beijing. She is editor of the Gendering Asia Book Series and coordinator of both the Gendering Asia Network and the series of Sino-Nordic Women and Gender Studies Conferences.

Cecilia Åsberg

Associate Professor, Ph.D., Department of Gender Studies, University of Linköping, Sweden. Cecilia Åsberg is Deputy Director of Tema Genus the unit for Interdisciplinary Gender Studies at the larger Tema Department at Linköping University. She has for many years now devoted her research to the cultures and natures, objects and subjects, the histories and potential futures of especially the natural sciences. As a post humanist feminist scholar she is interested in what (and who) gets to count as "natural" in the natural sciences as well as "human" in the humanities, but also in what counts as human in the natural sciences and natural in the humanities.

Hanne Petersen

Professor, Centre for Studies of Legal Culture, University of Copenhagen, Denmark
Hanne Petersen is presently professor of legal cultures at the Centre for Studies of Legal Culture, University of Copenhagen and guest professor at Lund University as part of the Gender Equality priority. She has held a Jean Monnet Scholarship in EUI/Italy, and professorships in Greenland, Copenhagen and Tromsø, Norway. Her research has dealt with legal pluralism and legal culture in relation to gender, indigenous peoples, nature and religion.

Malou Juelskjær

Associate Professor, Ph.D., Department of Education, University of Aarhus, Denmark.
Malou Juelskjær is occupied with empirical analysis and 'concept building' in relation to the constitution of subjectivity with emphasis on intra-actions of time, space, architecture, interior design, technologies, social categories and leadership within professionalized educational settings. She published the article "(Im)possibilities of doing 'both/and' : Transitions of category memberships, and the constitutive force of spatiality and temporality in the production of (im)possibilities" in *Feminist Intersectionality Studies in Time and Space: Diverse Consciousnesses and Resistances*, 2010.

COMMENTS AND PANELS

Nina Lykke

Professor, Department of Gender Studies, University of Linköping, Sweden.

Nina Lykke is professor of Gender Studies with special reference to Gender and Culture at Linköping University. She is director of an international Centre of Gender Excellence, as well as scientific leader of a Nordic and a Swedish- International Research School in Interdisciplinary Gender Studies. A central focus of her research is feminist theory, including intersectionality studies, feminist cultural studies and feminist technoscience studies.

René Rosfort

Postdoc, Department of Systematic Theology, Faculty University of Copenhagen, Denmark.

René Rosfort holds a PhD on subjectivity and ethics at the Centre for Subjectivity Research, University of Copenhagen in 2008. His research focuses primarily on the question of naturalism and on various approaches to emotions and the notion of personhood in psychopathology and philosophy. He has a book forthcoming (co-authored with Giovanni Stanghellini): *Emotions and Personhood: Exploring Fragility - Making Sense of Vulnerability* (planned publication January 2013).

SCHEDULE FOR WORKSHOPS

WORKSHOP SESSION I: Thursday 13.00-14.30

Theory: Bisp. 325, Bispetorvet 1-3.

Chair: Bettina Hauge

- Matz Hammarström: What's the matter? – Agential Realism as a Way of Understanding the World's Relational Becoming
- Krizia Nardini: Becoming Otherwise: The 'Transformative Matter' of New Feminist Materialist Theorizing
- Simone van Hulst: The promises of a diffractive reading of scientific and feminist' appropriations of the concept of the Unimaginable

Arts and Culture: Anneks A, Studiegården, Studiestræde 6.

Chair: Morten Bülow

- Marietta Radomska: How does life come to matter through bioart? On ethico-zoonto-epistemology of transspecies relations
- Jannie Pranger: Sound reinforcement system: body politics, vocal expression
- Freya de Mink: New materialism live! Posthuman subjectivities, performer-instrument encounters and shifting feminist musicologies

The Affective Body: Anneks B, Studiegården, Studiestræde 6.

Chair: Charlotte Kroløkke

- Stine Willum Adrian and Astrid Jespersen: Tears, Fears and Hormones – agency of emotions in socio-material practices
- Malou Juelskjær: Producing bodies of affective didactics
- Tine Damsholt: Gender dissolving – on discursive-material reconfigurings of gender in academia

TechnoScience and Bodies: Bisp. 214, Bispetorvet 1-3.

Chair: Sofia Lundmark

- Anne Leonora Blaakilde: Fibromyalgia: Invisible matter that matters
- Karin Gunnarsson: 'Becoming healthy'. An intra-active investigation of a program in the apparatus of health promotion in schools
- Desireé Ljungcrantz: In-te(a)r-vein – a tool to analyze HIV and relations – our common veins knitted together with theories of feminist materialism and intersectionality

SCHEDULE FOR WORKSHOPS

WORKSHOP SESSION II: Thursday 15.00-16.30

Theory: Bisp. 325, Bispetorvet 1-3.

Chair: Robin Schott

- Hillevi Lenz Taguchi and Anna Palmer: A diffractive methodology to ‘disclose’ possible realities of girls’ material-discursive health/’wellbeing’ in school-settings
- Cecilia Milwertz and Wang Fengxian: Karen Barad’s theory of agential realism and the study of a gender and development NGO in the People’s Republic of China
- Katja Brøgger and Dorthe Staunæs: Entangled research(ers). Or how to create empirical knowledge when you are always already entangled with the world

Arts and Culture: Anneks A, Studiegården, Studiestræde 6.

Chair: Michael Nebeling

- Alba G. Torrents and Andreu Ballús: Unbounded bodies, unlimited agencies: mind, materiality and identity in *anime*
- Amelie Björck: Human-animal relations
- Mathias Winther Madsen: The Garbage Body and The Pinnochio Trap

The Affective Body: Anneks B, Studiegården, Studiestræde 6.

Chair: Stine Adrian

- Nana Blomqvist: Sex tourism in Thailand
- Magdalena Petersson McIntyre: Bodies, self-regulation and *dispositifs* in retail
- Sari Irni: Performativity of hormones

TechnoScience and Bodies: Bisp. 214, Bispetorvet 1-3.

Chair: Sebastian Mohr

- Sofia Lundmark and Martin Jonsson: Crafting interaction - materiality in digital interaction design and traditional crafting practices
- Katie Stephenson: Disturbing Effects: Embodied Experience and Immaterial labor in Annie Abraham’s “Seperation,”
- Christian Groes-Green: Sexual capital in Mozambique: Phenotypes, performance and material stratification of bodies

Performance/event: Alexandersalen, Bispetorvet 1-3.

Chairs: Michala Hvidt Breengaard and Vibeke Holm Hansen

- Alexandra Jönsson and Miriam H. Wistreich: Material Conversations
- Astrida Neimanis: Weather Writing

SCHEDULE FOR WORKSHOPS

WORKSHOP SESSION III: Friday 10.45-12.30

Theory: Bisp. 325, Bispetorvet 1-3.

Chair: René Rosfort

- Peta Hinton: Originary Humanicity and Posthumanist Performativity: Kirby and Barad's Generalisable Materiality and the Question of the Human for Feminism
- Vilma Lehtinen: Technology in embodiment
- Rachel L. Walker: Feminism Out-of-Time: A New Materialist (Meta)physics of Becoming

TechnoScience and Bodies: Bisp. 214, Bispetorvet 1-3.

Chair: Michala Hvidt Breengaard

- Eva Sängér: Bodies at risk. Ultrasound fetal imaging in the context of prenatal risk assessment in Germany
- Malaika Rödel: Gen(dered) bodies – nature, technology and the body in the German discourse of Preimplantation Genetic Diagnosis
- Lucie Dalibert: Materialising Bodies, Enacting Humanness: Questioning Anthropotechnologies

Sebastian Mohr: Matter that matters – Feminist reflections on bodies and masculinities

Climate and Nature: Anneks A, Studiegården, Studiestræde 6.

Chair: Anders Blok

- Maria Åkerman: Ecological awareness and the control of the body: the making of environmental citizens
- Marja Vehviläinen: Agency, situated nature-cultures and institutional textualities: studying environmental civic activity
- May-Britt Öhman: In Control (?) of an Organic Machine: Bodies in Relation to Regulated Rivers
- Birgitta Rydhagen and Lena Trojer: Feminist materiality and postcolonial development arenas

Virtual Materiality: Anneks B, Studiegården, Studiestræde 6.

Chair: Dorte Marie Søndergaard

- Kit Stender Petersen: When interviews become intraviews
- Susanne Nørgaard: Working the on-/offline divide
- Louise Yung Nielsen: Digital embodiments – fashion blogging on a agential realist account
- Dorte Marie Søndergaard: Virtual materiality, potentiality and gendered subjectivity: How do we conceptualize real-virtual interaction embodied and enacted in computer gaming, imagery and night dreams?

Senses: Alexandersalen, Bispetorvet 1-3.

Chair: Jonatan Leer

- Xin Liu: The Matter of Speech Production
- Magdalena Górka: A Breathing Engagement with the Human
- Bettina Hauge: The agency of air: Getting to know the world through air
- Taru Leppänen: Race, Sound and Music in Disney's *The Princess and the Frog*

ABSTRACTS FOR WORKSHOPS

Theory

(Page 16-25)

Workshop session I: Thursday 13:00-14.30. Location: Bisp. 325, Bispetorvet 1-3.

Chair: Bettina Hauge

Matz Hammarström: What's the Matter? – Agential Realism as a Way of Understanding the World's Relational Becoming

Krizia Nardini: Becoming Otherwise: The 'Transformative Matter' of New Feminist Materialist Theorizing

Simone van Hulst: The promises of a diffractive reading of scientific and feminist' appropriations of the concept of the Unimaginable

Workshop session II: Thursday 15.00-16.30. Location: Bisp. 325, Bispetorvet 1-3.

Chair: Robin Schott

Hillevi Lenz Taguchi and Anna Palmer: A diffractive methodology to 'disclose' possible realities of girls' material-discursive health/'wellbeing' in school-settings

Cecilia Milwertz and Wang Fengxian: Karen Barad's theory of agential realism and the study of a gender and development NGO in the People's Republic of China

Katja Brøgger and Dorthe Staunæs: Entangled research(ers). Or how to create empirical knowledge when you are always already entangled with the world

Workshop session III: Friday 10.45-12.30. Location: Bisp. 325, Bispetorvet 1-3.

Chair: René Rosfort

Peta Hinton: Originary Humanicity and Posthumanist Performativity: Kirby and Barad's Generalisable Materiality and the Question of the Human for Feminism

Vilma Lehtinen: Technology in embodiment

Rachel Loewen Walker: Feminism Out-of-Time: A New Materialist (Meta)physics of Becoming

Thursday 26th of April 13.00-14.30
Location: Bisp. 325, Bispetorget 1-3.

Matz Hammarström: “What’s the Matter? – Agential Realism as a Way of Understanding the World’s Relational Becoming”

Karen Barad’s agential realism provides a way of understanding matter and reality in its relational becoming, without risking the pitfalls of relativism. I want to elaborate on Barad’s idea of agential separability and contrast it with the idea of separateness, which I hold to be the core characteristic of mainstream masculine metaphysics.

One of the manifestations of the idea of separateness is individualism, and I support Barad’s rejection of individualism by developing a concept of *dividuality*, according to which the things of the world are not to be understood as separate, pre-existing and self-sufficient, but as always already intra-actively related – that is, agentially separable things-in-phenomena, but not separate things-in-themselves. Using Maurice Merleau-Ponty’s concept of the *flesh*, I conclude by discussing Barad’s idea of agency as a function of being, and not as a property of human beings, and the possibility of affirming Aristotle’s claim that there must be something prior to and causing sensation, but without holding this something to be corpuscular and individuated.

About Matz Hammarström

Ph.D. Student in Philosophy of Religion, Lund University. Bachelor of Education (Philosophy); Master of Arts (Literature); Bachelor of Theology. Matz Hammarström’s doctoral thesis has the working title *A Relationalist Approach to Religious Experience*. The aim is to delineate a relationalist perspective and use this to contribute to the discussion concerning truth, reference and the construction of reality, and how we can understand religious experience. Recent articles are: “Den relationella människan” (“The relational human being”) in *Människan sedd: genom olika vetenskapliga prismor* (eds. Hammarström, Gerle & Gärdenfors), 2011 and “On Getting the Referent of Religious Experience Right – Relationalism and Bohr’s Concept of ‘Phenomena’”, in *Svensk Teologisk Kvartalskrift*, 87, 2011.

Thursday 26th of April 13.00-14.30
Location: Bisp. 325, Bispetorget 1-3.

Krizia Nardini: “Becoming Otherwise: The ‘Transformative Matter’ of New Feminist Materialist Theorizing”

In this paper I will stress the relevance of understanding and performing theory as *transformative* when working with a New Feminist Materialist framework (Van der Tuin and Dolphijn, 2011). Immersed in Deleuzian philosophy, New Materialism puts the emphasis on the creativity of a *concept* (Deleuze and Guattari, 1994), and focuses on the generative aspect of theory. As apparatuses of knowledge production, concepts help us addressing, in a *transformative* and *intra-active* way, the real we are part of and in which we live (Barad, 2001). Indeed, it is by creating room for engendering material-semiotic processes of change that theoretical concepts allow for the *becoming otherwise* of matter and life (Grosz, 2011).

Understood in these terms, in order to become ‘a transformative matter’, the theorizing of New Feminist Materialism goes beyond representationalist aims: beyond the epistemological temptation of objectively mirroring the real (the *what*); and beyond the aim of representing marginalized subjects (the *who*) in a dialectical manner against dominant ones. Accordingly, re-thinking the productivity of theorizing by overcoming representationalism and dualistic oppositions (Van der Tuin and Dolphijn, 2010), New Feminist Materialism takes *ethico-onto-epistemology* (Barad, 2003) as its methodology. More in particular, by mapping out how boundaries are made and how contemporary power relations operate, a New Feminist Materialist research focuses on the *agenciality* and *intra-activity* of these relations, without aiming to a politics of recognition and/or representation. Indeed, a New Feminist Materialist theoretical strategy is about addressing the *differing* and *intra-active* forces of the present in their interconnected *becomings* (Deleuze and Guattari, 1987) so to open up future possibilities for change.

About Krizia Nardini

Ph.D. Student, Graduate Gender Programme, Utrecht University. Publications: “Speaking as Men. Critical Perspectives on Masculinity within the Theories and Practices of the Contemporary Italian Mens Network “Maschile Plurale”” in the GEXcel Conference Report *Men and Masculinities Moving On Again! Transnationalising Flows, Technologies, Institutions, Theory*, Linköping University, Sweden (forthcoming); “The Creative Politics of Unhappiness, Book Review of Sara Ahmed, *The Promise of Happiness*, Duke University Press 2010; in *NORA - Nordic Journal of Feminist and Gender Research*, no. 2/2011; co-authored with Matilda Lindgren.

Thursday 26th of April 13.00-14.30
Location: Bisp. 325, Bispetorvet 1-3.

Simone van Hulst: “The promises of a diffractive reading of scientific and feminist’ appropriations of the concept of the Unimaginable”

The working-direction of this paper will be the question how meetings between the body, technology and discourses matter and what they tell us about the relation between what is human, non-human and world. The concept of the Unimaginable and the way in which it is assessed differently in different disciplines and for different purposes is highly provocative and generates new questions on how we relate to the world, how we think this world and ourselves and how we think matter. In scientific discourse what is thinkable and unthinkable is rendered significant and possible by different means, and with different ends, than in feminist research. The latter does not reside so much in the question of possible objectivity or factual limitations to the imagination. Rather, it seeks differently for the limits of the imagination and how this imagination is structured and manipulated. What scientific research and feminist theory have in common is their hovering search towards different unthinkables: god-particles, god-tricks, dark matter, the chora, agential realism, quantum mechanics and phallogocentric orders. These concepts share the interest of moving to different grounds, searching for alternatives and proving wrong what has been right before.

This paper claims, in working with provocative examples set by Nina Lykke, Rosi Braidotti and Renée Heller, that feminist research can criticize and add to the way in which the world is thought by scientific discourse by bringing the element of ethics in the equation. This gesture, inspired by many feminist theories and theorists, is a way of demonstrating how to work diffractively. Feminist research and scientific discourse are not two distinct universes only capable of meeting halfway, rather the diffractive method allows for a radical intertwining in which both will have to be open to alternative ways of thinking world and matter alike.

About Simone van Hulst

Simone van Hulst (1987) lives and studies in the Netherlands. She has a Master degree in Literary Studies and is now working on her final thesis for the Research Master program Gender & Ethnicity at Utrecht University. Her areas of interest are literature, philosophy, feminist theory and technoscience, psychoanalysis and their intersections. The title of the research she is currently involved in is ‘Rhetoric of the Unimaginable: feminist theory, science and science-fiction’. In this project she will assess the productivity of an alliance between feminist theory, science and science fiction; focusing specifically on the ethics of knowledge production that permeate these discourses.

Thursday 26th of April 15.00-16.30
Location: Bisp. 325, Bispetorget 1-3.

Hillevi Lenz Taguchi and Anna Palmer: “A diffractive methodology to ‘disclose’ possible realities of girls’ material-discursive health/‘wellbeing’ in school-settings”

In an era of constructionist and discursive mistrust, reactivating a post-positivist search for *the* material reality, the contesting argument has been that any production of knowledge is actually a *production* of reality with very specific material consequences (Barad 2007; Law 2004; Mol 2002). A relational materialist and postconstructivist (Lykke 2010, 2011) researcher must therefore be committed to understanding how we as researchers are responsibly engaged in actively shaping the future (for humans, non-humans and the material environment) in our productions of knowledge (Barad 1999: 7-8). As researchers we can make political and ethical arguments in our analysis, grounded in the material consequences of the realities we have ‘disclosed’ (Hekman 2010: 93). Postconstructivism moves away from analysing the world from foundational and privileging points of view that claim to reflect *the* reality by recognizing truthful experiences of specific subjects; to shift our attention to a knowing produced in material-discursive processes of creating other possible realities. These realities are already present in the thickness and multiplicities of events but have yet to be ‘disclosed’. This paper aims to show how a relational materialist *diffractive methodology* can help us ‘disclose’ and/or be inventive of possible realities of young girls’ health/’wellbeing’ in school settings.

About Hillevi Lenz Taguchi and Anna Palmer

Taguchi is Professor of Education, Stockholm University, Department of Education with undergraduate majors in Sociology and Literature and a Ph.D. in Education. My research interests are feminist theories and methodologies in the educational sciences, especially focussing higher education pedagogies and early childhood education practices. Our research-group has been involved with theoretical and methodological developments with a *posthumanist relational-materialist* (postconstructivist) approach: doing research with grants from the Swedish Research Council (on gender- and normcritical pedagogy in preschools and schools), and the National Delegation of Gender-equality in collaboration with Cecilia Åsberg at Linköping University. My present research focus is feminist pedagogy, materiality of learning and construction of subjectivity in undergraduate and postgraduate educational practices. Recent publications: *Going Beyond the Theory/Practice Divide in Early Childhood Education: introducing an intra-active pedagogy*, 2010, and a collection of research-essays on feminist, gender- and normcritical pedagogy.

Palmer holds a Ph.D. in Education and is lecturer at Stockholm University, Department of Department of Child and Youth Studies. In my Ph.D.-work I investigated the processes through which mathematical and gendered subjectivities are constituted, reconstituted and maintained in Early Childhood Teacher Education. Theoretically this work constituted a transit from Butler’s conceptualisations of materiality and performativity to Barad’s theoretical territory. Presently my research interests concern theoretical and methodological developments with a *posthumanist relational-materialist* approach in the educational sciences. Recent publications are: ““How many sums can I do?” Performative strategies and diffractive thinking as methodological tools for rethinking mathematical subjectivity”, in *Reconceptualizing Educational Research Methodology*, 2011, and a popular science book for teacher education on mathematics and transdisciplinary learning and teaching, and mathematical subjectivities: “Hur blir man matematisk?” [“How does one become mathematical?”].

Thursday 26th of April 15.00-16.30
Location: Bisp. 325, Bispetorvet 1-3.

Cecilia Milwertz and Wang Fengxian: “Karen Barad’s theory of agential realism and the study of a gender and development NGO in the People’s Republic of China”

As the rain that has nurtured the seedlings of civil society organizing foreign development aid organizations have become a core part of the non-government initiated organizations that have grown in the soil of the geopolitical entity of the People’s Republic of China (PRC). This analysis of a capacity building intervention offered to the Yunnan Reproductive Health Research Association by a foreign development aid donor organization is based on a theoretical cut that views Western organizations as intra-actively present within Chinese organizing from below.

Our contribution to the study of non-governmental organizing in the PRC is to bring into the analysis a dimension that we find has not previously been sufficiently brought to light. Our focus is on the evolution of bottom-up organizing. Inspired by, among others, the work of Karen Barad and her neologism of intra-action, we seek to define and understand the intra-active coming into being of the knowledges and practices of non-governmental organizing. We seek to understand the way in which the Chinese social entrepreneurs who are the driving forces of such organizing have worked intra-actively with domestic party state and foreign development aid donors to create their organizations and make them function. In this paper our focus is on how foreign donor and social entrepreneur knowledges and practices of organizing were addressed in a capacity building intervention offered by a foreign donor.

About Cecilia Milwertz and Wang Fengxian

Cecilia Milwertz works as Senior Researcher at the Nordic Institute of Asian Studies (NIAS), University of Copenhagen. Her current research is on the evolvement of the form and content of non-governmental organizing on gender and development issues in the People’s Republic of China. She applies a hybrid approach to studying China based on a humanities and social sciences educational background in China studies and cultural sociology and a lot of borrowing and inspiration from anthropology, gender studies and other fields. Her publications include books on population policy in China and on women’s organizing in Beijing. A full text version of her most recent journal article ‘The Relational and Intra-active Becoming of Non-government-initiated Organizing in the People’s Republic of China’, written with her collaborator Wang Fengxian, the Beijing Academy of Social Sciences can be downloaded from <http://gtd.sagepub.com/content/15/3/457.full.pdf+html>. She is editor of the Gendering Asia Book Series and Coordinator of both the Gendering Asia Network and the series of Sino-Nordic Women and Gender Studies Conferences.

Wang Fengxian works as a researcher at the Institute of Sociology, Beijing Academy of Social Sciences. Wang Fengxian’s research areas include marriage, family, and domestic violence, community service and women’s non-governmental organizing in People’s Republic of China. She has published numerous articles in Chinese journals and several monographs. She has held positions as committee member of the Women’s Health and Development Section of the Chinese Mental Health Association and as member of the Beijing Women’s Theory Association.

Thursday 26th of April 15.00-16.30
Location: Bisp. 325, Bispetorvet 1-3.

Dorthe Staunæs and Katja Brøgger Jensen: “Entangled research(ers). Or how to create empirical knowledge when you are always already entangled with the world”

This paper takes up the challenges of analyzing how empirical knowledge is created when the research(ers) are always already “thrown into the world” (Heidegger) and thereby affectively “intra-act” (Barad) with and ‘perform’ the empirical knowledge. ‘Thrownness’ is Heidegger’s way of expressing that the human existence is ‘always already being thrown into the world’, it is *there* (the ‘Da’ in Da-sein). While “intra-action” is Barad’s concept for the entanglement, the *mood* or *affectivity* is the way we are attuned to the world. As humans we are ‘situated and affected there-ness’, always already thrown into the world and being situated and attuned to it in specific ways through interest, fear, boredom or something else.

Combing concepts from philosophy as well as psychology, the material and the affective turn allow us to rethink and elaborate on well-known discussions on qualitative research, representation, positioning and situatedness. Instead of being stuck with traditional dichotomies, this conceptual language teaches us to think in connectivity and the qualities of this connectivity as the basic premise. In order to learn from and elaborate on this way of thinking in relation to qualitative research, the paper draws on two different research projects on globalised educational organisations. Case I explores the performative effects of ethnographic observation combined with a presentation of a research project, that is how different realities ‘in situ’ are evoked and called into being as different ‘globalisms’, different ways of performing globalised higher education among top-managers. Case II examines how the affective connectivity between the researcher and the researched may be an entry into exploring how zones of affectivity melodramatically propel reform initiatives in Western educational organisations. Analysing the field work in case I and the analytical work in case II, the paper studies how the real and viable research phenomenon emerges given “the moment before”, the hermeneutical ‘always alreadyness’, and through intra-actions between the researcher and the researched.

About Katja Brøgger Jensen and Dorthe Staunæs

Staunæs is Professor at Department of Education, Aarhus University. Scientific key areas are: Sociocultural diversity (ethnicity, race, gender), intersectionality, leadership, selfmanagement, affectivity and subjectification in professional and pedagogical organized settings such as educational organisations. Selected Publications are “Return of the Freudian Couch® management of Affectivity through Comfort Technologies” in *International Journal of Qualitative Studies in Education*, (with H. Ratner 2012 forthcoming) and “‘Governing the potentials of Life’. Interrogating the Promises in Affective Educational Leadership”, in *Journal of Educational History and Administration*, 43 (3) (2011).

Katja Brøgger Jensen is a Ph.D. Fellow at Department of Education, Aarhus University. Title of Ph.D. project: *Doings and Imaginings of Globalisation in Higher Education*. Selected publications are: “Playing Hide and Seek with Globalisation” (forthcoming), “Philosophy as Empirical Wandering. A Note on the Philosophical Impact of Understanding Globalisation as a Performative Phenomenon” (2012, conf. paper), “The loss of the globalisation formula or how to develop a performative understanding of globalising” (2012, conf. paper).

Friday 27th of April 10.45-12.30
Location: Bisp. 325, Bispetorvet 1-3.

Peta Hintun: “Originary Humanicity and Posthumanist Performativity: Kirby and Barad’s Generalisable Materiality and the Question of the Human for Feminism”

Vicki Kirby’s and Karen Barad’s work represents a tour de force in recent undertakings of nature’s and culture’s constitution. Both excavate the nature/culture binary and its reception in ways that comprehend and sustain its morphogenetic ubiquity, to dilate upon the political and ethical cogency of materiality, as a dynamic ‘worlding’ or ‘life itself’. Via their rigorous engagement with the way language and representation have been received and interrogated, both offer a distinct reading of a generalisable materiality that confounds any conventional interpretation of agency, intention, and relation; qualities that most often presume anthropomorphic legitimacy. Indeed, it is through the question of the human itself that Kirby and Barad draw their most crucial insights regarding the implications of materiality’s informational or discursive nature. While Kirby posits an ‘originary humanicity’ (2011: 20) that finds ‘the identity of human-species-being’ (2011: x) to be an open system that poses the question of the human *as* originary articulation, Barad’s posthumanist performativity displaces the specific identities and capacities of the human subject within an enlarged agential process that *is* material articulation. This paper considers how their destabilising of the human disturbs the way feminism figures the subject of/and its political discourse and a feminist identity politics.

About Peta Hintun

Peta Hinton lectures and tutors in the School of Social Sciences at the University of New South Wales, Australia, in areas that include feminist theory and perspectives; post-structuralist theory; questions of self, agency, and identity; and methodology. Her research explores the politics and ethics of sexual difference and feminist voices that rework the nature of materiality, agency, spirit, and how we think the human. She has presented a number of conference and seminar papers on these topics, and is in the process of publishing on these. More recently she has taken up with the implications of Karen Barad’s agential realism for rethinking a material ethics and how this responds to approaches to sexual difference and feminist critique. In Spring 2012 she will be the recipient of an Erasmus Mundus scholarship as Third Country Scholar in the GEMMA program with the Gender Studies group at the University of Utrecht, Netherlands.

Friday 27th of April 10.45-12.30
Location: Bisp. 325, Bispetorvet 1-3.

Vilma Lehtinen: “Technology in embodiment”

In social sciences, embodiment is understood as the processes of how we come to see our bodies the way we do. Studies of embodiment, including feminist accounts, have illustrated how the human body is constructed in interaction between individuals, groups of people, and the views they represent. To understand the role of technology in embodiment, we need approaches that look at the co-constitution of bodies and technology. To provide a suggestion for an approach, the method of situational analysis is scrutinized using the preparatory stages of a research project as an example of how it would relate to the principles of agential realism. Reading agential realism and situational analysis through each other show us the benefits that they could gain on both sides. To situational analysis, agential realism gives a theoretical basis that extends the possibilities of the method, to analyzing the negotiation of subjectivities in situated, discursive-material practices. Though situational analysis is about mapping actors whose subjectivity is presumed, it could help to perform agential realism, to the extent that it allows for illustrating the material-discursive practices where agential cuts emerge.

About Vilma Lehtinen

Vilma Lehtinen is a Ph.D. Student at the Department of Social Sciences in the University of Helsinki, and a researcher at the Helsinki, Institute for Information Technology HIIT. She has studied the changing ways of understanding and expressing social relationships in mediated interaction. Currently, she is putting up future work on how technology use and constructions of sexuality intertwine.

Friday 27th of April 10.45-12.30
Location: Bisp. 325, Bispetorvet 1-3.

Rachel Loewen Walker: “Feminism Out-of-Time: A New Materialist (Meta)physics of Becoming”

This paper asks the question: how does new materialism reconfigure our conception of *time*. Bringing together the work of Barad (2007), Grosz (2004; 2005), Deleuze (1994), and Bergson (1910; 1911) I develop a materialist feminist metaphysics of duration and becoming. Such a project refuses the totalizing frame of chronological time, and instead relies on Barad’s concept of intra-active becoming as indicative of a collaborative, productive, and open-ended relationship between time and matter; future, past, and present. As it relates to feminist theory, such an enfolding of past and present encourages readings of bodies and events that are out-of-step and out-of-time. This approach offers a new lens through which to understand our documented and assumed histories, while acting as an ethical engagement with the world that begins from the position of being always-already entangled in a vital materiality.

About Rachel Loewen Walker

Ph.D. candidate in Philosophy at the University of Alberta, Edmonton. Recent research contributions are: “Toward a FIERCE Nomadology: Contesting Queer Identities on the Christopher Street Pier” in *PhaenEx*, 2011, 6.1.; “Politically Queer: *Ellen Degeneres* and the Changing Face of American Television 1997-2007” in *Queers in American Popular Culture*, 2010; “Communicating in the Contact Zone: Intercultural Collaboration in a Global Age.” Conference Paper at the CSWIP, University of Victoria, 2011; “Creative Encounters with Deleuze and Barad.” Conference Paper at International Deleuze Studies Conference, Copenhagen, 2011.

ABSTRACTS FOR WORKSHOPS

Arts and Culture

(Page 26-32)

Workshop session I: Thursday 13.00-14.30. Location: Anneks A, Studiegården, Studiestræde 6.
Chair: Morten Bülow

Marietta Radomska: How does life come to matter through bioart? On ethico-zoonto-epistemology of transspecies relations

Jannie Pranger: Sound reinforcement system: body politics, vocal expression

Freya de Mink: New materialism live! Posthuman subjectivities, performer-instrument encounters and shifting feminist musicologies

Workshop session II: Thursday 15.00-16.30. Location: Anneks A, Studiegård, Studiestræde 6.
Chair: Michael Nebeling

Alba G. Torrents and Andreu Ballús: Unbounded bodies, unlimited agencies: mind, materiality and identity in *anime*

Amelie Björck: Human-animal relations

Mathias Winther Madsen: The Garbage Body and The Pinnochio Trap

Thursday 26th of April 13.00-14.30
Location: Anneks A, Studiegården, Studiestræde 6.

Marietta Radomska: “How does life come to matter through bioart? On ethico-zoonto-epistemology of transspecies relations”

This paper aims to look at the understandings of life and transspecies relation(ship)s, which are engendered through the contemporary practices of bioart. While performing a diffractive reading of Karen Barad’s concept of ethico-onto-epistemology and Jami Weinstein’s notion of trans-species zoontology, I will propose the framework of *ethico-zoonto-epistemology* as the one which may open up a possibility of a non-anthropocentric and non-speciesist analysis of life with its materiality, dynamics and trans-corporeality. Simultaneously, I will attempt to unpack the processes and meanings created through a bioartistic project *Que le cheval vive en moi* (2011) by the French duo *Art Orienté Objet*, whose works challenge the common understanding of inter-species boundaries as well as science, technology and the environment.

Throughout my analysis I will tackle the following questions: what posthumanist, non-anthropocentric, non-speciesist and new-materialist understandings of life are created in bioartistic practices? How do they come to matter? What happens when one takes into account materially embodied and embedded in the deepest (beyond-skin-level) sense trans-species relations instead of commonly understood inter-species ones? What meanings of materiality, its intra-activity as well as of the relations between the human and the non-human are produced? Finally, what are the ethical consequences engendered by such redefinitions?

About Marietta Radomska

Marietta Radomska is a Ph.D. candidate at Tema Genus – The Zoontology Research Team, Department of Thematic Studies, Linköping University (Sweden) and a member of the Posthumanities Hub at LiU. She gained a Research Master degree in Gender and Ethnicity Studies at Utrecht University (The Netherlands) in 2011 and a Master of Arts in Philosophy specialised in Social Communication at Adam Mickiewicz University (Poland) in 2008. In her current research project she is investigating the ways in which the contemporary hybrid and transdisciplinary practices of science and art understand, redefine and conceptualise life, while taking into account the ethico-political consequences and possible revisions of human/nonhuman relationships. Her academic interests include: feminist posthumanism, feminist science studies, feminist philosophy, new materialism, Deleuze and Guattari studies and animal studies. She has published in *Nowa Krytyka*, *Praktyka Teoretyczna*, *Armix* and *Potentia*. Her primary research interests are: feminist posthumanism, feminist science studies, feminist philosophy, new materialism, Deleuze and Guattari studies and animal studies

Thursday 26th of April 13.00-14.30
Location: Anneks A, Studiegården, Studiestræde 6.

Jannie Pranger: “Sound reinforcement system: body politics, vocal expression”

Musicians and their audience love new technologies. In general one could argue that instrument building and technological breakthroughs are thoroughly related. Until the beginning of the twentieth century the technological innovations mainly concerned the music instruments. With the arrival of the sound reinforcement system also the voice and the singer’s body were directly confronted with the effects of technology.

In Baradian terms, the microphone (and additional equipment) changed the apparatus of vocal performance in “re(con)figuring space, time and matter.” With consequences for the formative processes of music performance, which reside in the relational and the qualitative, within the doings of a singer’s body, of sound, of experience, and within their entanglement.

This paper zooms in on musico/discursive changes of vocal expression because of a change in the material set-up. It examines how the technology of sound reinforcement reconfigures spaces and boundaries on the level of loudness, audibility and hearing and of visibility and seeing; and how the displacement of intra-actions with the acoustic environment has an effect on the techniques of singing; and how the microphone and its diaphragm afford and constrain specific vocal and bodily behavior.

About Jannie Pranger

Jannie Pranger is a musicologist and affiliated researcher at the Utrecht University. Currently Pranger is preparing her Ph.D. with Prof. Dr. Karl Kügle and co-promotor Dr. Iris van der Tuin. Her research is based on the insights of Karen Barad. Starting from the formative force of relationality and of the qualitative, she addresses the question how to understand the process of becoming of a musical gesture within a specific performance set-up. Her interests are music technology, music in film and music in politics. Pranger is an accomplished singer within the field of new music.

Thursday 26th of April 13.00-14.30
Location: Anneks A, Studiegården, Studiestræde 6.

Freya de Mink: “New materialism live! Shifting feminist musicologies, posthuman subjectivities and performer-instrument encounters”

This paper takes new materialism as a starting point to establish transdisciplinary alliances between feminism and musicology. New materialism redefines and shifts the notion of feminist musicology through its particular postrepresentationalist and onto-epistemological character. Whereas feminist critiques of representation in music come to stand a larger distance, the work of others gain new significance. Two well-known essays of feminist/queer musicologist Suzanne Cusick published in 1994, for example, reveal a particular concern for active embodiment and complex power dynamics at work in musical performance. Read along theories of active materiality by Elizabeth Grosz and others, Cusick’s work becomes central to a new feminist-musicological materialism.

To explore new materialism’s generative capacity further, I suggest that ‘traditional’ feminist concerns such as sexual difference or femininity are not necessarily ingredients of a new materialist musicology. Focusing instead on *posthuman subjectivities* and the *singularity of an event*, a much wider field of studies becomes relevant to new materialist debate. I will briefly discuss some ‘performer-instrument encounters’ in performance studies to show how generative processes are examined beyond traditional self/other, human/instrument and researcher/performer dualisms. Such studies produce alliances between feminist and nonfeminist musicologies, and eventually pose a challenge to the *feminist* specificity of new feminist materialism.

About Freya de Mink

Freya de Mink (the Netherlands, 1986) is currently appointed as a student trainee at the Research Centre for Musical Performance as Creative Practice (CMPCP) at Cambridge University, UK. This 6-month traineeship is part of her Research Master studies at Utrecht University, the Netherlands. Working towards a double master degree in musicology and gender studies, she writes a master thesis on ‘musical child prodigies,’ in which she develops a new materialist perspective on musicology. During her undergraduate studies in musicology with a minor in genderstudies, she explored this area in a thesis on piano performance, feminist musicology and Deleuze. Between 2003 and 2007, Freya de Mink did a fulltime piano major at the Utrecht Conservatory. Since then, she works as a freelance pianist and teacher asides university studies. As a keyboardist and rehearsal pianist, she was appointed at Stage Entertainment/Joop van de Ende theatre productions including the Broadway classics “Joseph”(2009) and “Miss Saigon”(2011). Freya de Mink has participated at several international conferences and symposia on music, gender and performance studies. Contributions include the paper “The next Mozart? Encounter with a child prodigy on YouTube” (2011).

Thursday 26th of April 15.00-16.30
Location: Anneks A, Studiegården, Studiestræde 6.

Alba G. Torrents and Andreu Ballús: “Unbounded bodies, unlimited agencies: mind, materiality and identity in anime”

In the last decades, a group of theoretical proposals has emerged in the philosophy of cognitive science which defies some of the fundamental assumptions traditionally taken as granted in the study of mind and cognition. Developments like the extended mind thesis, the embodied/embedded approach to cognition and enactivism have contributed to call into question many traditional assumptions on the relations between mind, materiality and agency, while prompting a renewed interest in the cognitive value of bodily affects. These approaches also shed new light on the analysis of shortcomings of the classical essentialist conception of identity, providing a valuable scientific, materialist complement to poststructuralist criticisms of it.

The fictional worlds of Japanese animation, in turn, provide a surprisingly clear and suggestive entry point to the core ideas of these theories, with works like *Neon Genesis Evangelion*, *Ghost in The Shell* and *Serial Experiments Lain* exploring the limits of the technological imaginary and giving profound insights on the relations between of body, technology, identity and genre.

About Alba G. Torrents and Andreu Ballús

Alba G. Torrents is M.A. in Contemporary Philosophy for the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB), and Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Philosophy of the same institution with the doctoral research “Body, Technology and Identity in the imaginary of Anime”, under the direction of Dr. Begonya Saez Tajafuerce, Autonomous University of Barcelona, and Dr. Vanina Papalini, National University of Cordoba (Argentina). She is also a member of the research groups “Body and Textuality” (directed by Dr. Meri Torras) and “Ex/posing the body: vulnerability and representation” (directed by Dr. Begonya Saez).

Andreu Ballus is B.A in Sociology and MA in Contemporary Philosophy for the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB). As a Ph.D. candidate, he is currently conducting his doctoral research “Philosophical antecedents of the third generation of cognitive science”. He has been a collaborator of the Artificial Societies and Social Simulation research group, in Department of Sociology at UAB, as well as a collaborator of of the TecnoCog research group in the Department of Philosophy.

Alba and Andreu are also members of the organizing comitée of the Graduate Workshop at UAB, focused on the study of the works of philosophers such as Gilbert Simondon (2010-2011) and Gilles Deleuze (2011-2012).

Thursday 26th of April 15.00-16.30
Location: Anneks A, Studiegården, Studiestræde 6.

Amelie Björck: “The animal body of text. On contemporary literary materializations”

Posthumanism is questioning the fundamental credo of what Derrida calls the carnophallogocentric system, namely the idea that man should rule over nonhuman animals. In literary fiction this questioning has been going on for long, but often half-heartedly. Animals have been given voice and agency, but often in antropomorphic ways. Stories involving animals also have a tendency to be read metaphorically instead of literally. The question is if literary fiction can give an animal agency without falling into the antropomorphical or metaphorical traps of representation. What does it demand from textuality – the body of text and its organization? Are there helpful linkages to be made between new materialist and language materialist thinking?

My discussion will primarily relate to the Swedish novel *Herr Anue Mal* (2011) by Maj-Britt Wiggh. The novel is written from the perspective of a male creature living in contemporary Stockholm, who during his life has perceived himself sometimes as a hairy man, sometimes as an ape, and sometimes as both. For this behaviour he is brought before the law. I might also bring in Swedish novelist Sara Stridsberg's *Darling River*, written as a hypertext to Nabokov's *Lolita*, where Stridsberg effectfully materializes animal references in Nabokov, into a physical, female ape character.

Amelie Björck

About Amelie Björck

Amelie Björck is Ph.D. in literature on the dissertation *Höra hemma – familj och social förändring i svensk radioserieteater från 1930-talet till 1960-talet* (Makadam förlag, 2010). She has also written a book about the poet Sonja Åkesson (Natur & Kultur, 2008). She works as a post doc fellow in Comparative literature at Lund university since 2011. The project concerns the relations between apes and humans in Nordic and European literature after Darwin. She is editor of the academic journal *Tidskrift för genusvetenskap* based at Linköping university, and a regular critic of literature and theatre at *Göteborgs-Posten*. 2010-11 she was appointed at Södertörns Högskola as a lecturer in literature and drama.

Thursday 26th of April 15.00-16.30
Location: Anneks A, Studiegården, Studiestræde 6.

Mathias Winther Madsen: “The Garbage Body and The Pinnochio Trap”

The aim of my talk is to develop a philosophy of technology that takes technology as a social structure rather than a certain kind of “stuff.” My goal is to develop this philosophy into a theory of individual psychology relevant to the interpretation of cultural products. The philosophy of technology I propose is loosely based on the ideas of Foucault and Haraway, especially their skepticism towards Marxist reductionism. I read them as postulating an mutual interdependence between thought and practice, so that social reform and technological innovation are more like the trunk and the tail of an elephant than like smoke and fire. I will illustrate this idea using the example of the light bulb, a paradigmatic case of technological “stuff.” I then develop some psychological consequences of this idea. I claim that people have an intuitive sense of their role in a technological society, and that this knowledge produces a sense of unease. This is frequently dealt with in two common fantasies, the “Pinnochio strategy” and the “Rachel strategy.” I illustrate these through a reading of Karen Blixen’s short story “Sorg-Agre” and Ernest Hemingway’s novel *Fiesta: The Sun Also Rises*.

About Mathias Winther Madsen

Mathias Winther Madsen is a Ph.D. student in linguistics at the Institute for Logic, Language, and Computation at the University of Amsterdam. His research focuses on the interface between life and language, in particular how insights from social psychology and poststructuralist philosophy can be integrated into linguistics and cognitive psychology. In 2010, he graduated from the MA program IT and Cognition at the University of Copenhagen with the thesis *The Limits of Machine Translation*, which analyzed computational approaches to language from the standpoint of existential philosophy. He has a BA in mathematics (2005) from University of Copenhagen.

ABSTRACTS FOR WORKSHOPS

The Affective Body

(Page 33-39)

Workshop session I: Thursday 13.00-14.30. Location: Anneks B, Studiegård, Studiestræde 6.

Chair: Charlotte Kroløkke

Stine Willum Adrian and Astrid Jespersen: Tears, Fears and Hormones – agency of emotions in socio-material practices

Malou Juelskjær: Producing bodies of affective didactics

Tine Damsholt: Gender dissolving – on discursive-material reconfigurings of gender in academia

Workshop session II: Thursday 15.00-16.30. Location: Anneks B, Studiegård, Studiestræde 6.

Chair: Stine Adrian

Nana Blomqvist: Sex tourism in Thailand

Magdalena Petersson McIntyre: Bodies, self-regulation and *dispositifs* in retail

Sari Irni: Performativity of hormones

Thursday 26th of April 13.00-14.30
Location: AnnelsB, Studiegården, Studiestræde 6.

Stine Willum Adrian and Astrid Jespersen: “Tears, Fears and Hormones – agency of emotions in socio-material practices”

In the consultation at the GP the doctor touches a patient’s patch of skin resulting in a tear falling down her chin. And in the consultation, at the fertility clinic, the side effects of the hormonal treatment of the women is discussed vividly as something that makes her loose her temper to a degree, that her husband is better off taking extra hours at work.

These are empirical incidences from our ethnographic fieldworks at general practitioners and fertility clinics. Both studies challenged our initial theoretical position inspired by Actor Network Theory and STS. Within STS there has previously been very little focus on how we can account for emotions when technologies are at use. However, our rich empirical material simply called for a development, of theoretical resources that could account for emotions as active parts of socio-material or material-discursive practices.

In this presentation we will discuss how we took up this empirical and theoretical challenges in our work. In different ways we developed analytical frameworks theoretically informed by Arlie Hochschild, Charis Thompson and Karen Barad all of whom might inspire an analysis of emotions and their agency in socio-material settings.

About Stine Willum Adrian and Astrid Jespersen

Stine Willum Adrian is an Assistant Professor in Techno-anthropology at Aalborg University in Copenhagen, Denmark. Adrian’s research interests lies in questions concerning gender, medical technology, intersectional analysis and material feminisms. She has previously done a comprehensive ethnographic study on fertility clinics and sperm banks in Denmark and Sweden. Her current work is part of a collective research project named (Trans)formations of kinship: Travelling in search of relatedness (KinTra). Adrian’s project explores the globalization of Danish sperm due to the expansion of Danish sperm banking, and Denmark being a European destination for use of donor sperm.

Astrid Pernille Jespersen is an Assistant Professor at the Ethnology Department, Saxo-Institute, University of Copenhagen. Jespersen’s research interest lies in questions concerning health, health promotion, care, medical technology, Science and Technology Studies, Cultural Analysis and methods for user involvement. She has previously done an ethnographic study on consultation processes at General Practitioners in Denmark. Her current work is part of an interdisciplinary project on overweight and physical exercise (FINE) where she explores the possibilities and obstacles for lifestyle changes among a group of moderately overweight men participating in a clinical trial. She is, furthermore, part of a strategic research alliance (TempoS) focusing on new methods for user involvement.

Thursday 26th of April 13.00-14.30
Location: AnnelsB, Studiegården, Studiestræde 6.

Malou Juelskjær: “Producing bodies of affective didactics”

In this presentation I will look into the multiple intensities opened by a specific didactic move: Showing a movie with the theme of three young white girls’ experiences in relation to youth and sexuality. Audience: a class of primarily ethnic minoritized, mainly Muslim, young boys and girls.

The analysis addresses two aspects. For one, the presence of multiple temporalities: Teachers and movie assuming (hegemonizing) a specific movement from child to adult through partying, drinking and experimenting with sexuality, leaving silently present other configurations of that (possible) ‘rites de passage’ - and silencing how that narrative effects and affects the pupils. Next analytical question address the intensities of the material-discursive apparatus of half circle of bodies, chairs, tables, fatboys, headscarfs, movie screen (and other intra-acting components). An apparatus of accelerating and arresting affects is produced. The analysis gives an example of studying how affectivity may travel through specific apparatuses of bodily production and of what may emerge as material and materializing components in the movement and arrestment of affects as particular emotions. Finally it raises questions of ethics in relations to didactic practices.

About Malou Juelskjær

Malou Juelskjær, Associate Professor, Ph.D., Department of Education and Learning, Aarhus University. Malou Juelskjær is occupied with empirical analysis and ‘concept building’ in relation to the constitution of subjectivity with emphasis of intra-actions of time, space, architecture, interior design, technologies, social categories, leadership within professionalized educational settings.

Thursday 26th of April 13.00-14.30
Location: AnnelsB, Studiegården, Studiestræde 6.

Tine Damsholt: “Gender dissolving – on discursive-material reconfigurings of gender in academia”

This paper addresses the question of how we can relate to bodily differences and the agency of materiality without ending in biology and essentialism, as it deals with gender as not only performative but also material and discursive. The point of departure is a piece of auto-ethnography from a academic conference, where I experienced how my own ‘stabilised and neutral academic gender’ suddenly became destabilised (and thus revealed to be material–discursive) when transferred to another material setting – specifically, a *hamam* in Istanbul. Although the social relationships to the male participants involved were unaltered, the gendered body came to matter in a new way when it was enacted or ‘measured’ in a different apparatus.

Following the plot of this auto-ethnography, the paper investigates how a performative approach could deal with the body and materiality, moving from J. Butler’s perspective and to a performative version of STS/ANT, particularly the concepts put forward by K. Barad.

About Tine Damsholt

Tine Damsholt is associate professor at the SAXO Institute, section of European Ethnology. Her primary field of research is political culture i.e. political rituals, nationalism and patriotic discourses in early modern Denmark-Norway and contemporary Western countries based on cultural history and ethnographic fieldwork. Materiality, body and gender are recurrent themes in her research and publications. Further she has been involved in several research projects on everyday life in contemporary Denmark.

Thursday 26th of April 15.00-16.30
Location: Annex B, Studiestræde 6.

Nana Blomqvist: “Sex tourism in Thailand”

My dissertation is a study of the sex tourism in Thailand where I use the web site the World Sex Guide and field studies in red light districts in Thailand as the material for my study. Studies on how commercial sex is an expression of specific conceptualization of desire that connects to consumer culture at large is often missing in the research field on sex industry. The dissertation is a study on how “desire” connects to the societal apparatus.

Karen Barad has been a huge source of inspiration in my research regarding the processes that are at work when commercial sexuality becomes possible and bodies and intimacy turns into measurable values or alienated commodities. I study how technology such as media technology, global economic forces, tourism and a certain understanding of desire operates intra-actively. Inspired by Barad’s ‘accountability’ I emphasize the importance of all of these aspects. Thingification is relevant where I analyze the conceptualization of ‘desire’ and its connections to consumer culture at large and sex consumption in particular. The view that we are separated from the world cannot be true in an absolute sense but as I intend to show this view has strong philosophical and material implications.

About Nana Blomqvist

Nana Blomqvist is a Ph.D. Student at the Department of Comparative Religion at Åbo Akademi University since May 2011. She obtained a Master degree in Gender Studies from Åbo Akademi University in 2011 and a Bachelor degree in Gender Studies from Åbo Akademi University in 2009. She has published the article “Ansvar i forskning om sexkonsumtion” (Responsibility in conducting research about sex consumption) in the Swedish language periodical *Ikaros: Periodical Of The Human Being and Science*. She is the leader of a reading circle with Post-Humanist readings spring semester 2012.

Thursday 26th of April 15.00-16.30
Location: Annex B, Studiestræde 6.

Magdalena Petersson McIntyre: “Bodies, self-regulation and *dispositifs* in retail”

The paper builds on a case study of employees in different Swedish retail settings such as fashion, perfume, electronics and building-supply-stores. Thirty interviews with employees have been made during the past two years. The paper addresses discussions on 'aesthetic labour'; a term that refers to embodied work practices in retail, such as when staff are expected to work on their bodies and conform to particular corporate aesthetics, management ideals or brand identities (Warhurst et al 2007, Entwistle and Wissinger 2004, Pettinger 2004, 2005). However, material aspects of work are usually not emphasized in the existing research on aesthetic labour. According to my findings, aesthetic labour is put to work mainly through processes of self-regulation. The purpose of the paper is to analyse the material aspects of this self-regulation. Self-regulation wasn't just something that was dependent upon managers or even other colleagues. The staff also depended on garments, make-up and other objects in their creations of work personae. These objects were not neutral, they continuously came in to being through gendered material-discursive processes. Theoretically the paper sets out to combine a materialist focus inspired by Karen Barad (2007) with Franck Cochoy's (2004, 2007) consumer oriented ideas of the captivation of customers in stores.

About Magdalena Petersson McIntyre

Associate Professor at the Centre for Consumer Science (CFK), University of Gothenburg, Sweden. She holds a Ph.D. in Ethnology from University of Gothenburg, 2003 and a M.A. in Ethnology, University of Gothenburg, 1996. Selected publications are “The Gendered Bottle: Meaning-Making in Luxury Packaging” in: Fredriksson, Martin (ed.) *Current Issues in European Cultural Studies*, 2011; “Keep your clothes on: Fit and sexy through striptease aerobics” in Kennedy E. & Markula P. (eds.) *Women and Exercise*, 2011 and “Gender and Consumption”. In: Karin Ekström (red.). *Consumer behaviour: a Nordic Perspective*, 2010.

Thursday 26th of April 15.00-16.30
Location: Anneks B, Studiestræde 6.

Sari Irni: “Performativity of Hormones”

Sex hormones are a vital aspect of contemporary social and cultural life throughout the life course, and they can be argued to be part of the moulding of sexed bodies in various ways – including medical treatments, such as prevention of pregnancy, treatment of menopausal symptoms and prevention of risks alleged to be followed by menopause, and treatment of common illnesses such as breast and prostate cancer. My postdoctoral study focuses on the *deliberate moulding of sexed bodies* by hormone products, which is an important part of the contemporary sex reassignment treatment of transgender persons. Specifically my study explores the way in which ‘sex hormones’ emerged to the Finnish medical and political sphere approximately from the 1950s onwards, and especially how they began to be part of the deliberate moulding of sexed bodies by hormone treatments, and how these treatments are experienced by transpeople.

In this paper I develop the theoretic-methodological approach for this study, which draws from feminist science studies, including the so-called ontological turn in feminist theory. I first explore how ‘sex’ hormones are conceptualized within feminist studies, including for example, the work of Celia Roberts and Lynda Birke. My work is inspired especially by the way in which feminist scholars have dealt with the naturalcultural connections and ‘provocations’ (Roberts 2007) that hormones are told to enact, in order to answer to the challenge posed by the so-called new materialism about accounting for the ‘activity’ of ‘biological matter’. I then focus on the way in which Karen Barad’s *posthumanist performativity* as well as the focus on *sex-reassignment processes* could add to this discussion.

From the perspective of Barad’s posthumanist performativity as well as the other science studies scholars, sex hormones are not merely seen as having effects on bodies (as hormone treatments) and within bodies (as endogenous hormones); instead, I develop the notion of performativity of hormones that more broadly accounts for the apparatuses within which ‘sex hormones’ enact. In relation to this, and in connection to the present feminist debates on materiality, I discuss what it entails to understand sex hormones not as ‘biological’ actants per se, or their effectivity in moulding the gender system as ‘provocations to the social’ (namely, that biology provokes the social), but inspired by Barad as *material-discursive* enactments.

About Sari Irni

Sari Irni has a background (MA) in Comparative Religion, licentiate degree in Social and Public Policy, and finished her doctoral thesis *Ageing Apparatuses at Work: Transdisciplinary Negotiations of Sex, Age and Materiality* (Åbo Akademi University Press) in Women's Studies in 2010. She is currently working as Academy of Finland Postdoctoral Researcher on the project 'Performative Hormones - Affective and Medical Assignments of Sex'. In addition, she is broadening her networks as well as supervising three doctoral students. Her research interests are: Feminist debates about materiality and posthumanist performativity, and how 'transdisciplinary encounters' in these debates are power-imbued; Feminist science studies and the contemporary history of the so-called sex hormones; A postcolonial feminist approach to science studies, at the moment from the perspective of race hygiene in Finnish history. She is especially interested in how the arrival of sex hormones to the medical and political sphere intra-acted with race hygienic politics and medical practices (such as involuntary sterilisations).

ABSTRACTS FOR WORKSHOPS

TechnoScience and Bodies

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Workshop session I: Thursday 13.00-14.30. Location: Bisp. 214, Bispetorget 1-3.

Chair: Sofia Lundmark

Anne Leonora Blaakilde: Fibromyalgia: Invisible matter that matters

Karin Gunnarsson: 'Becoming healthy'. An intra-active investigation of a program in the apparatus of health promotion in schools

Desireé Ljungcrantz: In-te(a)r-vein – a tool to analyze HIV and relations – our common veins knitted together with theories of feminist materialism and intersectionality

Workshop session II: Thursday 15.00-16.30. Location: Bisp. 214, Bispetorget 1-3.

Chair: Sebastian Mohr

Sofia Lundmark and Martin Jonsson: Crafting interaction - materiality in digital interaction design and traditional crafting practices

Katie Stephenson: Disturbing Effects: Embodied Experience and Immaterial labor in Annie Abraham's "Seperation,"

Christian Groes-Green: Sexual capital in Mozambique: Phenotypes, performance and material stratification of bodies

Workshop session III: Friday 10.45-12.30. Location: Bisp. 214, Bispetorget 1-3.

Chair: Michala Hvidt Brengaard

Eva Sanger: Bodies at risk. Ultrasound fetal imaging in the context of prenatal risk assessment in Germany

Malaika Rodel: Gen(dered) bodies – nature, technology and the body in the German discourse of Preimplantation Genetic Diagnosis

Lucie Dalibert: Materialising Bodies, Enacting Humanness: Questioning Anthropotechnologies

Sebastian Mohr: Matter that matters – Feminist reflections on bodies and masculinities

Thursday 26th of April 13.00-14.30
Location: Bisp. 214, Bispetorvet 1-3.

Anne Leonora Blaakilde: “Fibromyalgia: Invisible matter that matters”

Fibromyalgia (FMS) is an ailment on the borders of diagnosis, challenging the limits between health and disease. The sufferers are primarily women aged 40+, primarily of lower socioeconomic status, and a part of them belong to ethnic minority groups.

By lack of visual or measureable diagnostic documentation this disease represents an immanent emphasis on visualized embodiment entailed to the perception and performance of these sufferers in a situation of contestation. This situation is an incidence of bodies not only obeying performative ascriptions; they insist on and remind us of their presence, even without the expected, visible signs of illness. With inspiration from Karen Barad the paper will discuss the possibility of invisible matter that matters, of bodily, material constraints out of sight.

About Anne Leonora Blaakilde

MA in Folklore and Rhetorics, Ph.D. in Ethnology; University of Copenhagen. Since 2009 Postdoc at Center for Healthy Ageing, The Saxo-Institute, Dept. of Ethnology, University of Copenhagen. Previously positioned at Danish Institute of Gerontology as a researcher, respectively senior research fellow. She has worked with gender and aging related to many topics, and is now interested in migration and health in relation to gender/aging, but will probably never let go of a long-lasting interest in family culture and intergenerational relations. A selection of recent publications: *Tidsskriftet Kulturstudier: KrObjekt. Temanummer om krop, sundhed og sygdom*. (Ed. with Astrid Pernille Jespersen), 2011:2; ”En KrObjektiv lidelse? Forståelse og behandling af kroniske, diffuse smertelidelser med fibromyalgi som eksempel” (With Rie Lykke Danielsen.) in *Tidsskriftet Kulturstudier: KrObjekt. Temanummer om krop, sundhed og sygdom*. (Ed. with Astrid Pernille Jespersen) 2011:2.

Thursday 26th of April 13.00-14.30
Location: Bisp. 214, Bispetorget 1-3.

Karin Gunnarsson: “‘Becoming healthy’. An intra-active investigation of a program in the apparatus of health promotion in Swedish schools”

This paper takes its point of departure in the work on my Ph.D. thesis. The topic for the thesis is the apparatus of health promotion in Swedish schools, and more specific one manual-based program within this framework. The program is based on cognitive behavioral therapy and directed to girls in eighth grade. The aim of my thesis is to investigate what phenomena are produced in the intra-action of discursive, material and technological processes within the practice of the program and entangled components.

The theoretical point of departure will be located in the conversation between Barad and Haraway. Providing an onto-epistemological framework to investigate how the iterative intra-action of agential components produces specific becomings. This also includes a notion of performativity where complex interweaving of power-relations stabilizes and destabilizes differential boundaries.

The intra-active investigation will be conducted through an analysis of diffraction focusing on how different bodies are enacting ‘becomings with’ in the intra-action of human and non-human, constantly relational, constantly transforming. Trying to transgress the borders of self, other, bodies, health and pedagogical work in the constant reconfigure of the spacetime mattering.

About Karin Gunnarsson

Karin Gunnarsson is a Pd.D. Student at Centre for Teaching and Learning in the Humanities (Department of Ethnology, History of Religions and Gender Studies. March 8-10, 2012: Co-organizer of the symposium " Life Skills – different ways to train the “problematic children” at the NFPPF/NERA’s 40th Congress, Aarhus University. 2011: Paper for discussion at the joint seminar of FOLKs and WRERU research groups, Warwick University. 2011: Peer-reviewed conference paper “Life Skill Education as an arena for promoting well-being and health” Part of the Symposia “Life Skill Education- an emerging subject with no Direction” at the 13th Annual CiCe Network Conference, June 9-11, Dublin City University. 2010-: Postgraduate studies in pedagogies. 2008-2010: Masters program in education, Stockholm University. 2001: Teacher’s degree, Stockholm Institute of Education.

Thursday 26th of April 13.00-14.30
Location: Bisp. 214, Bispetorget 1-3.

Desireé Ljungcrantz: “In-te(a)r-vein – a Companion Concept”

In the personal-political-work in progress of my Ph.D. project focusing HIV, relations and disclosure I am using the concept in-te(a)r-vein. Since HIV is a virus and a diagnosis connected to individual and collective experiences of (im)possible past-present-futures, that is also dependent upon non-human actors the concept must include multiple aspects of matter, identities and emotions as well as accountability and situated knowledge. In-te(a)-vein is my companion concept bringing in:

in: at a point within an area or space, forming the whole or the part of something/somebody; *inter*: between one to another, inter-agency and to bury a dead person; *ter*: three; *tear*: to damage something by pulling it apart or into pieces, to injure a muscle, move quickly, liquid from the eye; *vein*: tubes that carry the blood from all parts of the body towards the heart, a thin layer of mineral or metal contained in a rock or a particular style or manner; *intervene*: to become involved in a situation in order to improve or help it, to happen in a way that delays something or prevents it for happening; *vain*: vanity; *in vain*: without success; *intravenous*: of drugs or food going into a vein.

About Desireé Ljungcrantz

Ph.D. Student, Department of Thematic Studies: Gender Studies, Linköping University. Supervisor: Prof. Nina Lykke. 2005-2007: Master of Arts in Comparative Literature and Swedish, Linköping University. 2010-2011: Bachelor of Social Science in Gender Studies, Linköping University. She has written ”I relation till mig. Förhandlingar med hiv. Hiv-positivas syn på (framtida) relationer” (“In Relation To Me - Negotiating HIV – HIV-positive Relationship Stories”). Gender Studies, Linköping University. And translated from English to Swedish: ”Att utforska inkluderingsnormer, kulturell variation och modersmålsstöd – reflektioner från en forskningscirkel med IDA, Margret Obondo, in *Forskningscirkel – arena för verksamhetsutveckling i mångfald*, Pirjo Lahdenperä (red). MDH Studies in Social Science (2011).

Thursday 26th of April 15.00-16.30
Location: Bisp. 214, Bispetorget 1-3.

Sofia Lundmark and Martin Jonsson: “Crafting interaction - materiality in digital interaction design and traditional crafting practices”

In recent years, aspects of materiality are increasingly being discussed in the area of human computer interaction. This stems both from an increasing focus on design and the role that material play in crafting practices, as well as an incorporation of a theoretical view of materiality focusing on how both people and artifacts may possess agency, and how this results in increasingly entangled processes of interaction. In this paper we will discuss aspects of materiality in relation to digital interaction design and traditional crafting practices. We do this by examining two design cases. In the first case we present a design project where researchers worked in close collaboration with an artist to create an interactive installation aimed for an experience center for children. Based on this case we discuss aspects of materiality in relation to physical and digital manifestations of interactive artifacts, and how these manifestations affect the embodied and aesthetic experience. The other case focuses on the creation of another interactive installation where traditional handicraft practices like knitting are mixed with electronic and interactive components. Through this case we want to explore differences in the material-discursive practices in traditional handicraft practices compared to interactive and digital design practices.

About Sofia Lundmark and Martin Jonsson

Sofia Lundmark is a Ph.D. Student, Department of Education, Uppsala University. MA in Pedagogy, 2005, Department of Education, Stockholm University. BA in Mediatechnology, Department of Communication, Technology and Design, Södertörn University. BA in Media and Communication Studies, Department of Journalism, Media and Communication, Stockholm University. Lecturer in Mediatechnology, 2003- (currently on leave of absence, 50%), Department of Communication, Media and IT, Södertörn University. She participate in the research project “Brukskvaliteter i webbtjänster för egenvård - en analys av umo.se” (swedish title), Normcritical design (short English title), 2010. A short cooperation project with Södertörn University, umo.se and Ambient Media founded by Södertörn University.

Martin Jonsson is a Senior Lecturer (Lektor), Södertörn University, Sweden. He holds a Ph.D. in Computer and Systems Sciences from the Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden. In his dissertation the focus was on enabling and simplifying the construction and design of sensor based interactive systems. Current research has focussed on embodiment and interactive systems and the development of new technologies and novel forms of interaction. The research spans from development of interaction technologies for children, to work on tangible user interfaces, historical studies of interaction, and the relationship between physical form and user experience. Ongoing research projects are: 2010 - : *Stockholm Media Lab*. Research centre based at Södertörn University, focussing on collaborative industry and academic research project in the area of new and future media services. 2009-2012: *Embodied Programming*. Founded by the Swedish Research Council. In this project we investigate how new tools for programming can be created that better support collaborative and embodied aspects of programming practices.

Thursday 26th of April 15.00-16.30
Location: Bisp. 214, Bispetorvet 1-3.

Katie Stephenson: “Disturbing Boundaries: Embodied Experience and Immaterial labor in Annie Abrahams’s “Separation””

In this paper, I examine how emergences of technologies shift not only how labor is carried out, but also how it affects entities’ ways of living. To do this, I write about immaterial labor in context of Annie Abrahams’s electronic poem “Separation,” one that mimics RSI (Repetitive Strain Injury) software to interactively deliver a poem about how it feels to be separated from one’s computer even if it was the cause of tremendous pain. I use an affirmative reading practice by diffractively reading Brian Massumi’s writing on bodies as self-networks, and Sara Ahmed’s writing on the contingency of pain in order to craft a way of thinking about how pain (and other feelings) shape what is and has the possibility to be part of an extended body. Abrahams’s poem, read alongside immaterial labor, evokes the notion that despite the classification of immaterial labor, the practices of working with a computer for multiple hours in a day has tremendous material consequences including RSI which triggers pain, marks, and transforms bodies. In addition, treatment— such as using RSI software as portrayed by the disruptions in reading the poem—is a biopolitical constraint that often requires disturbances in work flow and an extended body in order to prevent more severe physical interferences to a person’s capacity to work.

About Katie Stephenson

2010-present: University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, NL Research Master in Cultural Analysis INTT Dutch Language Courses. 2007-2010: Drake University, Des Moines, IA Bachelor of Arts, Summa Cum Laude English Literature & The Study of Culture and Society, Departmental Honors. She has written “Antony Hegarty’s Vocality: How Technology, Materiality, and Symbolic Systems Are Entwined”. Ed. Elke Weesjes. *United Academics: One*, 2011. 2010: Researcher Ba Ling Hou Grant Team Qualitative research of 1980s generation, specifically of the emergent middle class in Nanjing, China Drake University, financed ASIANetwork Freeman Summer Research Grant Supervisor: Darcie Vandegrift, Ph.D. 2009-2010: Research Assistant Art History Department Representations of Chinese in America from 1850-1870 Visual Representations in Science Drake University, Des Moines, IA Supervisor: Lenore Metrick-Chen, Ph.D.

Thursday 26th of April 15.00-16.30
Location: Bisp. 214, Bispetorvet 1-3.

Christian Groes-Green: “Sexual capital in Mozambique: Phenotypes, performance and material stratification of bodies”

I shall take as point of departure fieldwork among young women and men in the nightlife of Mozambique’s capital to explore the power of bodily materialities and the ways in which the flesh, its configurations and movements affects other (male and female) bodies in entanglements with valued objects such as money, cars, mobile phones and clothes. This interaction (or intra-action) between bodies and technologies is often played out in discourses of beauty, desire, race, gender, class and mobility. The paper will comment on recent discussions of sexual capital and erotic power and argue that phenotypes and performances (in Karen Barad’s understanding of these concepts) create a stratification of bodies, where some are more prone to have access to material objects and social or geographical mobility while other bodies tend to become excluded. In line with Barad’s suggestion of analyzing matter via the perspective of ‘agential realism’ the paper attempts to contest dichotomies of human/non-human, mind/body, matter/discourse, nature/culture as well as gender/sexuality.

About Christian Groes-Green

Christian Groes-Green is anthropologist, PhD. He is Assistant Professor at Cultural Encounters, Roskilde University and he has been guest researcher at Columbia University. He is co-editor of *Studying Intimate Matters* (Fountain Publishers, 2011) and has published numerous articles on masculinities and femininities, intimate methods, sexual economies, transactional sex, social marginalization and youth culture in neo-liberal Mozambique. Recently he received the Elite Research Grant Sapere Aude for his project on ‘transactional sexual migration in Africa’, where he examines transnational intimacies, affect, power, exchange and kinship in migratory processes from Southern Africa to Europe.

Friday 27th of April 10.45-12.30
Location: Bisp. 214, Bispetorvet 1-3.

Eva Sanger: “Bodies at risk: Ultrasound fetal imaging in the context of prenatal risk assessment in Germany”

Attributing risk factors to pregnancy is part of the ongoing process of the medicalization of pregnancy and birth. Ultrasound fetal imaging, a technical element of this process, is a widely used screening device that ostensibly documents the 'normal' development of the fetus and indicates if the unborn is 'at risk', for example from Down's syndrome or post-natal complications. In Germany ultrasound examinations are a routine part of maternity care, which makes Germany a particularly interesting case to study. Using ethnographic data, I explore how risk is *practically* enacted during obstetric ultrasound examinations. More specifically, I highlight the ways in which the notion of 'risk' is enacted through gestures, computer software and statistical data. Prenatal risks are neither naturally existing phenomena nor a social construction of medical knowledge. I argue that technical devices participate in shaping social relations, taking a relationalist-materialist approach to the production of medical knowledge. Moreover, assessments of risk and judgments of the 'normal' and the 'pathological' are intertwined in the practice of ultrasound examinations. I expand on this last issue by showing how risk is attributed to prenatal bodies employing norms of fetal development that derive from fetal populations.

About Eva Sanger

Eva Sanger is a sociologist, and received her Ph.D. from Goethe University Frankfurt and her M.A. from Justus Liebig University in Gießen. She is a junior faculty member at Goethe University Frankfurt, in the Faculty of Social Sciences. Her current fields of specialization include: theories of practice and the body, gender and medicalization, biopolitics, changing forms of parenthood in late modern societies, questions of embodiment and pregnancy, and changes in the health care system, especially in the field of maternity care in Germany. She is currently researching the influences of ultrasound technology-based medical healthcare on parents-to-be in Germany (“Enacting Pregnancy: The Role of the Sonogram in Prenatal Diagnosis”, financed by the German Research Foundation, 2010-2013).

Friday 27th of April 10.45-12.30
Location: Bisp. 214, Bispetorvet 1-3.

Malaika Rödel: “Gen(dered) bodies – nature, technology and the body in the German discourse of Preimplantation Genetic Diagnosis”

New reproductive technologies have changed our understanding of pregnancy and reproduction. IVF and surrogate motherhood are leading to new forms of family and parenthood, and diagnostic tools like Preimplantation Genetic Diagnosis (PGD) enable us to enhance the body of the embryo and to analyze its genetic constitution and potential diseases. As a result reproduction is no longer solely understood as a natural process, and the dualism of nature and technology becomes fragile. But what kind of nature do we have instead, and what does it mean for gender borders?

In my Ph.D. thesis I combine theoretical approaches to nature with a discourse analysis of the German Debate about PGD. Theoreticians like Karen Barad, Donna Haraway and Bruno Latour describe the relationship of nature and society as co-productive processes in which nature takes an active part. Seen against this theoretical background, the discourse of PGD is not just about ethical questions and the protection of the embryo vs. research interests and parents who want a healthy child. Instead, we can analyze how nature and gender are described and take form in the discourse.

In my talk I would like to outline gender specific aspects in the German debate about Preimplantation Genetic Diagnosis (PGD). Although Germany is known for its strict embryo protection law (Embryonenschutzgesetz), PGD has been permitted since July 2011. How can the debate be described from a hybrid perspective of nature and society? Can the fracture of nature/culture also loosen the linkage between reproduction and sex, or do we find a reconfiguration of gender borders instead?

About Malaika Rödel

Malaika Rödel studied philosophy, sociology and political science in Münster and Frankfurt/Main. Since 2009 she has been working as Ph.D. candidate and research associate at the Goethe University Frankfurt. Her Ph.D. project is about »gen(dered) bodies: Nature, technology and the body in the discourses of Preimplantation Genetic Diagnosis (PGD)«. Her research interests are in social studies of genetic and reproductive technologies, science and technology studies, sociology of the body, and feminist theory.

Friday 27th of April 10.45-12.30
Location: Bisp. 214, Bispetorvet 1-3.

Lucie Dalibert: “Materialising Bodies, Enacting Humanness: Questioning Anthropotechnologies”

In this presentation rooted in empirical philosophy (Mol, 2002) and feminist materialism (Alaimo and Hekman, 2008), I intend to interrogate which and whose bodies materialise – that is, both come to existence and come to count (Barad, 2007) – as human, nonhuman, other-than-human, less-than-human in the fields of prosthetics and tissue engineering, the two domains in which I am conducting fieldwork. More precisely, it is via the analysis and mapping of the interferences of the material-discursive practices that are enacted not only on the laboratory floor but also within the lived experience of the users of these technologies and through which bodies get defined and delineated, that I will sketch what *matters* as proper humanness. In this endeavour, I will also open a generative dialogue between Karen Barad’s agential realism (*Ibid.*) and Bruno Latour’s affective compositions (e.g., Latour, 2004) as it is my contention that reading them through one other can contribute not only to strengthen material feminist understandings of bodies and technologies, and matter in general, as agentive, but also to better account for and be accountable to the affective shaping of bodies within technoscience, a pressing and pivotal ethical (and political) issue in our highly technological times.

About Lucie Dalibert

Ph.D. candidate in Philosophy of Science, Technology and Society, University of Twente (The Netherlands). After graduating in ‘Politics, Economics and Society’ from Sciences Po Lille, France (2007), Lucie Dalibert attended the University of Hull, United Kingdom, and the University of Utrecht, The Netherlands, for an Erasmus Mundus Masters in Women’s and Gender Studies (2007-2009). As her Masters’ thesis on the concept of bio-power progressively led her to philosophical anthropology and philosophy of science and technology, she joined in October 2009 the Department of Philosophy at the University of Twente as a Ph.D. student. She is a member of the VIDI/NWO project ‘Technology and the Limits of Humanity: The Ethics and Anthropology of Posthumanism.’ Her research focuses on human-technology relations and inter-/intra-actions in the age of the convergence of biotechnology, nanotechnology, information technology, and the cognitive sciences (NBIC). More precisely, by undertaking ethnographical fieldwork, Lucie Dalibert investigates what kinds of bodies and subject positions are being (re)produced and experienced, and how the human is made and remade in the fields of tissue regeneration and prosthetics.

Friday 27th of April 10.45-12.30
Location: Bisp. 214, Bispetorvet 1-3.

Sebastian Mohr: “Matter that matters – Feminist reflections on bodies and masculinities”

Analyzing gender relations feminisms have especially been concerned with reproduction. Technologies of reproduction caught feminists’ attentions from the inception of artificial reproductive technologies and a strong tradition within this field is based on feminist thought. Focusing on female bodies for the most part, male bodies were long neglected by many feminists when attending to reproductive matters. Attention to how men are concerned with and affected by biomedical reproductive technologies has however risen over the past decade with questions focusing on how masculinities are involved when technologies assist reproduction. Much of this research worked with the underlying premise that the presence of male bodies, that is matter signified as male, is reason enough to conclude that masculinities are at stake when sperm is donated, fertility assessed, and gametes joined. Yet is that really the case? Are masculinities inevitably (only) tied to male bodies? Or does the assumption that this is the case not rather reify sex and gender as ontological certainties within feminist conceptualizing? When are bodies signified and signifiable as gendered matter? Is there matter that can be signified only as male? With my paper I want to pose these questions and therewith contribute and reflect on discussions of the matter of matter within feminist research. I want to engage with feminist contributions to the study of reproductive technologies and especially scrutinize how matter, male bodies, men, and masculinities have been construed as part of this body of research. Involving my own research on sperm donation and sperm donors in Denmark this introspection shall therewith provide possible grounds to attend to the question of how theorizing and research engages matter and what that means for feminist analysis and critique.

About Sebastian Mohr

Ph.D. student at the University of Copenhagen, Centre for Medical Science and Technology Studies (MeSTS) and external lecturer at HafenCity University Hamburg teaching “Sex wars – contemporary politics of gender and sexuality”; founder of the laboratory queer readings of science and technology at MeSTS; honors degree in European Ethnology, Sociology and Cultural Sciences from Humboldt University, Berlin; research areas and interests: science and technology studies, science history, feminist and queer theory, sex research, methodology.

ABSTRACTS FOR WORKSHOPS

Climate and Nature

(Page 51-55)

Workshop session III: Friday 10.45-12.30. Location: Anneks A, Studiegården, Studiestræde 6.

Chair: Anders Blok

Maria Åkerman: Ecological awareness and the control of the body: the making of environmental citizens

Marja Vehviläinen: Agency, situated nature-cultures and institutional textualities: studying environmental civic activity

May-Britt Öhman: In Control (?) of an Organic Machine: Bodies in Relation to Regulated Rivers

Birgitta Rydhagen and Lena Trojer: Feminist materiality and postcolonial development arenas

Friday 27th of April 10.45-12.30
Location: Anneks A, Studiegården, Studiestræde 6.

Maria Åkerman: “Ecological awareness and the control of the body: the making of environmental citizens”

Global environmental problems such as the climate change are frequently framed in environmental policy discourse as problems of human behaviour. Consequently, a considerable amount of resources is directed in modern societies to produce different kinds of indicators, guidelines and instructions which aim to motivate people to make environmentally sound choices in their every day lives. These kinds of instructions tend to shape individual’s bodily actions in many ways. They give guidelines on how to eat and cook, how to warm up the house or how to commute. Simultaneously, they constitute an image of a good environmental citizen who is able to control her body in a particular way. Although the control of the body is a central factor in environmental governance, the importance of body is widely neglected in the environmental policy research.

My aim in this paper is to explore the relations between environmental instructions and individual’s control over their own bodies. The paper is based on the analysis of 145 written memories which describe in a detailed way the moments of ecological awareness in authors' every day life. The analysis focuses on how people negotiate the plausibility of the material demands of environmental guidelines in particular, situated practices and different socio-material environments. It brings up the role of affects in these negotiations and locates the knowledge practices to the embodied subjectivities of citizens. I propose that bringing in the body as understood in feminist materialism to studies of environmental governance and particularly to the studies of rational choice provides a richer understanding of the making of environmental citizens.

About Maria Åkerman

Ph.D (Environmental Policy), M.Sc (Economics) is currently working as a senior researcher at the School of Social Sciences and Humanities, University of Tampere, Finland. Her central research interests include politics of environmental knowledge, material politics, socio-economic sustainability of natural resource use and co-construction of environmental knowledge/hybrid communities of knowledge.

Friday 27th of April 10.45-12.30
Location: Anneks A, Studiegården, Studiestræde 6.

Marja Vehviläinen: “Agency, situated nature-cultures and institutional textualities: studying environmental civic activity”

The presentation has a starting point on a qualitative empirical study (interviews, observations, text analysis) of environmental activity conducted in a large non-governmental (NGO) women’s organisation and in one urban agriculture project in Finland, and it focuses on food practices. The NGO counsels – with research-based knowledge -- on everyday practices in home economics for its own members and also for broad audiences and particular groups such as immigrants. It has strongly incorporated environmental issues in all its activities for several decades, although it does not define itself as an environmental organisation. For example, it promotes gardening, urban agriculture and other practices of the production of one’s own food. The urban agriculture project promotes low-threshold communal everyday food production in the city area, and mainly young people have participated by farming food for their own use. Environmental concerns intersect with the development of city spaces and communal civic participation. The studied actors do not publicly define themselves feminist, and feminist environmental activity is generally rare in Finland.

The presentation explores the shaping of agency within situated nature-cultures (Haraway) and institutional textualities (Smith) of these two different civic activities and discusses the tensions embedded in it. The NGO works through dialogues of research-based expert knowledge and situated, embodied local knowledge of its members, and the urban agriculture project relies on communal experience-based knowledge. Both involve embodied practices where nature and society intersect and where also local and global nature-cultures are interlinked, and play also some role in feminist politics, as discussed, for example, by Vandana Shiva and Sherilyn MacGregor.

About Marja Vehviläinen

Doctor of Philosophy, Computer Science, University of Tampere, 1997, Ph.D. Thesis: Gender, expertise and information technology. Studies in Social Psychology Universities of Helsinki and Tampere 1983 – 1988. Current Research Projects: Nordforsk Network for the Study of the Dialogic Communication of Research, 1.9.2008-31.8.2011, coordinated by Louise Phillips, a member of the coordinating group and the group leader of the Finnish research group. 1.8.2009 – 31.7.2014: Gendered Agency and Technically Mediated Nature, Academy of Finland (director). 1.1.2010-31.12.2013: Institutional Knowledge of Nature and Gendered Agency, Academy of Finland (director).

Friday 27th of April 10.45-12.30
Location: Anneks A, Studiegården, Studiestræde 6.

May-Britt Öhman: “In Control (?) of an Organic Machine: Bodies in Relation to Regulated Rivers”

Feminist research and intervention it is still to a great extent absent in regard to large scale technical systems - such as energy and infrastructure technologies. This paper discusses the human bodies involved in the regulated rivers, via the technology of design and operation of remote control and surveillance systems. It draws on case studies of hydropower in Sweden, both historical and current events, from studies made within an ongoing research project. Within current civil engineering education, training as well as within societal and company level decision making on large scale technical systems, the human body, with its knowledges, emotions and affections, as well as its vulnerabilities are to a large extent disregarded. The body of the engineer/ operator is considered uninteresting and replaceable while at the same time as it is viewed as a never failing machine. New technologies for camera surveillance and monitoring have provided opportunities to assemble data on a dam and the water flowing through it. We argue that these new technologies may contribute to a decreased dam safety, as it reinforces this paradigm of a detached human body - working like a never failing machine, always in control of nature's forces.

About May-Britt Öhman

May-Britt Öhman, Ph.D., is a research fellow at the Centre for Gender Research, Uppsala University. Dr. Öhman holds a Ph.D. in History of Science and Technology, and is currently the project leader of “DAMMED: Security, Risk and Resilience around Dams in Sub-Arctica”, Swedish Research Council (VR) 2010-2012) involving four Swedish universities (KTH (water resources management), LTU (gender and innovation) and UmU(political science)). Within this research project the issue at stake is first of all to define who the actors are that have the privilege of formulating the discourses on risk, linked to the large scale dams, and thus to frame the work that is considered needed to ensure *dam safety*. Secondly, as *dam safety* is today a narrow concept, based on a technico-scientific discourse, gender research is engaged to see how the concept can be elaborated to include *human security* and how this then can be translated into policy processes, training and education of staff and organizations working within the dam safety arena, as well as how old and new ICT can be used for this purpose. Öhman's PostDoc project had the title “Situated perspectives on hydropower exploitation in Sápmi”(VR 2009-2010) and focused on analyzing Sámi women's experiences of hydropower exploitations along the Lule River, Sápmi-Sweden.

Friday 27th of April 10.45-12.30
Location: Anneks A, Studiegården, Studiestræde 6.

Birgitta Rydhagen and Lena Trojer: “Feminist materiality and postcolonial development arenas”

In eastern Uganda, volcanic activity in the past has formed a salt lake. Today, the lake is surrounded by a national park hosting elephants and other large animals. Close to the lake within the park is also a small town, Katwe. The human inhabitants live from salt extraction in the lake. The work is manual and bodies are exposed to salt water during daily work. Researchers’ and investors’ visions to develop the salt quality have created fear that while facilitating salt extraction, people’s access and control over the meager income from salt work will be eroded. What we find is a situation where discourses of development – including reducing health hazardous work conditions and increasing involvement in a larger economic system, bodies affected by salt and by hunger, and visions of future livelihoods in a natural reserve are melted together. Will a meltdown of Katwe town and its human inhabitants be the effect, or will their agency lead to new forms of local postdevelopment strategies?

We aim to discuss the local situation in Katwe in relation to feminist materialist theory and postcolonial and postdevelopment thought.

About Birgitta Rydhagen and Lena Trojer

Birgitta Rydhagen is Ph.D. and senior lecturer in Technoscience studies at Blekinge Institute of Technology (BTH). With her background in environmental engineering, environmental concern in the co-evolution of technologies, societal structures and networks of actors is central in her research. A major focus has been on relations between engineers and users during transformation towards sustainable sanitation systems. Another research area is postcolonial theory in relation to technological development and innovation in developing countries. At present, Birgitta Rydhagen is project leader for the project “Innovative clusters closing the gap between University and Society in East Africa”, financed by Sida.

Lena Trojer is professor at Research Division of Technoscience Studies, Department of Technology and Aesthetics, School of Planning and Media Design, Blekinge Institute of Technology. She is holding a chair in ICT and Gender Research, is head of Research at the Department of Technology and Aesthetics as well as Director of Scandinavian Institute for Competitiveness & Development (SICD). Her academic interests include Feminist Technoscience, ICT and Development, Research Politics, Innovation System and Development, Leadership and Supervision in Research Organizations.

ABSTRACTS FOR WORKSHOPS

Virtual Materiality

(Page 56-60)

Workshop session III: Friday 10.45-12.30. Location: Anneks B, Studiegården, Studiestræde 6.

Chair: Dorte Marie Søndergaard

Kit Stender Petersen: When interviews become intraviews

Susanne Nørgaard: Working the on-/offline divide

Louise Yung Nielsen: Digital embodiments – fashion blogging on a agential realist account

Dorte Marie Søndergaard: Virtual materiality, potentiality and gendered subjectivity: How do we conceptualize real-virtual interaction embodied and enacted in computer gaming, imagery and night dreams?

Friday 27th of April 10.45-12.30
Location: Anneks B, Studiegården, Studiestræde 6.

Kit Stender Petersen: “When interviews become intraviews”

How can we understand our methodological approaches if we rethink them with Karen Barad’s concepts of intra-activity and apparatuses? In an attempt to further these questions I rethink the interview situations with Karen Barad’s concepts of “material-discursive”, “intra-activity” and “apparatuses”. With these concepts it becomes possible to understand the interview situation as an intraview situation and grasp the multiple ways in which materiality – in this analytical example a handdoll – intra-act with child and interviewer and combines agency, meaning and subjectivity in unforeseen ways. The analysis will be based on empirical cases involving interviews with and observations among 4-6 year old children.

About Kit Stender Petersen

Ph.D. fellow at Roskilde University. Department of Psychology and Educational Studies. I study how bullying in kindergarten is being constituted. It is a qualitative study based on interviews and observations with and among 4-6 year old kindergarten children. In the analysis I mainly draw on theory such as new materialism, poststructuralism, culture psychology etc. 2008-2010: Self-employed anti-bullying adviser. In this job I was also connected to Save The Children Denmark as an external adviser due to their project: Free from Bullying. I created material to reduce bullying and lectured school teachers and kindergarten pedagogues. 2006-2008: Took a Master Degree in Educational Psychology at Aarhus University – DPU. 2002-2007: Worked at a relief institution for children with autistic disabilities. 2002-2006: Took a Bachelor Degree in Social Education at Hillerød Pædagogseminarium.

Friday 27th of April 10.45-12.30
Location: Anneks B, Studiegården, Studiestræde 6.

Susanne Nørgaard: “Working the on-/offline divide”

How can we study what happens in the meetings between children and computer games? How do we look at the complex intra-actions between the children and the games without taking the divide of on- and offline worlds for granted?

In this paper I will draw on the work of Donna Haraway and Karen Barad to think beyond the divide of on- and offline worlds and instead study them as inextricably intertwined. The relationship between virtual worlds and the so called reality is characterized by neither direct transfer nor absolute demarcation. Rather, it is characterized by complex and interacting processes which can result in various movements and transformations across real and virtual life, across time and space and across materialities. On the other hand the divide between on- and offline is very much alive and somehow very real; it is there as a part of the material-discursive reality and has to be taken into account (Søndergaard, 2012 in press).

With inspiration from Haraway and Barad as well as studies concerned with technologies and their interfaces with human beings this paper will present thoughts on how to work the complexities we meet in our empirical work.

About Susanne Nørgaard

Ph.D.student, Department of Education, Aarhus University, Copenhagen (2011-2014). 2008: Cand.mag., Psychology and Educational Studies, Roskilde University. 2005: Bachelor, Psychology, Roskilde University. 2009-2010: Research Assistant, The Danish School of Education (project: Serious Games on a Global Market Place). 2008-2009: Research Assistant, The Danish School of Education (project: eXbus – Exploring Bullying in Schools). 2006: Internship, Dagbladet Information (Mediefabrikken).

Friday 27th of April 10.45-12.30
Location: Anneks B, Studiegården, Studiestræde 6.

Louise Yung Nielsen: Digital embodiments – fashion blogging on a agential realist account

How can we conceptualize *matter* within the context of digitally mediated environments? Digital media is a platform for a wide range of different types of embodiment and materializations. And (partly) due to the virtual character of digital media these materialization processes are difficult to grasp and fixate in an analytical praxis. Bodies and matter are at the same time both absent as well as present. In this paper I want to contemplate this dialectical presence of digital materiality. I will conduct a case study of Danish contemporary *fashion blogs* dealing with two dimensions of the digital; the role of the body and the materiality of the media. Through this study I will create a dialogue between Karen Barad's concept of *agential realism* and new media and digital culture studies.

In studies of digital culture researchers are quite often occupied by the offline-online divide and they are right to because almost all digital and non-digital subjects in one way or another take this divide into account. However if we follow Barad's argument this divide is – on an intra-active account – a boundary produced by an agential cut and therefore not in any way 'naturally given' (Barad 2003, 2007).

Aiming to identify the materialization processes of new media I also want to investigate the media itself and not only the subjects in and of the media. In this context I find Barad's resistance to what she calls 'representationalism' (Barad 2003) particularly interesting. In the context of fashion blogs I will explore the possibilities of viewing the media themselves as material objects that transcends the semiotic entity of signifier/signified.

I will argue that this linkage is be fruitful in terms of making room for a more fluid and more open approach to digital culture and the different praxises entangled with digital culture. As well as I hope to produce new understandings of media in general.

About Louise Yung Nielsen

Ph.D. fellow at University of Aarhus. July 2009 – January 2011: External Lecturer at Department of Scandinavian Studies and Linguistics, University of Copenhagen. Teaching the course Media Analysis 1, 2, and 3. May 2009 – March 2011: Label Manager for Danish Jazz Label ILK. January 2009: Cand.Mag. (MA), Danish and Visual Media Studies. May 2005 – January 2008: Assistant at LANCHART (Language Change in Real Time), Department of Scandinavian Studies and Linguistics, University of Copenhagen.

Friday 27th of April 10.45-12.30
Location: Anneks B, Studiegården, Studiestræde 6.

Dorte Marie Søndergaard: “Virtual materiality, potentiality and gendered subjectivity: How do we conceptualize real-virtual interaction embodied and enacted in computer gaming, imagery and night dreams?”

How do we conceptualize virtual materiality, in terms of for instance avatars and weapons in computer games, virtual discourse, subjectivity and the enactment of masculinity as phenomena intra-acting with real life materiality, discourse, subjectivity and masculinity in children’s everyday lives? How do we understand the intra-activity of such elements in children’s night dreams? These are some of the questions discussed in this paper. I bring together Karen Barad’s agential realism and Giorgi Agamben’s concept of potentiality to enable and refine an analytical approach to real-virtual enactments, thereby questioning the potentialities of gaming, of movies and of dreams as they enter intra-activities in the comprehensive set of apparatuses that enact gendered agency and relational practices. The analyses and conceptual refinements are based on empirical cases involving interviews with and observations among 8-14 year old children.

About Dorte Marie Søndergaard

Dorte Marie Søndergaard is a professor of Social Psychology at the Department of Education, DPU, University of Aarhus, Campus Copenhagen in Denmark. She was trained as a psychologist from the University of Copenhagen and obtained the degree of Dr.philos. (Dphil) from the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Oslo 1996. Søndergaard is the leader of the research program on Diversity and Learning and the research team eXbus: Exploring Bullying in School, both DPU. Her research has focused on gender and deconstruction, feminist studies, gender and leadership, gender and academia, and currently she works with extreme marginalisations and bullying among children in school. Her methodological writings have concentrated on poststructuralist, agential realist and cultural psychologist theories and analytics.

ABSTRACTS FOR WORKSHOPS

Senses

(Page 61-65)

Workshop session III: Friday 10.45-13.30. Location: Alexandersalen, Bispetorvet 1-3.

Chair: Jonatan Leer

Xin Liu: The Matter of Speech Production

Magdalena Górka: A Breathing Engagement with the Human

Bettina Hauge: The agency of air: Getting to know the world through air

Taru Leppänen: Race, Sound and Music in Disney's *The Princess and the Frog*

Friday 27th of April 10.45-12.30
Location: Alexandersalen, Bispetorvet 1-3.

Xin Liu: “The Matter of Speech Production”

Do vocal acts matter? Does speech production matter? And why do they matter to feminist theory? In this presentation I discuss a few recent feminist interdisciplinary researches on matters of voice and vocal production, which draw inspiration from and set out to challenge Judith Butler's writings on the theory of gender performativity. In particular, it sheds light on some of their common concerns, among others, the absent or repressed materiality of voice in Butler's discussion of speech acts. Relating to my dissertation project on the affective and embodied language learning practices among adult migrants, I employ Karen Barad's posthumanist performative approach to substantiate how speech production comes to matter. In so doing, I stress the importance of paying heed to matters of vocal acts and speech production as affective and bodily enactments, because they may not only hold potential for a rethinking of the notion of gender performativity, but also assist exploring the social formations and processes of “racialization” that may be beyond signification.

About Xin Liu

Xin Liu is a doctoral candidate at Women's Studies/Department of Social Sciences in Åbo Akademi University and at Finnish Gender Studies Doctoral Programme. Her dissertation project titled “resounding embodied and affective language learning practices” explores language learning practices among adult migrants as postcolonial phenomena. It asks what affects and is affected by the bodily practices of language learning. Through auto/ethnographic work, the project seeks to substantiate the materialisation of affective vocal matter as bodily enactments. The notion of Affect figures centrally in dissertation project. It does so on different levels, as kernel to the investigation of (1) affective speech and vocal production as bodily enactments; (2) sounding citizenship; (3) affective assemblages as encounters in postcoloniality.

Friday 27th of April 10.45-12.30
Location: Alexandersalen, Bispetorvet 1-3.

Magdalena Górska: “A Breathing Engagement with the Human”

The paper will discuss how the anthropocentric notion of the human can be rethought through *breathing*. Breathing is engaged here both as a practice as well as a figuration that opens up possibilities to show the porosity of human embodied subjectivities and therefore to challenge culturally sedimented boundaries and binaries (such as mind vs. body, human vs. animal, culture vs. nature, inside vs. outside) which delimitate individualistic, rational, and universalistic understanding of the human that is the normative of contemporary western, neoliberal societies. Therefore, through breathing, this paper will address the corporeal porosity of the human embodiment in order to argue for the understanding of the human not as an individual, independent and disembodied subject but as a phenomenon that is ‘of’ the world.

About Magdalena Górska

Magdalena Górska is a PhD. student at Department of Thematic Studies: Gender Studies at Linköping University, Sweden. In 2009 she obtained a graduate degree at the Department of Gender Studies, Faculty of Humanities, Charles University, Czech Republic. Magdalena’s graduate research followed bumblebees in a biochemistry lab in order to discuss the non-human agentiality of scientific research processes and the ways how agency, materiality and discursivity are enacted and (re)configured in everyday research practices. In 2006 Magdalena completed her undergraduate degree at the Faculty of Humanities, Charles University with the undergraduate thesis discussing the notion of embodiment and materiality in Judith Butler’s work. In the course of her education Magdalena also studied at the Netherlands Research School of Women’s Studies, Utrecht University (2008) and at the Faculty of Humanities, University of Turku (2005). In 2006-2008 she was a researcher of the KNOWING research project (FP6, EC). In her ongoing PhD. research, Magdalena engages with *breathing* as a figuration to challenge anthropocentric understanding of the human and to develop its intra-actively agential and material-semiotic reconceptualization. And while paraphrasing Juliet Mitchell’s famous “asking feminist questions and giving Marxist answers”, this PhD. project is also an attempt to ask feminist questions and give *breathing engagements*.

Friday 27th of April 10.45-12.30
Location: Alexandersalen, Bispetorvet 1-3.

Bettina Hauge: “The agency of air: Getting to know the world through air”

During the autumn of 2009 and 2010 a qualitative, comparative study (see method) was performed in Denmark, France, England & Scotland, investigating the relation between the air we breathe, live with, and learn from and the air we practice or perform, for instance in the sense of airing out one’s home. The purpose of the research was to investigate what people actually do with air: how we experience air, become knowledgeable about our environment through air, and include sociality in our actions relating to air. The analysis indicates patterns of use that reflect air as a vital element in our being-in-the-world as well as socially and bodily significant for shaping our everyday life, whether living in the countryside or the city. Air appeared as a non-reflected, integrative practice in the everyday life that covered a.o. getting smells out of the house, making a circulation to avoid still air – both performed to feel control and show care for the health of the family. The study also indicated gendered practices in the use of fresh air from the outside and into the home. A materiality such as air – ventilation - is not just a result of our actions, the air contains an agency of its own. By adopting the notion of “agential realism” of Karen Barad (2007) I will show how air and air related practices reflect intra-acting phenomenon and describe how a mutual transformation may appear. The paper – and presentation – will end with some methodological reflections as to how we as social scientists may “take our own medicine”, when adopting Barad’s statement: “Language has been granted too much power” (2007:132).

About Bettina Hauge

Bettina Hauge, MSc (anthropology), Ph.D., researcher in everyday life practices, technology, environment and body & senses. Lecturing at DTU and KU on materialism. Honorary research fellow at University of Aberdeen. Member of the editorial board of *Kvinder, Køn & Forskning*.

Friday 27th of April 10.45-12.30
Location: Alexandersalen, Bispetorvet 1-3.

Taru Leppänen: “Race, Sound and Music in Disney’s *The Princess and the Frog*”

The word ‘race’ is often put in inverted commas in order to emphasize the constructiveness of race or even to argue, that “*there is no such thing as race*” (Nayak 2006). However, as some scholars have noted, it is not enough to talk about the constructivity of race, leaving materiality and bodies out of the analysis. In this talk, I suggest a way of looking at race as a material process, made and remade not only by exclusions and erasures, but by its ongoing connections.

This paper examines raciality in the soundscape of Disney’s *The Princess and the Frog* (2009) by considering sound and music’s power to engender molecular becomings. *The Princess and the Frog* was the first Disney film that featured an African-American princess, Tiana, and this issue was much discussed at the time of the release of the film in the media. With the help of feminist materialist theorizations, I will argue for an understanding of race as corporeal phenomenon, not only that which is discursive or constructed. Tiana contains, in *The Princess and the Frog*, not a single race but the irreducible difference of races.

About Taru Leppänen

University lecturer, Docent; Doctor of Philosophy (Musicology), University of Turku 2001; Docent of Musicology, University of Turku 2008; University lecturer, Gender Studies, University of Turku 2010-; She is the responsible leader of the Research Project *The Construction of Gender in Children’s Cultures*, funded by the Academy of Finland, 2008-2011. Recent publication: “Babies, Music and Gender: music playschools in Finland as multimodal participatory spaces”. In *Policy Futures in Education* 2011, 9(4).

ABSTRACTS FOR WORKSHOPS

Performance/Event

(Page 66-68)

Workshop session II: Thursday 15:00-16:30. Location: Alexandersalen, Bispetov 1-3.

Chairs: Michala Hvidt Breengaard and Vibeke Holm Hansen

Alexandra Jönsson and Miriam H. Wistreich: Material Conversations

Astrida Neimanis: Weather Writing

Thursday 26th of April 15.00-16.30
Location: Alexandersalen, Bispetorvet 1-3.

Alexandra Jönsson and Miriam Wistreich: “A Material Conversation”

A *Material Conversation* is an interactive installation created specifically for the Feminist Materialisms conference in Copenhagen. Operating in the background of the main conference, in the restrooms, the installation creates a setting in which the material process of menstruating can be experienced as an agent for the menstruator’s re-experiencing of the body. The experiment creates spaces for critical reflection on how matter, and the structures and vessels it appears through, can become accessible by small interventions into everyday practices.

The installation is the first phase of a larger experiment, in which the next phase will speculate in the re-utilisation of menstrual blood. This includes the establishment of a period gardens where edible plants can be grown and fertilized by the blood deposited at the Feminist Materialisms conference.

A *Material Conversation* is a collaboration between *Mothering_Amplified* and *Moist So Moist*, both research projects that take form through academic writing and practice led research, written documentation, performative gestures and experimentation informed by art methodologies. The projects seek to open new material discussions and debates whilst aiming to unravel body paradigms that engender ontologies of shame and repression.

About Alexandra Jönsson and Miriam Wistreich

Alexandra Jönsson is a media researcher and practitioner currently researching at FLOSS lab at Centre for Cultural Studies, Goldsmiths, University of London. She is particularly interested in material narratives, multiplied selves, media archeology and feminist materialism. In 2011 she received an international Ars Electronica award for her collaborative social telephony project *X_MSG*, and she has presented her work internationally at conferences as well as published in magazines and books.

Miriam Wistreich is a writer and researcher based in London. She holds a BA in Art History and an MA from Goldsmiths University, where she is currently conducting her research. Her interests revolve around bodies, both human and non-human, fictions and feminist thinking. A rather hopeless romantic, her previous research has engaged with Victorian prostitution in London, baroque doll houses and desire. She is currently working on a practical research project on the agency of menstruation.

Thursday 26th of April 15.00-16.30
Location: Alexandersalen, Bispetorvet 1-3.

Astrida Neimanis: “Are You the Weather? Climate Change in Transcorporeal Times”

“Climate change” is a scientific concept. As a result, it is said that individuals don’t experience climate change *per se*. We may “know” the facts, but due to the scale at which climate change-related phenomena transpire, we cannot “live” this phenomenon in a personal mode. This also explains why, according to some commentators, human bodies find it difficult to embrace and advocate for necessary changes. Such explanations may also account for the reasons why a corporeal phenomenology of climate change proves difficult. While eco-phenomenological practices help us cultivate careful attunement to our dwelling within natural-cultural place, these perspectives struggle to articulate that which exceeds human scale and requires scientific prostheses to grasp. At the same time, feminist critical materialisms draw on scientific knowledge to describe our bodies’ extension beyond their presumed bounds. We live at multiple scales, simultaneously. In this paper I suggest that a critically materialist phenomenological practice can be developed that can bring together the strengths of these two perspectives. Inspired by phenomenologists such as Merleau-Ponty, Irigaray and Lingis, but also by artists such as Roni Horn, Basia Irland and Olafur Eliasson, I show how transcorporeal phenomenological practice helps me gain a deeper understanding of the ways in which I *am* the weather, and thus intimately implicated in climate change.

About Astrida Neimanis

Astrida Neimanis currently teaches at the Gender Institute of the LSE in the UK. She is co-organizer of the *Thinking with Water* project (www.thinkingwithwater.net) and editor of *PhaenEx: Journal of Existential and Phenomenological Theory and Culture* (www.phaenex.uwindsor.ca). In December 2011, she was also a Visiting scholar at the Posthumanities Hub (Linköping University), where she began to develop the ideas for this paper. She has published and presented extensively on water, animals and feminist theory.

ORGANIZERS

The Coordination for Gender Research is a unit situated at the Department of Sociology, University of Copenhagen. The main objectives of the Coordination are to initiate and co-ordinate gender research nationally and internationally. The Coordination is involved with both educational and research activities, such as initiating research projects and networks, research conferences, scientific publication etc., and acts as a mandate/expert institution in relation to mainstreaming gender and equality in national and European research policies.

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Elin Elnef, Cand.mag., Research Assistant, The Coordination for Gender Research

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