



Public PhD-defence

Lene Hald defends the PhD thesis *Photographic Design Anthropology. Becoming through diffractive image-making and entangled visions in a Copenhagen immigrant youth context*

The defence takes place **Monday 23 April 2018, at 13:00 in Aud. 5** at KADK, Danneskiold-Samsøes Allé 53, 1435 København K.

Agenda

- 13:00 Welcome and presentation of chairman, assessment committee, supervisor and author
- 13:05 Lene Hald presents her dissertation *Photographic Design Anthropology. Becoming through diffractive image-making and entangled visions in a Copenhagen immigrant youth context*
- 13:50 Short break
According to the 'Ministerial Order on the PhD Course of Study and the PhD Degree' the chair may invite the audience to contribute with short statements or questions. Such intentions should be addressed to the chair during the break.
- 14:00 Kristina Lindström, Associate Professor, School of Arts and Communication, Malmö University, Malmö, Sweden
- 14:30 Daniel Rubinstein, Dr., Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts London, United Kingdom
- 15:00 Eva Brandt, Professor MSO, Institute of Visual Design, the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, Schools of Architecture, Design and Conservation (chair of the assessment committee)
- 15:30 Comments from the auditorium
- The assessment committee evaluates and makes the concluding remarks
Closure of session

Assessment committee

Kristina Lindström	Associate Professor, School of Arts and Communication, Malmö University, Malmö, Sweden
Daniel Rubinstein	Dr., Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts London, United Kingdom
Eva Brandt	Professor MSO, Institute of Visual Design, the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, Schools of Architecture, Design and Conservation

Supervisor

Joachim Halse	Associate Professor, Institute of Visual Design, the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, Schools of Architecture, Design and Conservation
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Chair of the defence

Joachim Halse	Associate Professor, Institute of Visual Design, the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, Schools of Architecture, Design and Conservation
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The thesis is the result of a Ph.D.-studio financed by KEA and Institut of Visual Design, KADK

The thesis is available to look through for interested persons at the Library of Architecture, Design and Performing Arts, Danneskiold-Samsøes Allé 50, 1434 Copenhagen K. Link to a PDF-version of the thesis can also be send by request to Lene Hald leha@kea.dk



Abstract

The dissertation *“Photographic Designanthropology: Becoming through diffractive imagemaking and entangled visions”* is concerned with potentials and limitations of practice-based photography and aesthetic practice in a designanthropological context. It explores the visual (photography & design) in relation to issues of authorship, agency, participation and dissemination framed through feminist new materialist theory. Especially the theoretical framework of Agential Realism (Barad 2007) has been a source of inspiration. My empirical work takes place among a group of young immigrant girls in Copenhagen, DK. These girls have been invited to participate in various visual experiments concerning the becoming of identity through images. Knowledge concerning the method, as well as insights into the girls’ identity formation, is enacted through and embedded in the visuals, which have been produced in the project. I have explored how these ethnographic encounters may be visually mediated, and in turn, how shared image-making processes themselves spark new insights and questions about photography in designanthropology. We (the participating girls and I) have in the project produced photographs of the girls (of which I also speak) while drawing on photography as a source of feedback in a performative circularity where method and matter are entangled. (Kember and Zylanski 2010). An important aspect of the visual process has included re-designing the visual outcome of experiments and the re-configuring of field engagement-material, addressing the photographs as aesthetic and material objects aimed at both public and private circulation, as well highlighting photography as a highly entangled, performative and participatory practice.



*Photographic Design Anthropology:
Becoming Through Diffractive Image-making and Entangled Visions In a Copenhagen
Immigrant Youth Context*
Resumé Dansk



Ph.d. afhandlingen *Photographic Design Anthropology: Becoming Through Diffractive Image-making and Entangled Visions In a Copenhagen Immigrant Youth Context* omhandler en specifik sammenfiltring af fotografi, design (research), deltagelse, *skilled visions*, undersøgelser af identitet, samt feministisk teknovidenskab. Feltengagementet udfolder sig blandt en gruppe unge immigrantpiger i København. Her undersøges identitetsdannelse igennem billeder via en række designerlige og fotografiske *program-eksperimenter*. Disse fotografiske program-eksperimenter eksemplificerer en designerlig tilgang til at tænke *om* og *med* fotografi (igennem samtidig *skabelse* af fotografi). Pigerne mødes og forstås som *duelige* og *response-able co-researchers* med kompetente visuelle færdigheder. De deltagende piger og jeg har i projektet produceret fotografi mens der trækkes på fotografiet/fotografering som en kilde til feedback i en performativ cirkularitet, hvor metode og materialitet konstitueres gensidigt. Afhandlingen eksemplificerer desuden en diffraktiv læsning af specifikke anvendelser og forståelser af fotografi indenfor felterne design (-praksis og -forskning), samfundsvidenskab og feministisk teknovidenskab med henblik på at identificere forskelle, der kan understøtte hvorledes de respektive felter *kærer sig om*, samt *forholder sig til* fotografisk praksis i forbindelse med feltengagementer. Dette bruges med henblik på at stille forslag til en fotografisk designantropologi. *Diffraktion* bruges som en guidende metafor til at udfordre kategorisering og dikotomier, så som os/dem, forsker/subjekt, billede/krop. Gennem en diffraktiv metodologi, hvor fænomener *læses igennem hinanden*, undersøger projektet *måder at se på*, *poetiske potentialer*, samt *synliggørelse af processer igennem billeder*, som modpol til objektivisering, i forbindelse med det specifikke feltengagement. Overordnet tilfører projektet en *response-able* og *diffraktiv* fotografisk praksis til det designantropologiske repertoire, og stiller dermed forslag om en specifik *fotografisk designantropologi*.