



Roskilde University

International Conference

PRACTICES OF TRANSFORMATION: THE ORGANISED CULTURAL ENCOUNTER

27- 28 October 2016

Venue: Roskilde University, Department of Communication and Arts
Roskilde, Denmark

Organised cultural encounters (OCEs) are activities that through particular intervention strategies aim at creating transformation. They may be cultural exchange programmes, reconciliation projects, community cohesion initiatives, interfaith dialogue meetings or various projects related to integration of immigrants. These interventions are organised around differences considered to be identity formative and divisive, in particular ethnicity, religion, nationality or 'culture', sometimes also including other socio-cultural categories that are seen as intersecting axes of differentiation or diversity (gender, sexual orientation, class, age, (dis)ability). Setting up these kinds of encounters is a widespread practice that aims at facilitating for instance integration, tolerance and community cohesion in the context of culturally diverse societies. Thus, OCEs are invested with much hope for transformation not only of the attendees, but also in the society, societies or contexts addressed by the encounter. Organisers (implicit or explicit) lean on assumptions concerning the nature of differences, encounters and social change.

The conference is interdisciplinary and we invite papers that critically examine these assumptions and practices through the study of particular kinds of OCEs, their arenas and methods. Theoretical as well as empirical papers are welcome. While other themes are welcome, we in particular invite papers within the following themes:

- Transformative methods in OCEs (narratives, art, exhibition, ritual, travel)
- Producing and/or managing (cultural) differences
- Staging and scripting cultural encounters
- Performativities of cultural encounters
- Bodies and affects related to cultural encounters
- Intersecting access of differentiation
- Research methodologies of OCEs
- Genealogies of OCEs
- Activism and research: when practitioners of OCEs are also researchers of OCEs
- The spatio-temporality of OCEs
- OCEs and global power dynamics

Keynotes by:

Professor Sarah Pink, RMIT University, Melbourne

Professor Gill Valentine, The University of Sheffield

Professor Awad Ibrahim, University of Ottawa

Professor Emma Renolds, Cardiff University

SUBMISSION OF PAPER PROPOSAL AND PRACTICAL INFORMATION

If you are interested in participating in the conference, please send an abstract (no more than 250 words) and a short biography (no more than 100 words) by 2 May to Helle Bach Riis (hriis@ruc.dk) and Lise Paulsen Galal (galal@ruc.dk). Successful applicants will be notified by 3 June, 2016. For queries relating to the conference, please contact Lise Paulsen Galal (galal@ruc.dk).

The conference will be open only to invited researchers. Contributions are limited to the duration of twenty minutes. There is no conference fee and we provide conference materials, as well as beverages and lunch during the conference. Participants are responsible for their own travel and accommodation costs.

BACKGROUND

The international conference 'Practices of transformation: The organised cultural encounter' is organised by the research project group: "The organised cultural encounter: rethinking the conceptual and contextual framework of interculturality through the study of practice". It is hosted by Department of Communication and Arts at Roskilde University, Denmark, and is funded by The Danish Council for Independent Research, Humanities (DFF – 1319-00093). For more information, see project website: <https://organisedculturalencounter.wordpress.com/>