Transformations in Welfare Societies
Imagined futures, political projects and professional practice

Seminar 12th of June, 9-16.00 followed by dinner
Host: University College Capital (UCC), Titangade 11, 2200 Kbh N
International guest speakers: Jason Glynos and Claudia Lapping


Frame
Across Europe as well as in other Western countries, the future of welfare societies is being debated. Countless reforms are launched in attempts to get more for less, constituting imagined futures where an improved mode of welfare society will be both possible and affordable. They conjure the possibility of realizing both fairness and efficiency through the organization, production and distribution of different forms of value. These imagined welfare futures rearticulate ways of seeing, organizing, negotiating and experiencing the value and legitimacy of professional work.

Imaginary futures of welfare societies are disseminated in the media, juxtaposed with reports of the economy, depicted as an uncontrollable external force, the movements of which are tracked on the news, before forecasts of the weather (Clark, Thrift, & Tickell, 2004; Sum, 2009). At the same time the economy is presented as something that politicians should be able to control and grow and as something that ordinary citizens have a moral obligation to support and contribute to through desiring consumption, joyful production, creative destruction, potentialization of time and selves and through trustful investments in the search for yet smarter ways of working (Appadurai, 2011; Bjerg, 2013; Campbell, 2005; Gudeman, 2010; Stavrakakis, 2010; Vaaben, 2013).

In this seminar we want to explore ways of tracing how imagined futures are produced or performed by e.g. economists, politicians and media; and how they interact with the (working) lives and imaginary futures of professionals to produce logics and legitimizations of work and organization, actual or decaffeinated resistance, fragile identifications, and secret solidarity in subjective, affective and bodily experiences (Agamben, 2005; Contu, 2008; Glynos & Howarth, 2007; Glynos, 2010; Lapping, 2011; Stavrakakis, 2010)

Registration
Participation in the seminar is free. The following dinner is at own expense. If you’re interested in participating, please write to Nina Ravn NIRA@ucc.dk before the 1st of June. Write your name, affiliation, and whether or not you will participate in the dinner afterwards.
Program
9.00 Coffee, croissants, welcome and wishes for the day (Nana Vaaben and Helle Bjerg)

Theoretical and methodological considerations in the study of fantasy:
10.00 Claudia Lapping: “Fragile identifications in a fantasmatic present? Research practice, policy, punctuation, and the intangible temporality of the interview”
10.45 talk around the tables
11.15 Short break

Studies of work and fantasy
11.30 Helle Bjerg and Nana Vaaben: “Working Nine to Five: Teachers and fantasies about time and enjoyment in Denmark”
12.00 Holger Højlund and Rasmus Bergmann: “The Notion of the Fiery-soul in a Danish project on School Sport”
12.30 Talk around the tables
13.00 Lunch

Managing the (im)possible
13.45 Hanne Knudsen: “Crowd and Community”
14.15 Mia Husted and Ditte Tofteng: “Realistic Utopias in professional practice”
14.45 Break and cake
15.15 Niels Åkerstrøm Andersen: “The trembling organization: Managing the Invisible”
15.45 Talk around the tables
15.45-16.00 Collective assemblage of interesting research perspectives on “Transformations in welfare societies: Imagined futures, Political Projects and Professional Practice”
18.00 Dinner – we pay for the speakers, but others are welcome to join.
**Literature**


