

## 6<sup>th</sup> NEWSLETTER FROM CESAU / MARCH 2011



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### NEW RESEARCH GROUP ON SOCIOLOGY OF KNOWLEDGE

CESAU now has a new research group which will be dealing with sociology of knowledge. The presupposition of the group is that the idea of more knowledge – e.g. requests for further research or demands for more innovation etc. – has become a basic term in all spheres of society, all the way from everyday practice to, for instance, politics. Late modern society is thus characterized by the conception that continued development is driven by knowledge. Knowledge sociology deals with investigating, describing, and understanding central elements of this basic term by exploring a broad range of knowledge sociological themes, such as:

- the influence of context upon the emergence, creation, and development of knowledge
- legitimization, qualification, and falsification of knowledge
- organising, categorising, and institutionalising knowledge (e.g. in the workplace)
- asymmetries between systems of knowledge
- connections between knowledge, authority, and power in various relations (e.g. between decision makers and experts)

Within the network, research is consistently problem driven. Methodological choices are thus determined by the nature of the phenomena in question. The group is headed by Peter Kastbjerg (Institute of Language and Business Communication, Aarhus School of Business and Social Sciences). Join the new research group [here](#).

### **MINI CONFERENCE: *FOOD PRODUCTION AND FOOD CONSUMPTION - DISCONNECTION AND RECONNECTIONS***

On March 31st the research group for food and consumption will be hosting the mini conference *Food production and food consumption - disconnection and reconnections*. The conference aims to present and discuss viewpoints on and approaches to dealing with the material and contextual disconnection that takes place in food chains, as well as with the derivative consequences thereof. At the same time, the conference is intended to establish a research network which will – from a material vantage point – investigate the complex problems associated with the disconnection between choice and consequence in the food chain of modern society, as well as possible ways to reconnect the consequences of human action in the various segments of the food chain. The main speaker is Professor Jens Tonboe, known for his extensive work in sociology of space.

Other papers will be presented by Egon Noe, Steen Brock, and Chris Kjeldsen. The conference will take place at *Studenternes Hus*, room 1, on March 31st at 9.00-16.00. To sign up for lunch (100 kr.), and for further information, contact, Chris Kjeldsen – [Chris.Kjeldsen@djf.au.dk](mailto:Chris.Kjeldsen@djf.au.dk). Read more about the [conference](#).

### **RESTORATIVE JUSTICE – CONFERENCE WITH ASSOCIATED PH.D. COURSE**

On May 12th-13th CESAU will be co-arranging a conference and a Ph.D. workshop under the heading *Restorative justice*. Whereas ideas of restorative justice have long been a central element in conflict resolution in such countries as South Africa, Uganda, New Zealand, Canada, and the US, it is a relatively new phenomenon in Denmark. Ideas of restorative justice have, however, begun to gain footing in this country, significantly represented by the introduction of a nationwide system of conflict committees for Danish cases of penal law. The conference aims to shed light on ideas of restorative justice from research based as well as practical vantage points, such as the newly founded 'Youth Offending Team' of the Aarhus municipality, and, furthermore, to provide opportunity for Ph.D. students to present papers related to the theme of restorative justice. Read more about the conference and the Ph.D. course [here](#). Requests to register for the Ph.D. course should be directed to Christian Gade: [filcbng@hum.au.dk](mailto:filcbng@hum.au.dk)

### **PH.D. COURSE: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGICAL METHOD - REMINDER**

We wish to remind everyone that CESAU will be offering an introductory course in sociological method, to take place over four sessions, this coming spring. The areas of

method and technique introduced in the course are: The qualitative research interview, Field studies, Textual/discourse analysis, and qualitative method. Sign up before April 1th  
Read more at the [website](#).

## **RECEPTION FOR BOOK SERIES - *SOCIOLOGISKE STUDIER (SOCIOLOGICAL STUDIES)***

CESAU, in cooperation with Aarhus University Press, is releasing a new book series called *Sociologiske Studier (Sociological Studies)*, intended as a platform at Aarhus University for top sociological research. The series is peer reviewed and publishes monographies as well as anthologies in both Danish and English.

The following three publications mark the release of *Sociologiske Studier*:

- Carsten Stages: *Tegningekrisen – som mediebegivenhed og danskhedskamp*
- Inge Degn & Kirsten Molly Søholm: (ed.) *Tørklædet som tegn. Tilsløring og demokrati i en globaliseret verden*
- Anne Lorentzen & Søren Schmidt-Jensen (ed.): *Planlægning i oplevelsessamfundet*

On this occasion, CESAU will be hosting a reception on Tuesday April 5. at 14.15-16.00 at the Department of Political Science, building 1330, room 122.

All employees at Aarhus University are most welcome; however, prior registration is required. Registration may be arranged by contacting head of department Carsten Bagge Laustsen by email: [cbl@cesau.au.dk](mailto:cbl@cesau.au.dk)

## **DET ASSOCIATIVE SPOR – NEW STUDENT JOURNAL**

*Det Associative Spor* is a new web-based journal intended for students at the bachelor and candidate (masters) levels. Although Aarhus University does not train sociologists, the methods and theories of this discipline are still widely applied across delineations between fields and institutions. *Det Associative Spor* is a platform, intended to focus on sociology, discuss sociology within an interdisciplinary framework, and, furthermore, serve as a social hub for the exchange of knowledge and interests across disciplines and other institutional subdivisions. The theme of the first issue is 'Interdisciplinary sociology', and the deadline for handing in contributions is March 28th. Contributors will be coupled with an editorial member for sparring, so as to provide constructive feedback for contributors. In continuation of the first issue, *Det Associative Spor* will be hosting an exclusive symposium on April 9th where contributors are invited to give a brief presentation. Call for papers may be found as pdf-file [here](#).

## THE SANDBJERG SEMINAR – STAY UPDATED ON OUR BLOG

During the recent Sandbjerg seminar, John Urry's keynote speech was recorded along with several presentations in the various sessions. At the moment, we are working on synchronising the recordings with the corresponding slides, so that this material will, in the near future, be available for streaming directly from the [CESAU blog](#).

However, one needn't even wait that long for a taste of the mood at the seminar, since Hanne Knudsen (DPU) has already posted a report on the seminar and on her specific encounter with the centre-periphery dichotomy – during a taxi trip from Sønderborg to Sandbjerg. Read more [here](#).

## MAPPING SOCIOLOGY AT AARHUS UNIVERSITY

CESAU has long been working to gain a better overview of the many sociological environments at Aarhus University by, among other things, gathering concrete information as to which types of sociology are carried out in teaching and research, respectively.

In the immediate future, CESAU will be forwarding a minor questionnaire to scientific staff involved in sociologically relevant themes, theories, and methods.

We hereby intend to gain an overview as to:

- Which sociological interests and competences you have?
- Which sociological theorists/thinkers you are interested in?
- Which sociological methods you primarily deal with?

The mapping effort is to form the basis for the further work of CESAU, while also enabling us to target our activities and initiatives in accordance with the participating research environments.

## NEWS FROM THE CESAU STUDENT GROUP

Wednesday, February 23th, the CESAU student group hosted a career day, where four speakers reported on their use of sociology in their work life. Based on high attendance and positive feedback, the student group is planning a similar event in autumn. Besides, the student group is working to arrange a sociological excursion. Questions and suggestions concerning possible speakers at the CESAU career day may be directed to student assistant Birgitte Gade: [bg@cesau.au.dk](mailto:bg@cesau.au.dk).

## CALENDAR

10/3, kl. 13.00-16.00	Meeting in the research group <i>Arbejdssociologi og organisationssociologi</i> (Work Sociology and Organisational Sociology).
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	Location: Aarhus School of Business, Room L263, Building L (next to main entrance).
10/3, kl. 13.00-16.00	Meeting in the research group for Science, Technology Society studies Location: Building: Turing, room 014
23/3, kl. 13.00-15.00	Meeting in research group <i>Ret, religion og statens sociologi</i> (Law, religion and sociology of state) Location: Building 1443, room 340
28/3	Deadline for contributions to theme issue of <i>Det Associative Spor</i> on interdisciplinary sociology.
31/3, kl. 9.00-16.00	Conference on food production and food consumption. Location: <i>Studenternes Hus</i> , conference room 1
5/4, kl. 14.00-16.00	Reception for book series <i>Sociologiske Studier</i> ( <i>Sociological Studies</i> ) Location: Building 1330, room 122
12.-13/5	Conference and Ph.D. course on restorative justice. Location: Building 1443, room 215