

PHD COURSE

Research - or how to get wiser

*The only thing we know for sure
about scientific theory is that one day
it will be replaced by another*

8 - 9 NOVEMBER AND 6 -7 DECEMBER 2018 AT
AARHUS SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE



ABOUT THE PHD COURSE

RESEARCH - OR HOW TO GET WISER

8 - 9 November and 6 -7 December 2018 at Aarhus School of Architecture

Present day society likes to be considered a "society of information": every possible information is instantly available to any one – so what's the point in research? What is there to know that we do not know already?

Actually, whereas some 50 years ago the lofty ambition of public education (at least in Denmark) was to breed "critical and independent" individuals, the public today seems increasingly dependent on "experts" – whose words are taken for granted, even though their foundations might be a little vague, at best ("No questions asked!").

"Fake news" may be a problem in politics; but what about "fake knowledge"? A lot of "It is generally admitted that..." or "Consensus has it that..." is going around (check out your Wikipedia); can't we do better than that?

According to the German philosopher Hegel (1770-1831), knowledge (Wissen) is only half the affair, and not even the most important – by half! What really "makes a difference", is experience (Erfahrung): the transformation of the learner by all that (s)he is learning – and un-learning – during the process. You may know everything there is to know – and still have not experienced anything: only research does that to you. And what is done to you is all that matters!

- Yeah, that's all nice and good: research can give you a kick – and so what? Well, it's as simple as that: if you didn't get "the kick" back there, you've got nothing to say, now, to any one. Because, in that case, there is no difference. If the "expert" seems tedious, it's because he never went "out there": he's merely quoting what every one is supposed to know already.

Students in architecture and design may (or not) be prepared for this adventure: you know painstakingly well, from your own "creative" experience, that you cannot present anything valuable if you did not put yourself (your "ideas", your "ambitions", your "feelings") at stake – only to come up with something that you hadn't anticipated at all.

And that's what research is all about. Once you've started, you have to follow the leads – wherever they take you. Do or die. Sign up for this course in PhD methodology: you might, eventually, learn something about yourself!

Target Group: relevant for PhD students at all stages of the PhD study.

Course Instructor: Kasper Nefer Olsen

ECTS Points: 4

Number of Participants: up to 10

Deadline for Signing Up: November 1st by sending an email to mmf@aarch.dk