

THE REPRESENTATION OF THE WELFARE CITY PROGRAMME FOR THE SEMINAR APRIL 28TH AND 29TH 2022

Side 1 af 5

This seminar is the first of two events that aim to critically discuss the representation of the welfare city. In this context, the term ‘welfare city’ refers to the concept for urban areas developed in Scandinavian countries during the second half of the twentieth century. The seminar is conceptualized and organized by the transdisciplinary international IRFD-funded research network *The Representation of the Welfare City*. Hosted by the National Museum of Denmark in Copenhagen and ArkDes in Stockholm respectively, the events will embrace discussion on museums, archives, and collections, as well as canons, history, and historiography as a construction. More specifically, however, they will raise questions about *how* and *why* to present and represent architecture. With a focus on mass media as a primary site for developing architectural discourse, the events will reflect on these media and their mediatic characteristics. They will include photography and architectural drawings/renderings in the daily press, magazines, journals, books, and exhibitions, as well as films and television programmes.

The research network *The Representation of the Welfare City* wishes to stimulate interaction between researchers and promote research exchange, with the aim of bringing forward new perspectives and knowledge that can contribute to development in architectural research.



Seminar 1: The Welfare City as Cultural Heritage and Exhibition Object

The idea of urbanity and the city is inseparable from its narrative forms. Society's perception of architecture and its discourse is conditioned by the media and the epistemology through which society understands it. The Danish welfare model is internationally renowned; it is a concept and a commodity that has been distributed globally. This also applies to Danish architecture from the middle of the twentieth century. Different media and types of representations (e.g., photography and books) have played a crucial role in this distribution process.

In recent years, much research has been carried out on the welfare city and its World War II legacy. Astonishingly enough, however, not much attention has been paid to the representation of the welfare city in mass media. This field of knowledge has so far been largely ignored by architects, architectural historians, and theoreticians. It calls for a study that, more generally and in a historical perspective, looks at which collective images and narratives we as a society attach to the welfare city, and it explores how they are constructed, how they work, and in which ways they circulate, are exchanged, and handed over by people and institutions, such as museums.

The seminar will concentrate on how the welfare city and its architecture have been represented in different kinds of media, and how this has changed over time and rewritten the discourse on welfare architecture in society.

Hosted by the National Museum of Denmark, which researches and documents the history of social housing in Denmark, this seminar will pose the following questions:

Is the welfare city part of our cultural heritage? What should be preserved, why and how? How does the museum as a public institution evaluate architecture today? How does the museum exhibit recent contemporary history that deals with the welfare society? How does the museum critically reflect on its role as influencer in the public debate on welfare state architecture? And how do representations of public housing in the mass media affect our perception of whether they are cultural heritage or not?

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Fejl! Ingen tekst med den anførte typografi i dokumentet.



Programme

Thursday, 28 April 2022

10.00

Registration and coffee

10.30

Welcome by Anne Elisabeth Toft, PhD, Associate Professor,
Aarhus School of Architecture

Mette Boritz, Museum Inspector, Exhibitions, National Museum
of Denmark, ‘National Museum of Denmark – Vision 2030’

Morten Nielsen, PhD, Professor, Head of Research, National
Museum of Denmark, ‘Introduction to the National Museum and
the Research Project on Social Housing “Fleksible fællesskaber”
and new ways of working’

Questions and discussion

12.30

Lunch at the National Museum of Denmark

There will be an opportunity to see the National Museum's
exhibitions

14.00

Thordis Arrhenius, PhD, Professor, KTH Stockholm. ‘The
Discursive Exhibition The Swedish Architectural Museum in the
nineteenth sixties’

Poul Sverrild, adj. postdoc, Forstadsmuseet, ‘Representation and
Dissemination of the Welfare City and the Suburb outside the
Museum Framework’

Questions and discussion

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**15.30**

Coffee/tea
Discussions

17.30

End of programme

Friday, 29 April 2022**9.00**

Jon Helt Haarder, PhD, Associate Professor, Department for the Study of Culture, University of Southern Denmark, ‘Oh, Danish Ghetto! The Literary History of Concrete Suburbia’

Mikkel Høghøj, PhD, National Museum of Denmark, ‘Representations of Gellerupplanen’

Short break with Coffee/tea

Tom Nielsen, PhD, Professor and Karen Olesen, Associate Professor, Aarhus School of Architecture, ‘Representations of Gellerup in 2021: Considerations about the Book *Gellerup* (2021)’

Questions and discussion

12.00

Lunch at the National Museum of Denmark

13.00

Mette Mechlenborg, PhD, Senior Researcher, Aalborg University, ‘Holes in the Spaces of the Welfare State: Media Coverage and Residents’ Responses in the “Hardest” Ghettos in Denmark’

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Anne Elisabeth Toft, PhD, Associate Professor, Aarhus School of Architecture, 'On the Photobook Exhibition: Danish Welfare Architecture and Its Image, Aarhus 2021'

Bart Sorgedrager, Photographer, 'Amsterdam New-West, Then and Now'

14.15

Coffee/tea and discussion, including about the next Seminar 2 in Stockholm in 2023

16.00 End of seminar and goodbye

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The Representation of the Welfare City

The international research network *The Representation of the Welfare City*, a transdisciplinary project funded by the Independent Research Fund Denmark (IRFD), was initiated in 2021 by Anne Elisabeth Toft, PhD (Network Project Leader), Associate Professor, AAA; Jannie Rosenberg Bendsen, PhD (Network Coordinator), Independent Researcher, AAA; Tom Nielsen, PhD, Professor, AAA; Claus Peder Pedersen, PhD, Professor MSO, AAA; Morten Nielsen, PhD, Professor, National Museum of Denmark; Thordis Arrhenius, Professor, KTH; Michelle Provoost, PhD, Professor, Crimson Architectural Historians / Institute for New Town; Karen Olesen, Associate Professor, AAA; and Anders Troelsen, Professor Emeritus, AAA. The network aims at investigating the welfare city's image in society and how it is constructed. It will uncover and discuss the major factors that are at play in this context.