PhD course - from grass roots to change

Bottom-up projects, urban activism, experiments, grass roots and community activities – how can they make a difference for urban/ rural change and sustainable development?

Temporary activities, urban gardening, village and neighbourhood upgrading, events and festivals, food networks, broadband provision - many such activities in both cities and rural sites involve local community groups, social entrepreneurs and activists. Some activities are fully initiated and taken on by civil society and groups where others are initiated by the public sector or developers. At the course we discuss whether and how such 'small scale' bottom-up projects and civic activities can make a larger difference. Can they be sites for experiments and innovative activity and can their activities influence the potential for collective action, for sustainable development, new governance practices and policy and how? What are important networks and relations for the survival, upscaling and diffusion of the activities and learnings? What are ways into the public sector and what happens when such activities and projects become part of mainstream planning and larger scale transformation of areas and should they at all?

This 5-day PhD course brings together international scholars and PhD students to explore the role of bottom-up and civic activities in sustainable and urban and rural change through lenses of 'urban activism', 'institutional theory', 'social innovation' and 'grass root innovations and transition theory'.

Your cases can be any bottom-up project or civic activities in urban gardening, nature based solutions, urban/rural renewal, sports, arts etc. in which you want to shed light on the role and involvement of civil society and discuss the influence and future of the activities.

Before the course the participants should send a 2 page text explaining their case(s) and the main challenges and possibilities of the bottom-up activity in fulfilling its goals. After the course the participants must prepare an essay/assignment of 8-10 pages applying and reflecting on at least one of the approaches of the course in relation to their cases and PhD-work. At the course the students are expected to shortly present their cases and throughout the course relate and discuss their PhD work and cases to the different approaches discussed. The course consists of lectures, discussions and excursions to visit activists and projects in Copenhagen. The lectures present relevant theory and research and through the exercises we learn more about the applicability of the theories.

programme/

Day 1: Movements and activism
Day 2: Grass root innovations and transition theory
Day 3: Social innovation and institutional theory
Day 4: Social innovation and rural change
Day 5: Co-production and co-opting

keynotes/

MARGIT MAYER, Professor, Freie Universität Berlin
ADRIAN SMITH, Professor, Sussex University
FRANK MOULAERT, Professor, Leuven University
BETTINA BOCK, professor, Groningen University

when/ 5-9 December 2016
where/ Rolighedsvej 23, DK-1958 Frederiksberg
host/ Section for Landscape Architecture and Planning
ects/ 5
workload/ Reading literature and writing paper 100 hours, participation 40 hours

course fee/ free. NB. only lunch included. Bus fees for excursions at own expense. Some bikes available.

sign up/

Please send a short motivation for why you think the course is relevant for you (max. 300 words) and a short CV to Lise Herslund, Lihe@ign.ku.dk and Karina Sehested kar@ign.ku.dk before October 24th 2016. We have room for 15 students.

dates/

October 24: Sign up – motivation and CV
November 1: Notification of acceptance and course material sent to the participants
November 17: Deadline for submission of 2 page text
January 20: Submission of essay