

## **Being moved to move**

### **On affective dimensions in movement practices and how these can be investigated by combining phenomenology and qualitative research methodologies**

As indicated in the title the purpose of this seminar is two-fold. *Firstly*, it addresses the challenges of combining qualitative research methodologies and phenomenology. Following recent international debates on phenomenology and its application in academic fields outside philosophy, this first part of the seminar takes off from philosopher Dan Zahavi's contribution and touches on 'up to date' issues on these challenges. *Secondly*, the seminar focuses on affectivity as an embodied aspect of our involvement in movement practices. With reference to philosopher Giovanna Colombetti's and Joel Krueger's phenomenological and enactive clarifications, affectivity is understood as our embodied capacity to be affected and touched in a meaningful way. A capacity, which in accordance with our sensorimotor system, works in extended ways and can be environmentally supported. In selected fields of activities, counting dance, yoga, football fans and eSports, the second part of the seminar, accordingly, puts these phenomenological clarifications on affectivity into use and analyses the affective aspects that characterise the ways participants are involved and caught up in different kinds of movement practicing. This second part thereby also demonstrates and exemplifies how methodological challenges can be met in constructive ways. All presentations will include time for discussions.

***The seminar takes place the 31<sup>st</sup> of March, 2020 from 8.45 – 18.00 at SDU campus, Odense: Building 39, Lab. for play and innovation.***

#### ***Programme of the day***

- 8.45 – 9.15 *Registration and coffee*
- 9.15 – 9.30 *Welcome*
- 9.30 – 10.30 *'Why it is safe to ignore the epoché' – Dan Zahavi*
- 10.30 – 11.30 *Methodological criteria in qualitative research – and how to apply these for phenomenological studies – Susanne Ravn*
- 11.30 – 11.45 *Coffee break*
- 11.45 – 12.45 *Putting phenomenology to work in the analysis of yoga and eSport - Camilla Damkjær and David Ekdahl*
- 12.45 – 13.45 *Lunch*
- 13.45 – 15.15 *Affectivity and inter-affectivity – Giovanna Colombetti and Joel Krueger*
- 15.15 – 15.30 *Coffee break*

15.30 – 16.30 Affectivity and inter-affectivity in community dance practices and activities of football ultras  
– Robin Conrad and Lise Joern

16.30 – 17.30 Affectivity in the expressive activities of dance and acting – Susanne Ravn and Giorgia Ciampi

17.30 – 18.00 Concluding discussions.

## Biographies

**Giorgia Ciampi** is an AHRC-funded PhD candidate across the University of Exeter and Bath Spa, researching the relationship between the actor's affectivity and expression across traditional and contemporary theatre practices, employing a phenomenological and enactive approach. Giorgia underwent a three-year intensive actor training at the Intercultural Theatre Institute (ITI) of Singapore, a programme constructed around selected traditional training practices from Asia. Later, she co-founded an acting laboratory in Paris, Cage Compagnie, with which productions were toured in 2015-17. Her article on ITI was recently published (June 2019) as part of the book *Intercultural Acting and Performer Training*.

**Robin Conrad**, MFA and PhD currently holds a postdoctoral appointment in the Movement Culture and Society Research Unit (MoCS) at the Department of Sports Science and Clinical Biomechanics, University of Southern Denmark. Her interdisciplinary research focuses on theoretical and practice-based approaches to philosophy and movement. Through phenomenological and ethnographic research methodologies Robin studies how knowledge is animated and articulated through dance as a creative community practice.

**Giovanna Colombetti** is Professor of Philosophy at the Department of Sociology, Philosophy and Anthropology at the University of Exeter, where she also leads the Mind, Body, and Cognition research group. She works on emotion and affective science and embodied and situated cognition. She is the author of *The Feeling Body: Affective Science Meets the Enactive Mind* (published in 2014 by MIT Press) and is currently working on a second book on the situated and scaffolded nature of the affective minds.

**Camilla Damkjaer**, PhD, Assistant Professor of Dance, at the Movement, Culture and Society Research Unit at the Department of Biomechanics and Sports Sciences, University of Southern Denmark (from 01.01.2020 Associate Professor in the performing arts, Stockholm University). Camilla Damkjaer's research concerns movement practices, philosophies of the body and first-person methodologies of research. Her research focuses on the analysis of the phenomenal and socially constructed experiences of circus, dance and yoga. Theoretically, her work draws on for instance phenomenology, Deleuzian scholarship, or feminist and post-colonial theory, depending on the focus of the project. She is also particularly concerned with the historical, discursive and geo-political implications involved in bodily practices.

**David Ekdahl** is a PhD candidate from the Research Unit Movement, Culture and Society at the Department of Sports Science and Clinical Biomechanics, University of Southern Denmark, researching embodiment in competitive, virtual worlds where he focuses specifically on esports practice and expertise. The research project deploys a combination of phenomenological and ethnographic research methodologies with a focus on phenomenologically guided interviews with esports professionals. The research project is funded in part by the Danish Ministry of Culture.

**Lise Joern**, PhD, is teaching assistant professor at the Movement Culture and Society Research Unit (MoCS) at Department of Sports Science and Clinical Biomechanics, University of Southern Denmark. Her research

interests lie in empirical approaches to the role of risk-taking, violence and pain in a sports-related context. In her research she utilises ethnographical and phenomenological research methods to investigate the experiences of - and study the different strategies by which e.g. combat sports athletes or football hooligans handle and negotiate - risk, physical force, violence and pain.

**Joel Krueger** is a Senior Lecturer in Philosophy at the University of Exeter. He works primarily in phenomenology, philosophy of mind, and philosophy of cognitive science: specifically, issues in 4E (embodied, embedded, enacted, extended) cognition, including emotions, social cognition, and psychopathology. He also does work in comparative philosophy (primarily Japanese philosophy) and philosophy of music.

**Susanne Ravn**, PhD is Associate professor and Head of the Research Unit Movement, Culture and Society at the Department of Sports Science and Clinical Biomechanics, University of Southern Denmark, researching movement practices in dance, sports and martial arts. She works in the interdisciplinary tension of combining phenomenology and different qualitative research methodologies. Part of her work also unfolds in the academic fields of cultural studies. Ravn has been the leading investigator on several funded research projects on topics such as: bodily self-awareness, interaction, improvisation and skilled performance.

**Dan Zahavi** is Professor of Philosophy at University of Oxford and University of Copenhagen and Director of the Center of Subjectivity Research. Zahavi is a leading figure in the field of phenomenology. He has published extensively on Husserl, and worked systematically on topics related to consciousness, selfhood, empathy and sociality.