SOS4510 Cultural and political participation

The course encompasses three themes – culture, politics and participation – and seeks to carve out different relations between them. It gives an introduction to selected theories and empirical research areas belonging to the sociology of culture while centering on questions regarding politics and participation in relation to cultural life in general and youth culture in particular.

The course plan is divided in three clusters, each of which is meant to enter the matrix of culture, politics and participation from a different perspective.

1. The course investigates the very concept of culture and the different ways it has been theorized and defined. What *is* culture in the first place? Is it meaning, signs and symbols? Art or "high" culture? Forms of language and communication? Does it include the everyday? The body?
2. The course investigates politics and political potential in relation to subculture, in play- or leisure cultures, in popular culture and art, in charismatic political leadership and related to communication, symbols and signs, clothing styles and new media. How is Facebook used politically? How to understand the political in relation to youth subcultures? Has contemporary youth become depoliticized? Should a sociology of culture always be "critical" and "political" – and in which sense? Does political potential hide in everyday hobbies or leisure activities? Or is it only art – contrary to popular culture or "cultural industrial" forms – which carries an emancipative potential?
3. The course investigates the aspect of participation as an important component in its own right. What does it really mean to have the feeling of participating in something? What role does the collective aspect play in cultural phenomena? How to understand affective and bodily forms of participation? How to understand the relation between collectivity and politics?

The course will be taught in English.

Course plan

1. (15 marts, 10.15-12.00, GS 4) Introduction: Introduction to the course and the concept of culture

*Spillman, Lynn (2002) Introduction: Culture and cultural Sociology, in Lynn Spillman (ed) Cultural Sociology. Malden (MA) and Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, pp. 1-15.
(14 sider)

*Schiermer, Bjørn (2012): The Sociology of Culture, In: Aakvaag, Gunner et al. (red): Scandinavian Sensibilities: Introduction to Sociology. London: Pearson, pp. 274-297.
(23 sider)

UT: 2. (16 marts, 12.15-14.00, HH 101) Jeffrey Alexander and the Strong Program of cultural sociology (Tore Witsø Rafoss)

UT: @Jeffrey C. Alexander and Philip Smith (2003) The strong program in cultural sociology: Elements of a structural hermeneutics, in The Meaning of Social Life – A Cultural Sociology. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 3-26.
(23 sider)

UT:*Jeffrey C. Alexander (2001) Social performance between ritual and strategy, In Performance and Power, Malden (MA) og Cambridge: Polity Press, pp. 25-81.
(56 sider)

3. (22. Marts, 10.15-12.00, GS 4) Participation in politics: Social Movements

*Snow, David A, Soule Sarah A and Kriesi, Hanspeter (2003) Mapping the terrain, in David A Snow, Sarah A. Soule and Hanspeter Kriesi (eds) The Blackwell Companion to Social Movements. Malden, Oxford, Victoria: Blackwell Publishing, pp. 3-16. (Ch. 1)
(13 sider)

UT: *Koopmans, Ruud (2003) Protest in time and space: the evolution of waves of contention, in David A Snow, Sarah A. Soule and Hanspeter Kriesi (eds) The Blackwell Companion to Social Movements. Malden, Oxford, Victoria: Blackwell Publishing, pp. 19-46. (ch. 2)
(27 sider)

UT: *Rhys, William H (2003) The cultural context of collective action: constraints, opportunities and the symbolic life of social movements, in David A Snow, Sarah A. Soule and Hanspeter Kriesi (eds) The Blackwell Companion to Social Movements. Malden, Oxford, Victoria: Blackwell Publishing, pp. 91-115. (Ch. 5)
(24 sider)

Inn: *Diani, Mario (2000) The Concept of Social Movement, in Kate Nash (ed) *Readings in Contemporary Political Sociology*. London: Blackwell, pp. 155-176. (Ch. 9)
(21 sider)

Inn: @Tufekci, Zeynep (2014) The Medium and the Movement: Digital Tools, Social Movement Politics, and the End of the Free Rider Problem, *Policy and Internet* 6(2): 202-208.
(6 sider)

Inn: @Tufekci, Zeynep (2013) Occupying the Political: Occupy Wall Stress, Collective Action, and the Rediscovery of Pragmatic Politics, *Cultural Studies/Critical Methodologies* 13(3): 163-167.
(4 sider)

Inn: @Wiedemann, Carolin (2014) Between Swarm, Network and Multitude: Anonymous and the Infrastructures of the common, *Distinktion* 15(3): 309-326.
(17 sider)

4. (23 Marts, 12.15-14.00, HH 101) Critique of mass culture and sociology of art (The Frankfurt School)

*Benjamin, Walter (2002): The Work of art in the age of its reproducibility, in Walter Benjamin Selected Writings III (1935-1938) (edited by Howard Eiland and Michael W. Jennings) Cambridge (MA) and London: Harvard University Press, pp. 101-140.
(39 sider)

@Kracauer, Siegfried (1975): The mass ornament, *New German Critique* 5, 67-76.
(9 sider)

*Adorno, Theodor W. (1991): On Lyric Poetry and Society, in: Adorno, Theodor, W. Notes to Literature vol. I. New York: Columbia University Press, pp. 37-54.
(17 sider)

Inn: *Adorno, Theodor W. (1991) Culture Industry Reconsidered, in The Culture Industry: Selected Essays on Mass Culture, pp. 85-93.
(8 sider)

*Bürger, Peter 1996: Theory of the Avantgarde. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, pp. 35-54.
(19 sider)

5. (3. April, 12.15-14.00, HH 201) Culture and ritual participation

*Dayan, Daniel and Katz Elihu (1994) Defining Media Events: High Holidays of Mass consumption, in Media Events. Cambridge (MA) and London: Harvard University Press, 1-24.
(23 sider)

@Schiermer, Bjørn and Hjalmer Bang Carlsen (2017) Nostalgia, Irony and Collectivity in Late-Modern Culture: Ritual around the Disney Christmas Show in Scandinavia, *Acta Sociologica*, 60(2): 158-175.
(27 sider)

@Collins, Randal (2005) Interaction Ritual. Princeton: Princeton University Press. pp. 32-46, 47-88 (57 sider)

Inn: @Tufekci, Zeynep (2013) The Social Internet: Frustrating, Enriching, but not Lonely, *Public Culture* 26(1): 13-23.
(10 sider)

6. (5. April 10.15-12.00, GS 4) Bodily participation and bodily politics

*Brennan, Teresa (2004) The transmission of affect. Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press, pp. 1-20, 51-74.
(44 sider)

@Gibbs, Anna (2008) Panic! Affect Contagion, Mimesis and Suggestion in the Social Field, *Cultural Studies Review*, 14(2): 130-145.
(37 sider) http://epress.lib.uts.edu.au/journals/index.php/csrj/article/view/2076

@Blackman, Lise (2007) Reinventing Psychological matters: The importance of the suggestive realm of Tardes' ontology, Economy and Society, 36(4): 574-596.
(22 sider) http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/03085140701589455

*Knudsen, Britta Timm og Stage, Carsten (2016) "Affektteori", i Bjørn Schiermer (red.) *Kulturteori og kultursociologi*. København: Reitzels Forlag, pp. 53-75.

UT: 7. (6. April, 12.15-14.00, HH 101) Culture without politics?

8. (10 April, 12.15-14.00, HH 201) Politics of every day culture (Lise Kjølsrød)

@Kjølsrød, Lise (2013) Mediated Activism. Contingent Democracy in Leisure Worlds, *Sociology* 47(6): 1207–1223.
(16 sider)

*Spracklen, Karl (2010) Gorgoroth's Gaahl's Gay! Power, Gender and the Communicative Discourse on the Black Metal Scene, in R Hill and K Spracklen (eds) *Heavy Fundamentalisms: Music, Metal and Politics*. Oxford: Inter-Disciplinary Press, pp. 89–101.
(12 sider)

@Swidler, Ann (1986) Culture in Action: Symbols and Strategies, *American Sociological Review* 51(2): 273–86.
(13 sider)

9. (12 April 10.15-12.00, GS 4) Culture, charisma and the Symbolics of power (Anne Krogstad)

@Krogstad, Anne and Aagoth Storvik (2007) Seductive Heroes and Ordinary Human Beings: Charismatic Political Leadership in France and Norway, *Comparative Social Research* 23: 211-245.
(34 sider)

@Geertz, Clifford (1977) Centers, Kings, and Charisma: Reflections on the Symbolics of Power, in Ben-David, Joseph and Terry Nichols Clarke (eds.) *Culture and its creators: essays in honor of Edward Shils*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, pp. 150-171.

http://hypergeertz.jku.at/GeertzTexts/Centers_Kings_Charisma.htm
(22 sider)

*Krogstad, Anne (2017) A Political History of Visual Display. *The Poster* (forthcoming).
(ca 20 sider)

10. (13. April, 12.15-14.00, HH 101) Subculture and post-subculture

*Hebdige, Dick (1979): Subculture: The meaning of Style. London and New York: Methuen & Co., pp 90-133.
(43 sider)

*Williams, Patrick J. (2011): Subcultural Theory: Traditions and concepts. Cambridge: Polity, pp. 17-35.
(13 sider)

INN: *Williams, Patrick J. (2011): Subcultural Theory: Traditions and concepts. Cambridge: Polity, pp. 65-86.
(21 sider)

@Bennet, Andy (1999): Subcultures or Neo-Tribes? Rethinking the Relationship between Youth, Style and Musical Taste, *Sociology* 33(3): 599-617.
(18 sider)

Replaced: @Maffesoli, Michel (1996) Tribalism. In: Maffesoli, M.: Time of the Tribes. London: Sage: 72 – 103.
(31 sider)

Replaced: @Evans, David (1997): Michel Maffesoli's Sociology of Modernity and Postmodernity. An Introduction and Critical Assessment. In: The Sociological Review, 45(2): 220-243.
(23 sider)

*Schiermer, Bjørn, Michael Hviid Jacobsen and Anders Petersen (2016): "Michel Maffesoli", in Bjørn Schiermer (ed.): *Kultursteori og kultursociologi*. København: Reitzels Forlag, pp. 309-340.

Inn: @Robards, Brady and Bennett, Andy (2011) My Tribe: Post-Subcultural Manifestations of Belonging on Social Network Sites, *Sociology* 42(2): 303-317.
(14 sider)

11. (19. April, 10.15-12.00, GS 4) Contemporary ýouth culture

@Schiermer, Bjørn (2014): Late-modern Hipsters: New Tendencies in Popular Culture, *Acta Sociologica*, 57(2): 167-181.
(15 sider)

*Sonntag, Susan (2008): Notes on 'camp', in The Cult Film Reader (edited by Ernst Mathijs and Xavier Mendik). Maidenhed: Open University press, pp. 41-52.
(11 sider)

*Ross, Andrew (2008): Uses of camp, in The Cult Film Reader (edited by Ernst Mathijs and Xavier Mendik). Maidenhed: Open University press, pp. 53-66.
(13 sider)

*Reynolds, Simon (2011): Introduction: The re-decade, Prologue: Don't look back: Nostalgia and retro, in Retromania. London: Faber and Faber: ix-xxxvi
(27 sider)

12. (20 April, 12.15-14.00, HH 101) Concluding. Resume of the course, questions, evaluation

Før: 681 sider

Nu: 784 sider

Learning outcome

Knowledge
The student will gain

- a detailed knowledge of main theories and empirical themes belonging to the sociology of culture.
- a sociologically informed understanding of important modern cultural institutions, phenomena or themes such as media, current trends in popular culture and leisure, youth culture and art.
- theoretical and conceptual tools to understand and theorize collective and participatory aspects to cultural phenomena.
- theoretical and conceptual tools to understand and theorize political aspects to cultural phenomena.

Skills
The student will learn

- to creatively theorize and analyze cultural phenomena
- to understand and reflect on theoretical choices and their conceptual and methodological consequences at the field of the sociology of culture

General competence
The student will gain

- increased reflexivity and sensibility as to the social and sociological meaning of culture and cultural phenomena
- increased reflexivity and sensibility for political aspects to cultural phenomena.
- increased reflexivity and sensibility for collective and participatory aspects to cultural phenomena.

The course will provide the student with competences, tools and knowledge indispensable for an eventual carrier in the cultural sector, public or private, in event design, organization or management, or in youth education or youth research. In addition, the capacity to analyze and understand modern culture and current cultural tendencies may be of use in a number of other occupations.