

‘Dialogue’ – A Trans-Disciplinary Concept and Bridge-Building Practice

**Course and conference at Aarhus University
December 13-14, 2023**



The Great Belt Bridge, Denmark

Read more and register at <https://phdcourses.dk/Course/108626>

Description

This PhD and postdoctoral course and conference originates in the collective research project “Epistemological Aspects of ‘Dialogue’: Exploring the Potential of the Second-Person Perspective” (see <https://projects.au.dk/dialogue>), which is devoted to an exploration of ‘dialogue’ as a “trans-disciplinary key concept” (Paul Mendes-Flohr) and bridge-building practice that is crucial for any interhuman encounter, not least for intercultural or interreligious encounters.

Despite an almost inflationary use of the word in a range of different disciplines, the very notion of ‘dialogue’ lacks conceptual clarity. Therefore, this course invites PhD students and postdoctoral researchers and other interested persons to investigate ‘dialogue’ and the I-Thou-relation in a multi-approach analysis that may include, for instance, religious studies, existential philosophy, philosophy of dialogue, hermeneutics, phenomenology, deconstruction, literary theory, theories of communication, and psychology.

If we ignore that which is unique to dialogue, namely the performative, unforeseeable and surprising character of address and response in a shared space of reflection, we also miss the insights we can gain from this interactive process. The dialogical relation exceeds what one person alone or what a neutral observer can see and compare; it differs fundamentally from both the insider-perspective of the first person and the outsider-perspective of the third person. Self-expression and the impression of otherness come together in the mutually binding sphere ‘in-between’ the interlocutors.

Therefore, the announced event focuses on the question of what quality and status we can attribute to the ‘in-between’ that mediates the dialogical relation between self and other – across personal, national, and geographical borders.

Aim	The aim of this course is to provide <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. an introduction into classical texts on ‘dialogue’2. an overview of how ‘dialogue’ works as a trans-disciplinary concept and bridge-building practice3. a critical discussion of the theory and practice of ‘dialogue’ in different research disciplines
Venue	Room M1 in Studenterhuset, building 1427, room 149 Nordre Ringgade 3, 8000 Aarhus C

Program

December 13

- 13:00-14:00 Reading session 1: Introduction on 'dialogue' as trans-disciplinary concept and the distinction between 'dialogue' and 'dialectics'
- 14:00-14:15 Coffee break
- 14:15-15:00 Keynote lecture 1: Katharina Heyden (University of Bern): "Interreligious Dialogues between Success and Failure – How Can We Learn from History?" incl. Q&A
- 15:00-15:30 Panel discussion with Paul Mendes-Flohr (Hebrew University of Jerusalem & University of Chicago): What kind of dialogue after the 'death' of dialogue?
- 15:30-16:00 Postdoc paper 1: Sasja Emilie Mathiasen Stopa (University of Edinburgh): "Creative Dialogue in the Relational Anthropologies of Martin Luther and Martin Buber"
- 16:00-16:15 Coffee and cake
- 16:15-17:00 Reading session 2: Buber, Bakhtin, and polyphonous dialogue
- 17:00-17:30 Postdoc paper 2: Essi Ikonen (University of Helsinki): "Silent Dialogues: Encountering Imaginary Characters, Non-Speaking Humans, and Animals"
- 17:30-18:00 Postdoc paper 3: Bjarke Hansen (Aarhus University): "The Umbra of Encounter"

December 14

- 9:00-9:45 Keynote lecture 2: Kaia Rønndal (University of Oslo): "Magnificent Encounters in Borderland: Religion, Migration, Dialogue"
- 9:45-10:15 Plenary discussion
- 10:15-10:30 Coffee break
- 10:30-11:00 PhD session 1: Cathrine S. Dethlefsen (Aarhus University, ECOSCIENCE): "Institutionalizing Citizens' Dialogue and Local Engagement in Danish Wolf Management"
- 11:00-11:30 PhD session 2: William Toke Mathorne (Aarhus University, ARTS): "Is there a Hegelian Concept of Dialogue?"
- 11:30-12:00 Reading session 3: Dialogues in therapeutic settings
- 12:00-13:00 Lunch
- 13:00-13:30 PhD session 3: Lars Petter Sødal Bergsmark (Aarhus University, BSS): "Can the Psychopathologized Answer the Question of When and Why Grief is a Disorder?"
- 13:30-14:15 Keynote lecture 3: Claudia Welz (Aarhus University): "Listening to the Inner Voice of the Other: Buber's Philosophy of Dialogue, Psychotherapy, and Trauma Studies"
- 14:15-14:45 Plenary discussion
- 14:45-15:00 Rounding off