



NORDDES Nordic
Design
Research

Theatre in Design

PhD Summer School

August 22nd – 26th 2016, Kolding

SDU Design organises a **PhD summer school as a part of Nordes Design Research** network. This 5-day PhD summer school brings together researchers from different academic disciplines to study how various forms of theatre can support design and design research by exploring object interactions and social dynamics. We invite PhD students who are or will be involved with theatre in designing products, systems or services, in facilitating practice changes in private or public organisations, or in engaging with users or other stakeholders.

SDU Design has solid experience in bringing improvisational theatre into design. Our Theatre Lab works with the full range of methods for design, organisational change and qualitative research. In this summer school we will explore in more depth what insights we gain from studies of object interaction and social dynamics through improvised theatre. How can theatre support design? What themes can theatre help research? Depending on your interests and research focus the summer school will allow you to specialise in one of the two tracks.

Track 1: Object theatre in interaction design

Object theatre engages with objects as triggers for improvisation. Bringing objects into theatrical settings enhances our awareness of the role of objects in design and everyday life, which may change the meaning of the object and invite to reflexivity about our experiences. Interaction design has a fundamental interest in understanding the social nature of objects and object theatre can help designers take object perspectives, experience objects 'from within' and explore context interdependencies of the design object.



Track 2: Improvised theatre in social design

Improvised theatre can create micro-provocations and disruptions to change the quality of human interacting. The playing out of conflicts can be of much help in clarifying how organisations prescribe certain ways of doing, ways of knowing and communication, while excluding others. Social design has a fundamental interest in the nature of sociality and how power, ideology and politics are distributing certain roles of identity and ways of living. In this track, we shall explore such themes with improvised, participatory theatre.



Programme

The PhD summer school runs for five days August 22–26, 2016 and below you can see the tentative programme. In the mornings we will organise seminars to provide theoretical grounding. In the afternoons the two tracks will explore concrete project cases through different theoretical concepts and theatre approaches to develop novel ways of researching complex issues. In the late afternoons we will share findings across the two tracks.

The programme is exploratory and we expect you to contribute with your own experience towards the themes above. The first three days of the summer school will also be open to actors, artists and other researchers with an interest in the field. The last two days will be dedicated to PhD students and how your research projects may draw on the insights gained from the first three days' explorations. The working

	Open seminar			PhD Students only	
	MON 22/8	TUE 23/8	WED 24/8	THU 25/8	FRI 26/8
MORNING SEMINARS	Theatre as improvisation	Theatre in design	Theatre beyond classical theatre	Theatre as research	PhD projects
LUNCH					
AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS	Theatre workshops in two tracks: 1. Object theatre in interaction design 2. Improvised theatre in social design Sharing insights across the tracks			PhD projects	Wrap up!

Participation

If you find this interesting, please send us a quick mail with a few lines about yourself and to which track you are interested in. This will be non-committal but very helpful for our planning.

To register for participation, you must submit a short summary of your PhD research and a brief statement of how theatre is relevant to your project. **Submissions** should be no more than two A4 pages, and sent to Henry Larsen (hlarsen@mci.sdu.dk) by **May 1st 2016**.

We will select 10-20 PhD students per track to achieve a multidisciplinary balance between design directions, design anthropology, conversation analysis, organizational change and innovation management. Upon notification of acceptance, participants will receive course material as well as further instructions of how to prepare for and participate in the summer school.

Credit: **5 ECTS**. The summer school will support PhD students in preparing a paper for submission to the NORDES conference 2017.

Registration fee: **DKK 1200** (+ VAT 25%, + payment fee) to cover lunches, refreshments and the summer school dinner. Participants are expected to book and pay their own travel and accommodation.



Organisers

The summer school is organised by SDU Design Research, a cross disciplinary centre nested between social sciences, humanities and engineering at the University of Southern Denmark.

- Professor Henry Larsen, participatory innovation, Mads Clausen Institute
- Professor Jacob Buur, user-centred design, Mads Clausen Institute
- Associate professor Thomas Markussen, social design, Department of Design and Communication
- Theatre Lab consultant Preben Friis, Department of Entrepreneurship and Relationship Management
- Theatre Lab actor and junior researcher Merja Ryöppy, Department of Entrepreneurship and Relationship Management.

Seminars



Theatre as Improvisation

What are the general principles of impro theatre, how does it work and why? Transformativity and emergence of novelty can be understood as a result of improvised interactions. What can we learn from theatre improvisation about the processes of social interaction more generally? The summer school will provide a fundamental introduction to improvisation.

Theatre in Design

Over the past decade or two, theatre has attracted increasing attention in design practice. This has led to a rich diversity of techniques and methods valuable, for instance, for idea generation, scenario building, experience prototyping, and user research. In the summer school we will establish an overview of how theatre is currently being used in design.

Theatre beyond classical theatre

To provide a conceptual backdrop for the week, lectures will introduce the so-called postdramatic turn in theatre. The lectures will encourage a collective inquiry into how the theatre interaction becomes a generator of shared experiences by engaging the audience to participate rather than to watch.

Theatre as Research

Using theatre as a method of inquiry poses certain challenges in design research. How may theatre be used in scientific arguments? Once the theatre act is over, all that is left is fading memories and hours of video recordings. Various disciplines – ranging from ethnography to linguistics – seem to offer valid frames of analysis. The summer school will discuss if these are actually appropriate for fathoming the research outcomes of using theatre.

