

Aim of the workshop:

We invite colleagues to share experiences on cross-fertilization of art and social work research and to discuss how research-based art can serve as a catalyst for social change. Also, the workshop will give hands on knowledge on how to work with the method “deepened film talks”.

Background:

In a research project focusing moral stress and moral agency in social work, concrete stories of challenging situations from professionals were collected. In focus groups, managers, needs assessors and care workers reflected on situations causing moral stress. Moral stress was understood as emotions stemming from situations where they knew what would be the right thing to do according to professional ethos, but circumstances outside their own control prevented them from acting in line with this.

The stories were condensed into scenes and given to a professional screen writer. With the scenes as inspiration, a manus for a fictional short movie was produced. At a later stage an 18-minute-long short movie with professional actors was shot. The process was co-created; researchers and artist collaborated throughout the process. The film has been shown in various settings; to students, politicians, researchers, social workers, managers, user organizations etc. The screening has been followed by a reflective discussion according to the methodology of “deepened film talks” (Westergren 2016). Attention is given to emotions that are evoked by the dramatized film. The research-based film allows for the freedom of artistic expression and does not reflect "an (one) objective truth" about the everyday challenges social workers (and other welfare workers) experience. Rather, the film opens for collective learning and contributes to professional learning, solidarity and spurs joint action. Research-based art seem to support and make room for different epistemologies to be expressed, thereby promoting social change and a deepening of democracy. The drama becomes the common projection surface, which allows for different perspectives where lived experiences, scientific knowledge and professional experiences can be joined.

Pedagogical tools

We will give a short introduction to the collaborative project of producing a research-based dramatized short movie. This will be followed by the screening of the movie (in Swedish with English subtitles). Participants are then invited to be part of a deepened film talk. We will invite participants to a discussion on challenges and opportunities in the process of co-creation in research-based art, art as a tool to promote social change and the methodology of “deepened film talks”.

Participants

We invite all participants who are interested in collaborative projects where art and research are cross-fertilized. We also invite participants interested in the development of methods that support collective learning, solidarity and social change. No previous experience in the field is required in order to participate.

References:

Westergren, E. (2016). Att nå det fördjupade filmsamtalet. I Janson, M.(red.) Introduktion till filmpedagogik–vita duken som svarta tavlan, 2.