

The Exhibition as Research: Histories, Theories, Methods

PhD and Research Seminar, June 13-15, 2024

Thursday 13 and Friday 14 June at ROM for kunst og arkitektur, Oslo, Norway

Saturday 15 June at The Museum of Cultural History, Oslo, Norway



From left: Wilhelm von Bode's display of Italian Renaissance Sculpture at the Kaiser Friedrich Museum, Berlin, 1904; Sverre Fehn's exhibition architecture from 1979 in the Medieval Hall at the Museum of Cultural History, Norway, and research-by-display at ROM for kunst og arkitektur, 2023.

Program and reading list

The three-day program will consist of plenary lectures from invited speakers, paper presentations from PhD Fellows (20-minute presentation, 20-minute discussion), group work, and discussions of articles and chapters from reading list.

Wednesday 12 June

19:30 – optional 'Meet and greet' at Cultivate Food in Grünerløkka ([Helgesens gate 18a, 0553 Oslo](#)). Vegan cafeteria.

Thursday 13 June

At ROM for kunst og arkitektur (Maridalsveien 30, 0175 Oslo)

09:00 – 09:30 Welcome and introduction by Ingrid Halland

09:30 – 10:00 Talk by Mattias Bäckström (Associate Professor at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology)

10:00 – 10:30 Talk by Gustav Jørgen Pedersen (Head of Research at The Munch Museum)

10:30 – 11:00 Break (30 minutes with coffee, fruits and snacks)

11:00 – 11:45 Exhibition Cases Workshop I (Ingrid Halland)

11:45 – 12:00 Talk by Lisa Rosendahl (Curator and Associate Professor in Exhibition Studies at The Oslo National Academy of the Arts)

12:00 – 12:45 Lunch (45 minutes). Lunch will be covered (basic lunch: salads, soup, bread)

12:45 – 15:00 Paper presentations by PhD Fellows

- Yuansheng Luo, response by Brita Brenna

- Ingrid Dobloug Roede, response by Brita Brenna

- Hanna Gerda Brøndal, response by Marie-Theres Fojuth

15:00 – 15:30 Break (30 minutes with coffee, fruits and snacks)

15:30 – 18:00 Paper presentations by PhD Fellows with breaks in between

- Jasper Delbecke, response by Lisa Rosendahl

- Mikael Andersson, response by Gustav Jørgen Pedersen

19:00 Optional dinner at Sabrura Sticks & Sushi (Markveien 67A, 0550 Oslo). Sushi buffet, vegetarian options are possible (the dinner is not covered)

Friday 14 June

At ROM for kunst og arkitektur (Maridalsveien 30, 0175 Oslo)

09:00 – 09:30 Talk by Tim Ainsworth Anstey (Professor at The Oslo School of Architecture and Design)

09:30 – 11:30 Exhibition Cases Workshop II (Anders Bettum, Brita Brenna) with coffee, fruits and snacks

11:30 – 12:00 Talk by Gjertrud Steinsvåg (Director at ROM for kunst og arkitektur) and Karoline Kjesrud (Senior curator at the Historical Museum)

12:00 – 12:45 Lunch (45 minutes). Lunch will be covered (basic lunch: salads, soup, bread)

12:45 – 15:00 Paper presentations by PhD Fellows

- Nick Walkley, response by Anders Bettum
- Christianne Blijleven, response by Peter Bjerregaard
- Andreas Spandet Bjerre, response by Mattias Ekman

15:30 – 16:00 Break (30 minutes with coffee, fruits and snacks)

16:00 – 18:30 Paper presentations by PhD Fellows with breaks in between

- Sara Duborg Døssing, response by Marianne Løken
- Katla C. Brandt, response by Tim Anstey
- Sebastian Klein, response by Marie-Theres Fojuth

Saturday 15 June

The Museum of Cultural History, the auditorium in the 3rd floor, (Frederiks gate 2, 0164 Oslo)

10:00 – Welcome and introduction

10:15 – 11:00 Peter Bjerregaard (Director of the Danish Museum of Science & Technology, 30 min presentation, 15 minutes discussion)

11:00 – 11:45 Jérémié McGowan (Associate Professor at The Oslo School of Architecture and Design, 30 min presentation, 15 minutes discussion)

11:45 – 12:15 Break (30 minutes with coffee, fruits and snacks)

12:15 – 12:45 Liv Ramskjær (Secretary General of the Norwegian Museum Association)

12:45 – 13:30 Lunch (45 minutes). Lunch will be covered (basic lunch: salads, soup, bread)

13:30 – 14:15 Henrik Treimo (Head of Exhibitions Nobel Peace Center, 30 min presentation, 15 minutes discussion)

14:15 – 16:15 Paper presentations by PhD Fellows with breaks in between

- Eva-Johanna Marie Lafuente Nilsson, response by Mattias Bäckström
- Elise Matilde Malik, response by Insa Müller
- Alejandra Navarrete Llopis, response by Jérémié McGowan

Open lectures

The invited talks and guest presentations will take place from morning until lunch every day and will be open to all, in person or via digital steam (Zoom). Registration is required. In the afternoon, the seminar will be closed (the PhD participants will present papers and invited guests will discuss their presentations and work in groups).

Reading list

The reading list will consist of key articles, excerpts from books, and book chapters for understanding the exhibition as research.

On method

- Borgdorff, Henk. “The Production of Knowledge in Artistic Research,” chapter 7 in *The conflict of the Faculties: Perspectives on Artistic Research and Academia* (2012).
- Cross, Nigel. “Designerly Ways of Knowing: Design Discipline versus Design Science.” *Design Issues* 17, no. 3 (2001): 49–55. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1511801>.
- Fallman, Daniel. “The Interaction Design Research Triangle of Design Practice, Design Studies, and Design Exploration,” in *Design Issues*, vol. 24, no. 3, pp. 4-18, July 2008, doi: 10.1162/desi.2008.24.3.4.
- Frayling, Christopher. “Research in Art and Design.” In *Royal College of Art Research Papers*, Vol 1, No. 1, 1993. Sigfúsdóttir, Ólöf Gerður. *Museum-based research. Museological, institutional, curatorial and epistemological challenges*. University of Iceland (2022): <https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11815/3724>
- Hawkins, Harriet. *Geography, Art, Research: Artistic Research in the GeoHumanities* (2021) “Introduction”
- Pringle, Emily. *Rethinking research in the Art Museum* (2020)
- Ingold, Tim. *Making: Anthropology, Archaeology, Art and Architecture* (2013)

Note that the articles by Borgdorff, Fallman, Frayling, and Cross are added to the list in order to contextualize the research methods ‘research-by-design’ and ‘artistic research,’ to give a foundation and context for discussing exhibition making as a research method (combining material-based research with development work, critical reflection, and action research).

On exhibitions

- Arrhenius, Thordis, Mari Lending, Wallis Miller, Jérémie Michael McGowan. *Place and Displacement: Exhibiting Architecture* (2014)
- Basu, Paul and Sharon Macdonald. *Exhibition Experiments* (2007)
- Bäckström, Mattias. “Inledning” (“Introduction”). *Att bygga innehåll med utställningar. Utställningsproduktion som forskningsprocess* [To Build Content with Exhibitions. Exhibition Production as Research Process]. Nordic Academic Press (2016). [Obs! In Swedish only].
- Bäckström, Mattias. “The Exhibition as Essay. Exhibition Production as Research Process” / “Utstillingen som essay. Utstillingsproduksjon som forskningsprosess.” *Breaking Boundaries! Museum Education as Research / Spreng grensene! Formidling blir forskning*. *Museumsforlaget* (2023), pp. 29–40 in Norwegian / pp. 153–159 in English)
- Birnbaum, Daniel, and Sven-Olov Wallenstein. “Spatial Thought.” In *Superhumanity: Design of the Self*, edited by Nick Axel, Beatriz Colomina, Nikolaus Hirsch, Anton Vidokle, and Mark Wigley, 169–76. University of Minnesota Press, 2018. <https://doi.org/10.5749/j.ctt1zctt3b.22>.
- Bishop, Claire. *Radical Museology: Or, What’s ‘contemporary’ in Museums of Contemporary Art?* (2013)
- Bjerregaard, Peter (ed.). *Exhibitions as Research* (2020)
- Brenna, Brita. “Nature and Texts in Glass Cases: The Vitrine as a Tool for Textualizing Nature” in *Nordic Journal of Science and Technology Studies* 2(1) (2014).
- Geiser, Reto, Michael Kubo et al. *Futures of the Architectural Exhibition*. Zürich: Park Books, 2022. “Introduction”
Chapter: “The Exhibition as Research”
- Pringle, Emily. *Rethinking Research in the Art Museum*. New York: Routledge, 2020.

“Introduction”

Chapter 5: “Co-Researching”

Rito, Carolina and Bill Balaskas. *Institution as Praxis: New Curatorial Directions for Collaborative Research*. Sternberg Press, 2020.

“Introduction”

Chapter “Exhibitionary Practices”

Skydsgaard, Morten A., Hanne Møller Andersen and Heather King. “Designing museum exhibits that facilitate visitor reflection and discussion.” *Museum Management and Curatorship*, 31:1, 48-68.

Dagny Stuedahl, Torhild Skåtun, Ageliki Lefkaditou and Tobias Messenbrink, “Participation and Dialogue. Curatorial reflexivity in participatory processes” in *European Heritage, Dialogue and Digital Practices* edited By Areti Galani, Rhiannon Mason, Gabi Arrigoni (2019)

Treimo, Henrik, Lars Risan, Ketil Gjølme Andersen, Marianne Løken, and Torhild Skåtun (eds.), *Tingenes metode – museenes kunnskapstopografi* (2023)

Treimo, Henrik, “Sketches for a methodology on exhibition research” in Peter Bjerregaard, ed., *Exhibitions as Research*. London: Routledge, 2019.

During the course, we will discuss the following exhibitions cases:

Exhibition: “Arv” [Heritage] at The Museum of Cultural History (2023)

Exhibition: “Beyond Barcode” at Oslo Museum (2023)

Exhibitions: “Kampanje! Gullramme og gråstein” and “Kampanje! Norge i rødt, hvitest, and blått?” at Jøssingfjord Science Museum (2024)

Exhibition: “The Savage Eye,” at the Munch Museum (2022)

Exhibition: “Warburg Models: The Architecture of the Itinerant Archive” at Blaker meieri 2023 / The Architectural Association (2024)

Practical information

Working language: English.

Credits: 3/5 ECTS. Participation, paper presentation, and reading preparation will result in 3 ECTS, working over and submitting an edited version of the presentation (10-12 pages) after the seminar, will yield an additional 2 ECTS. Signed and authorized course diplomas will upon request be bestowed upon each participant having completed the course.

Meals: Coffee, fruits, and lunch and will be provided every day. Dinners Thursday night and Friday night are optional, as the expenses for the dinners will not be covered by the organizers.

Travel and accommodation: PhD Fellows are expected to cover their own travel and accommodation expenses.

The PhD course is a collaboration between The Centre for Museum Studies and The Oslo Center for Environmental Humanities at University of Oslo; The Museum of Cultural History; Cultural Heritage Management and the research project ‘Museum, Society, Participation’ at NTNU Norwegian University of Science and Technology in Trondheim; and ROM for kunst og arkitektur.



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Historical
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