

# CALL FOR PAPER

## FEMINIST MATERIALISMS

*Kvinder, Kon & Forskning*,  
issue: 1-2/12.

In this issue of *Kvinder, Kon & Forskning* (Women, Gender & Research) we wish to present and discuss new feminist materialisms and its theories. The material turn opens a whole new way of analyzing materiality, yet also requires development of new methodological and scientific tools and new scientific approaches.

One major inspiration within the material turn is Karen Barad whose notion of ‘agential realism’ is regarded as an outset for establishing new approaches for doing research. Based on readings by scholars such as Judith Butler, Michel Foucault, Donna Haraway and physicist Niels Bohr, Karen Barad arrives at an ont-epistemological position where the division between matter and meaning, human/non-human, animate/inanimate dissolves, arguing that agency is not a property of things and does not originate in human intention and therefore the agency of other beings and of objects is not dependant on and secondary to human agency. Rather agency is understood as an action or doing exercised by all matter, whether human, non-human or inanimate. Usually matter itself is seen to exercise agency only to the extent that it acts as a secondary agent enabling human intention to be realized. This premise is untenable, when rephrasing materiality the Barad way.

This way of thinking matter (re)frames questions such as:

How can we analyze and understand processes that occur in the meeting between body, technology and discourses? What are the consequences for theorizing body and gender when we analytically include the agency of materiality? Can we within a feminist context relate to bodily differences and the agency of materiality without ending in biology and essentialism? How can we in practice use Barad’s notions of agency, and what may be the strengths and weaknesses when making the attempt?

This issue of *Kvinder, Kon & Forskning* explores what happens when we take various aspects of Barad’s arguments and thinking on board. We are not eager to canonize a “feminist material turn” in opposition to other “turns”, partly as we conceive Barad’s work as transgressive and building on/connecting with as well the alleged ‘material turn’ the ‘linguistic turn’, the ‘spatial turn’, the turn to the body and even the ‘affective turn’. Barad’s thinking is made through quantum physics, and so framing her within a material turn might be too narrow. Therefore, we invite writers to try to think through these aspects and discuss possible impacts on feminist thinking and analysis, but not feel restrained by it either.

We call for papers in English which focus on one or more of the outlined problematics, being particularly interested in work that deals with challenges

arising from the concept of 'agential realism'.

*Kvinder, Køn & Forskning* is an interdisciplinary journal on gender research in the fields of culture, society, nature, health, and technology. The journal is mainly aimed at researchers in the field of gender scholarship but may also be relevant for other researchers and students as well as for various interest

groups et al. The aim of the journal is to reflect the depth and scope of gender research in Denmark. The articles deal with theoretical, methodological, and empirical issues. *Kvinder, Køn & Forskning* constitutes a forum for scholarly debate on theories, methodologies, and interpretations.

Theme editors:

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Deadline for abstracts:

15. August 2011

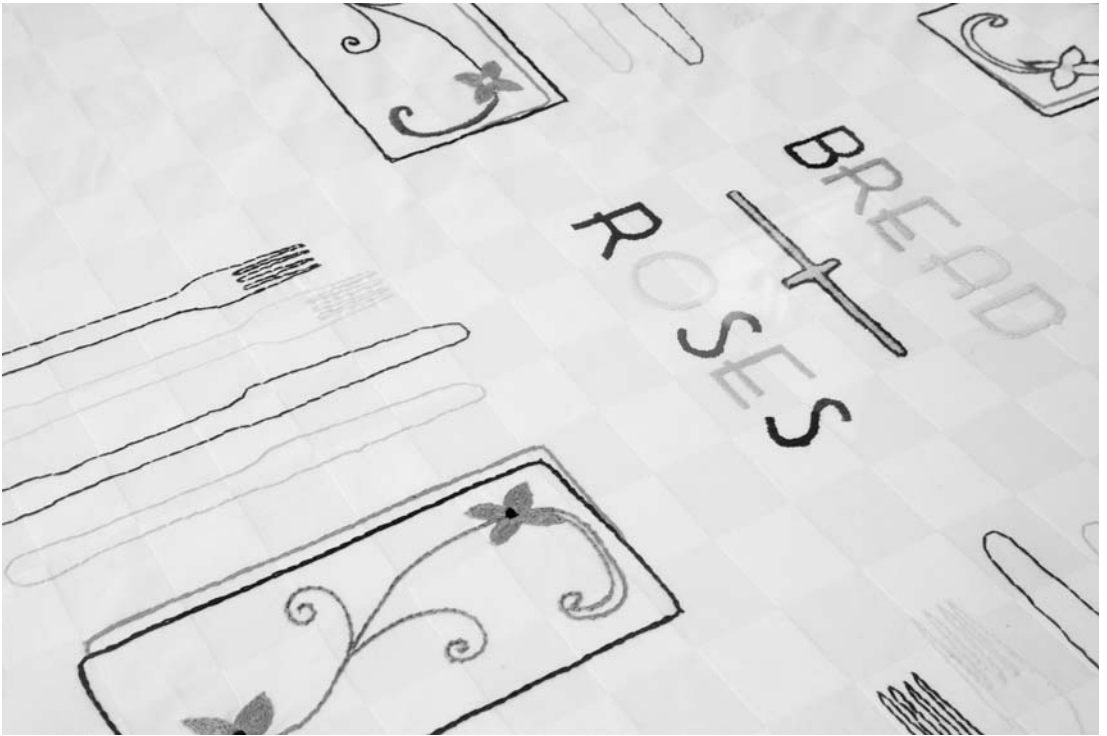
Deadline for articles:

1. October 2011

Send abstracts and articles to sub-editor Michala Hvidt Breengaard: [redsek@soc.ku.dk](mailto:redsek@soc.ku.dk)



*Iben Dalgaard: I suppose we are all pro pose. Fotograf: Erling Jeppesen.*



*Iben Dalgaard: Be My Guest, 2011 (detalje). Broderede Georg Jensen damask duge. Samarbejde med Place de Bleu. 165 x 165 cm. Fotograf: Erling Jeppesen.*



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