

Engelske resuméer

Topographical Infiltrations: Challenges for a Realistic Social Science Kirsten Hastrup

Abstract

The author argues in favour of the topographical turn, by acknowledging that human beings and landscapes are mutually constituting. This implies that topography infiltrates society, and that social and spatial orientations are two sides of the same coin. The turn has methodological consequences, because it implies an acknowledgement of the unbounded nature of people's connections to both closer and more distant parts of their environment. This again requires a new awareness of any closure of the field of investigation as analytical rather than empirical. Any social complexity is a consequence of a bottom-up process in a moving world that is never given nor fixed. Therefore, the analyst's position and knowledge interest contribute to the definition of the field and its scale. This challenges conventional understandings of realism, which must now incorporate the researcher within the field. Consequently, the rightness of the exposition must be argued for with reference to the specifics of place as well as to the intersubjective nature of interpretation, which effectively impedes mere speculation.

Keywords: the topographic turn, building and dwelling, holism, epistemological scaling, worlding, realism, scientific trustworthiness.

Learning takes place

Thomas Szulevicz

Abstract

The educational research and practice fields usually do not incorporate concepts such as space, place and materiality in the understanding of social practice in any concerted way. Traditionally, the concept of learning for example has either been understood as a cognitive phenomenon or a socially constructed process.

This article argues that social practice literally takes place. The article takes its point of departure in the topographic turn in which the meaning of space, place and materiality is rehabilitated.

Two different perspectives on how the topographic turn can contribute to an understanding of learning are presented. One perspective is analytical and argues that any understanding of social practice must take as its starting point that people's actions are both socially and materially situated.

The other perspective is empirical and unfolds as an analysis of a specific location. A milking pit is analyzed as a specific location that sets specific standards and conditions for learning.

Keywords: learning space, locality, progressive concept of place, topographical point of departure.

The Materiality of Creativity

Lene Tanggaard

Abstract

This article explores the materiality of creativity. While creativity research has traditionally been concerned with the intellectual and individual skills supporting creativity such as the ability to apply divergent thinking, this article anchors creativity in social practice. It is suggested that 1) Creativity is an everyday, mundane and collective phenomena, 2) There is a close relation between the 'old' and the new' which might suggest that creativity is actually a kind of re-creation and 3) The creativity process is a result of the interaction between human beings and material tools and as such not the sole result of human endeavours.

Keywords: Creativity, social practice, re-creation and materiality

Human Beings and Corn

Svend Brinkmann

Abstract

The article begins by considering eating as a way to disturb our habitual beliefs about subjects and objects and also culture and nature. Using the philosophical ideas of Bruno Latour, the article presents an ontology that employs different rules of the game than common dualistic perspectives, which operate with

nature opposed to culture, materiality opposed to the social, mechanical causality opposed to hermeneutics and objects opposed to subjects. Corn is highlighted as an object that can only be grasped in light of Latour's ontology rather than pure natural scientific or social constructionist understandings. Finally, the article demonstrates how Latour's ontology rehabilitates aspects of Dewey's transactional pragmatism that surpassed the problematic philosophies of interaction and articulated a constructive transactional theory instead.

Keywords: Ontology, dualism, transaction, Latour, Dewey, corn

Quantum-physical subjects? New Materialism and the Study of Subjectivation in Time and Space

Malou Juelskjær

Abstract

The article works theoretically, methodologically and analytically on how to study temporality and spatiality as driving forces in subjectification/subject formation. The theoretical inspiration is drawn from the work of Karen Barad, who herself is inspired by as well post-structuralist thinking as quantum physics. The scope of the article is that it tries to take on board ideas of time, space and matter from quantum physics through Barad, to use it to challenge everyday understandings of time and space in empirical analysis. The empirical material used in the article is a social psychological study of pupils who are involved in shifting their school – that is, moving from one school to another. By engaging with temporality and spatiality, insights are gained about the constitution of the social, and about the allocation of subjectivity.

Key-words: New-materialism, subjectification, time and space.

Viennese medley: Familiarity and Unfamiliarity Construction on an aesthetical foundation

Christian Jantzen

Abstract

The main argument of this paper is that aesthetics should serve as a guiding principle in planning and designing the built environment. Aesthetics is seminal for experiencing a bodily and mental presence in space. The interaction between the materiality of buildings or landscapes and the materiality of the body is based on aesthetics. Moreover, aesthetics mediates between substance and form and between sensing or sensuality and consciousness.

The first systematic argument for founding urban planning on aesthetic principles was put forward by Camillo Sitte some 120 years ago. This paper revisits Sitte's hometown, Vienna, in order to learn how cities and their buildings might improve our sense of being present in an urban environment. Three cases are analyzed. The main conclusion is that bodily presence in space presupposes an oscillation between familiarity and unfamiliarity. Aesthetics is the practice of bringing about this oscillation.

Keywords: Aesthetics, urban planning, embodiment, familiarity and unfamiliarity

First-person perspective in psychological theory and research practice

Ernst Schraube

Abstract

When psychological research is addressing problems of people in their everyday life, the question inevitably arises of how one can overcome the widespread dichotomy between individual and society. The article focuses on this question and argues for systematically including human subjectivity and the first-person perspective in psychological theory and

research practice. In a first step, a description is offered of the mechanistic effect thinking in psychology today and the widespread removal from view of the subjective dimension of human life. In addition, the problem of how the research from a third-person perspective implied in such an approach reproduces the dichotomy between individual and society. On this basis, the case is put for the conceptual inclusion of human subjectivity, showing why this requires the first-person perspective and a psychology from the subject standpoint. In the course of this argument, it is shown how a first-person perspective can overcome individualistic positions and opens up a situated, social-symmetrical epistemology that also includes a conceptual understand of the "Other".

Keywords: subjectivity, first-person perspective, social symmetry, individual-society dichotomy, psychological epistemology, subject science psychology

Is development the purpose at all?

On the conditions and possibilities of social psychiatric work in the practice of social psychiatry

David Brian Borup & Sofie Pedersen

Abstract

Our participation in a social psychiatric institutional home has presented us with an opportunity to reflect over the challenge of converting good intentions into a proper developing social psychiatric practice and the reasons for the difficulties of realizing this project. User involvement and recovery is placed at the top of the agenda by most Danish public social services in recent years. But how do you create and support user involvement and recovery in coexistence with a neoliberal way of thinking in form of individualization and isolation of problems, of logics of management and economic rationalization?

Our experience with incorporating user involvement and elements of recovery (by re-establishing solid connections to society and expanding agency, with the intent of making further institutionalization unnecessary) has been that insofar as the logics of management and the economical rationalization were neither challenged nor disputed, there would be openness for user involvement as well as recovery oriented work. Our experiences present an opportunity to reflect over, to what extent

we deal with a system of social services which in contradiction to its incorporated logics, hinders the proper purpose, namely helping human beings in an exposed and marginalized position to achieve a good and meaningful existence.

Keywords: social psychiatric practice, at a deadlock, objective developmental hindrances, subjective limitations, care, focussed social interrelations.