Arkitektur- og designhøgskolen i Oslo
The Oslo School of Architecture and Design

AHO — PhD Colloquium 2026 (Auditorium 3)

Thursday 12 November

8.50 **Coffee**

9.00-9.55
Presentation 1
Eirin Mari Fossøy
WHAT DRAWING DO YOU TRUST? - Reflections on in-situ drawing and human presence

10.00-10.55
Presentation 2
Eystein Talleraas
Vuoššangoahti: Enacting Sámi Practices in the City

10.55-11.15 Break

11.15-12.10
Presentation 3
Serina Tarkhanian
The Medicinality Framework: Working Principles for More-than-Human Healthcare Design in Practice

12.10-13.30 *Doctoral School Lunch*

13.30-14.25
Presentation 4
Felicia Nilsson
Activating aesthetics - Exploring aesthetic sensibilities through and with contemporary design practices

14.30-15.25
Presentation 5
Marie Mamen
Carving out a social fabric: a newspaper ethnography

15.25-15.45
Jessica Hemmings, final remarks

ABSTRACTS

WHAT DRAWING DO YOU TRUST? Reflections on in-situ drawing and human presence

Eirin Mari Fossøy



Image: Eirin Mari Fossøy

In-situ drawings offer particular ways of describing an encounter or observation, as they form a representation while embedding the processes of their own making, with the process and situated gestures materialised. With the current proliferation of AI and digital representation, in-situ drawing holds a particular potential as it may convey whether knowledge is created and experienced by an actual body. There are numerous various processes for creating in-situ drawings. From a craft perspective, this study explores how different processes of representational in-situ drawing may affect a viewer's experience of human presence in the resulting drawing. Moreover, we advance a broader discussion on the relevance of in-situ drawing for design education today. Our study follows three steps: the first author's practice of drawing in-situ, a critical workshop discussion on these drawings, and a thematic and visual analysis of the discussion and drawings. The critical workshop discussion with design educators and professionals highlighted four aspects of interest: immediacy and interpretative work as ways to embed human presence through in-situ drawing. Loss of control and stylisation were also identified as aspects that may disrupt human presence in in-situ drawing. Moreover, we argue that design education can be enriched by a stronger focus on in-situ drawing due to its potential to activate and communicate human presence, as well as develop critical aspects of a student's skillset such as seeing, visual thinking, and personal development.

Respondent: Lotte Konow Lund (KHIO)

Chair: Jenny Hallre Trømborg

Vuoššangoahti: Enacting Sámi Practices in the City

Eystein Talleraas



Image: Daniela Toma

Many Sami people experience that living in a city limits their scope for practicing traditional activities that are an essential part of the Sami worldview. If there is a Stately indigenous policy, it is often shaped to target rural populations, while urban authorities lack or struggle to develop indigenous policy of their own. From a decolonial perspective, urbanization has led to expropriation and displacement, a politics of excluding indigenous worldviews and presence in urban development. This way of treating the urban has led to what Sean Glenn Coulthard terms «Urbs Nullius»: the notion that urban space and indigenous presence and connection with the land are seen as contradictions. Urban spaces are considered to be places where Indigenous worldviews don't fit in. The problem I wish to explore is how to break down these established concepts of urbanity and indigeneity as mutually contradictory. In what ways can the use of urban spaces as arenas for practice and the sharing of knowledge, traditionally associated with rural activities, expand the understanding of what a city can be? Not only to manifest a Sami presence, but also to create an inviting community around the transmission of knowledge that can help connect the Sami and the Norwegian in new ways. In the Sami context, the Norwegianization structurally led to a lack of arenas for being Sami. Today, even though there has been a conscious process to repair the damages cause by these policies, there is still a lack of every day present collectives and safe spaces for enacting a Sami heritage through relational activities. I am aware of the danger of reducing what Sámi activities are. The article evolves around what such activities might be through describing the process of an ongoing project, **Vuoššangoahti** / Cooking Turfhut, in Tromsø.

Respondent: Anders Ese (AHO)

Chair: Shivani Prakash

The Medicinality Framework: Working Principles for More-than-Human Healthcare Design in Practice

Serina Tarkhanian



Image: isonative/transit.sk

Authors: Serina Tarkhanian and Emma Sicher (Doctoral researcher at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)

More-than-human design suggests healing more-than-human bodies as a goal. Several frameworks in the field offer distinct perspectives on how to do this in practice. These frameworks help more-than-human designers work toward this goal by framing key values, ideas, and principles to guide action, such as regeneration, reparation, restoration, and self-healability. One important focus that more-than-human design practitioners are increasingly engaging with is more-than-human healthcare design. More-than-human healthcare design blurs the boundaries between designers and care practitioners and carries considerable ethical responsibilities and implications. As interest in more-than-human healthcare grows, we need more nuanced insights into the risks and opportunities it presents, as well as principles to guide practice. Using an annotated portfolio approach combined with a thematic analysis, this paper advances a practical framework of medicinality to support more-than-human healthcare design, which centers on three working principles that we illustrate through cases from our own design work: mutualistic healing, medicinal sensibilities, and epistemic pluriversality. By offering starting principles, the paper helps more-than-human designers better work towards planetary health.

Respondent: Sofia Duarte (Polimi)

Chair: Zoe George McQueen

Activating aesthetics - Exploring aesthetic sensibilities through and with contemporary design practices

Felicia Nilsson



Image: Felicia Nilsson

What can an encounter with an automatic, motion driven water tap tell us about contemporary design aesthetics? We are increasingly living in the midst of a changing everyday materiality that is updating, shifting, registering, changing, tracking and becoming more or other than what it used to be. Contemporary design practices demand new ways of understanding how aesthetics come to matter. This research is situated in the context a shifting design practice where core concepts of designing are becoming increasingly in need of a re-articulation, such as aesthetics. Traditionally, designers have developed their aesthetic sensibilities through hands-on engagements with physical materials in a workshop and practice-based education. Via a programmatic design research approach which combines interviews with practicing designers in Norway's digital design scene, material explorations, and first-person embodied sensory fieldwork, this research investigates the changing relationship between materiality, sensory experience and digital design. By foregrounding the mundane and disruptive gestures of things like the automatic water tap, this research proposes new ways of attunement to the sensory and aesthetic paradigms in an everyday increasingly shaped by invisibility and automation.

Respondent: Mads Nygaard Folkmann (University of Southern Denmark)

Chair: Audun Fossum

Carving out a social fabric: a newspaper ethnography

Marie Mamen



Image: Mamen (21.05.2025)

How can we, as planners, gain sufficient knowledge to plan on behalf of the multiplicity of lived realities and the often contradictory needs within the local communities we engage with? This thesis sets out to explore this question from the vantage point of the public space, a site where this question becomes especially apparent. By rather investigating the fine-grained pockets of meeting places that are enacted as public, than what is formally or legally considered 'public space,' this historical case study traces the social (re)production of meeting places in the smalltown of Rotnes through the last 80 years.

Through an ethnographic document analysis in the local newspaper Varingen, this monograph chapter traces negotiations and contestations over everyday space as they play out in the newspaper. The overarching research question is how different actors and interest groups carve out meeting places of their own in the shared built fabric of Rotnes. The aim is to trace how the spatial differentiation of people and activities in Rotnes plays out over time. Varingen documents how everyday spaces in Rotnes are debated among diverse actors, including politicians, economic interests, neighbourhood organisations, cultural initiatives, and sports teams.

As the municipal centre in Nittedal, a municipality just north of Oslo, Rotnes is expected to house 80% of the population growth in the municipality the coming years. Ongoing planning processes to develop a new, and citylike, town centre invite extensive public participation. Can the local newspaper help us see how actually existing public space is created, negotiated, and contested from the ground?

Seeking to learn from Nittedal, this thesis asks if public space planning can become more attuned to the multiplicity of local and situated ways in which public space is enacted.

Respondent: Even Smith Wergeland (AHO)

Chair: Virginia Gravalos Gasull