

Title: Dramatized dissemination – a research of the aspect of participation in dissemination at open air museums and historical sites.

What was done:

In cooperation between Aarhus University, Danish Agency for Culture and Den Gamle By ("The Old Town") in Aarhus, Ingrid Vatne did her doctoral thesis about dramatized dissemination. This dissertation was a result of the investment in research of dissemination by Danish Agency for Culture. In this regard, the research contributes by focusing on the aspect of participation in dissemination at open-air museums and historical centers/sites.

The method of the dissertation was built on empirical collection through auto-ethnographic methodology and research interviews. Having The Old Town as external partner to the project allowed for the completion of participant observation both at an institutional level as well as an audience level. Furthermore, it allowed for the execution of research interviews in connection with a concrete event, "Lys i Mørket" ("Light in the Darkness"). Thus, a central part of this thesis concerns how the visitors of The Old Town accept the live demonstrations at the museum. This gave the empirical material another character than the data collected from other open-air museums and historical centers in which her own experience - in the role of the visitor - made the foundation for the empirical data.

By focusing on these live demonstrations The Old Town was able to get an understanding of their own products during the research process as well as after the dissertation was written. This was due to their awareness of the learning dimension of the ongoing analysis which led to a focus on their products and the effect of the products on the participants. In this way, the external partner to the university gained from the cooperation by seeing their museum through the eyes of the researcher. At the same time, this cooperation gave the PhD student the ability to ground her research in a relevant working field outside of academia.

Links to:

- Employer engagement, including employers not traditionally associated with the recruitment of doctoral graduates

Motivation and aims:

The aim of the doctoral thesis was to make research of communication in an environment that builds on this feature. By moving some of the research to the working field of a museum an important link was established between the university and the world outside of academia.

Lessons learnt:

In this case, the cooperation between Aarhus University and The Old Town went beyond all expectations, because both partners understood their roles in the collaboration. There are a lot of students who struggles with this kind of cooperation instead of benefitting from it, because the partners are not aware of their roles. Thus, the core of the cooperation is that each partner knows which role they play.

Scalability and transferability:

In order to transfer this kind of cooperation to other dissertations or universities, it is important to notice that this doctoral thesis is co-financed between the three important partners: These includes a university, a workplace outside of the university and in this case a governmental agency.

Therefore, it is worth noticing that the transferability requires interest from each partner in order to get a financial foundation to build on.

At The Graduate School of Arts at Aarhus University other PhD students have begun similar kind of dissertations which point to the transferability in the same field of study already.

Further information:

Only in Danish: <http://www.dengambleby.dk/phd-dramatiseret-museumsformidling/>

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Work package titles and themes:

- International dimensions to examination, supervision and the doctoral experience
- Design and development of a doctoral supplement to cover broader activities, training and experiences with a particular focus on employability & mobility
- Employer engagement, including employers not traditionally associated with the recruitment of doctoral graduates
- Approaches to training and support for doctoral candidates and supervisors
- Dissemination and promotion

Note for authors:

These case studies will be made publically available via the project website and may be included in future project publications and reports (printed and online).

Project website: www.doctoralexcellence.dk

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