

Æstetisk Seminar

Matthew Reason

Power With:

Approaches to Epistemic Justice in Arts Research

Following Foucault, we have a strong appreciation of the intersection of knowledge and power. We can also identify the ways in which the universities in which we operate as researchers are in the business of controlling, gatekeeping and delimiting forms of knowledge and therefore forms of power. Within this some ways of knowing – and therefore also some peoples and their lived experiences and expertise – are delegitimised and pushed to the margins. As Miranda Fricker puts it, epistemic injustice describes the experience of ‘people who are wronged in their capacity as knowers.’ To what extent is it possible to begin to address epistemic injustice while simultaneously working from within the university?

This lecture will explore examples of work with which I have been involved that has – perfectly, hesitantly, progressively – sought to enact approaches that address these concerns. First, I will discuss structural approaches, within my role as Director of the Institute for Social Justice at York St John University. Here we have begun to consider what might constitute a co-productive research culture. How can not just research participation, but also research commissioning, design, authorship and ownership be done in co-production with communities and stakeholders.

I will then present a case study from my own arts-based research. This has been to take an inclusive and creative approach to researching with learning disabled and autistic artists. Here we have sought to avoid models of deficit and vulnerability and find ways of involving people with learning disabilities in all aspects of the process. The case study will work through a series of challenges in processes of design, purpose, process, control and dissemination. It’ll also reflect on the centrality of creative methods within this process and share some of the emerging outputs. From these I will draw out insights that we might apply to our collective attempts to ensure that both universities and our own individual research shifts so that we utilise knowledge to enact power with rather than power over?

Torsdag den 3. oktober 2024, Kl. 14:15

Kasernen, bygning 1584, lokale 124

Alle er velkomne / All are welcome