

## Call for papers

### ***The Production of Knowledge in Architecture by PhD Research in the Nordic Countries***

**This symposium provides an essential context for an understanding of the function and practice of architectural knowledge production. A must for PhD-students, PhD-supervisors, senior researchers and Heads of Research and PhD-schools.**

#### **Introduction**

What does a PhD in architecture lead to? What kind of PhD research is carried out in the Nordic countries, why, and how? What does performing research in architecture mean? What is the relevance and value of PhD research in architecture for the architectural education, the profession and society? What are the traditions and cultures of research at Nordic PhD schools, universities, institutes, art academies, architectural offices, municipalities and the industry? What is the significance of research settings in the Nordic countries for the emergence of research practices, formats, methods and discourses that determine the way we understand architecture as a field of research?

Researcher training *in* and *about* architecture has gained visibility over the past 25 years. Since the 1990s institutional and individual based frameworks for PhD training have been developed at both schools of architecture and universities. This has not just created an extra level of qualification but has also contributed to a reflective interest in the architectural field in the broadest sense: interior design, architectural design, city and landscape planning, urbanism, architectural history and architectural heritage, conservation and preservation - in short, all forms of spatial culture.

For 25 years The Nordic Association of Architectural Research has been a unifying key player for architectural research in the Nordic countries, and thus also an important representative for the different research cultures at PhD schools. With the symposium *The Production of Knowledge in Architecture by PhD Research in the Nordic Countries* the association wants to shed light on and map architectural research by starting a critical discussion on PhD research. At the symposium this will be done by asking questions about the benefit, relevance, formats, explorations, and interfaces of research - and about its current state and the perspectives for its future.

The symposium seeks to connect subjective experience with the discipline-specific issues that researcher training programmes have made possible as PhD training has gained ground. Which notions on architecture have been promoted? What methodologies have been developed? In what way have the forms of presentation and dissemination changed since the 1990s?

The mapping will take into consideration differences and similarities between the Nordic nations and between their different discursive traditions. Fundamentally, researcher training *in* and *about* architecture supports an institutionalised process of knowledge production that, among other things, includes grants, PhD positions, supervision, courses, project work, etc. From the perspective of The Nordic Association of Architectural Research it is also essential to make visible and discuss these elements in order to support trans-disciplinary and cross-institutional research development in the wide-ranging field of architecture.

### **Target group**

The symposium aims at illustrating the Nordic research community and its positioning in a self-reflexive manner by putting into perspective the above. It is primarily aimed at PhD students and PhD supervisors, but will be relevant to anyone who works with research and knowledge production within interior design, architectural design, urban design and development, landscape architecture and physical planning, architectural history and theory or architectural heritage, conservation and preservation and who has an interest in the epistemological questions raised by the way the concept of architecture and the concept of research are interpreted in various research-related contexts. The symposium aims at providing a broad platform for researchers, educators and professionals to share views, results and experiences on the production of knowledge in architecture, and it welcomes representatives from both academia and practice. Nordic as well as International PhD-supervisors and senior researchers can attend the symposium at a reduced fee of 1000 SEK.

### **Conference themes and issues**

The symposium invites all PhD students in the Nordic countries who engage in architectural research. It gives participants an opportunity to present their dissertation projects and discuss their experience from researcher training in a qualified context. "Call for Paper" is aimed at PhD students who have dissertation projects in the following areas of research:

- Interior design
- Architectural design
- Urban design and development
- Landscape architecture and physical planning
- Architectural theory and history
- Architectural heritage, conservation and preservation

We particularly seek texts by PhD students that (a) discuss architecture as a subject for dissertations and a field of research, (b) present central "findings" in their dissertation projects (c) deal with knowledge production and research methods, theories and formats, and texts that (d) reflect on the benefits of PhD training programmes in relation to academic knowledge production, the profession, the discipline, the industry and future challenges for society.

### **Time table – guidelines and important dates**

An *abstract* of 300 words, a list of keywords (4-8), a title, subtitles, name of author and email address to corresponding author should be sent (email) to the organization committee no later than 15 December 2015.

Authors whose abstracts are approved will be asked to submit a *full paper* no later than 1 April. The conference paper should not exceed 8000 words exclusive abstract, references and figures. Further guidelines will later be sent to authors whose abstracts have been approved.

**Please note the following dates for submission, review process and symposium:**

- Abstract, deadline: 15 December, acceptance: 15 January
- Full paper, deadline: 1 April, acceptance for presentation: 30 April
- Symposium, 19-20 May 2016

**Conference Languages:** English, the Nordic languages

**Proceedings Publication:** A double-blind peer reviewed proceedings publication will follow the symposium. Proceedings will be in English, both printed and online.

**Keynote speakers:**

- Professor Halina Dunin-Woyseth, Oslo School of Architecture and Design
- Dr. Ann Legeby, PhD 2013, KTH/ School of Architecture
- Dr. Johan Linton, PhD 2013, Chalmers Architecture
- Dr. Marie Markman, PhD 2014, Aarhus School of Architecture
- Dr. Sari Tähtinen, PhD 2013, Aalto University

**Organizing Committee:**

- Dr. Charlie Gullström Hughes, KTH/School of Architecture
- Dr. Daniel Koch, KTH/ School of Architecture + The Nordic Association of Architectural Research
- Associate Professor Magnus Rönn, KTH/School of Architecture + The Nordic Association of Architectural Research
- Associate Professor Anne Elisabeth Toft, Aarhus School of Architecture + The Nordic Association of Architectural Research

**Scientific Committee:**

- Dr. Jonas E. Andersson, The Swedish Agency for Participation + The Nordic Association of Architectural Research
- Dr. Lars Brorson Fich, Department of Architecture and Media Technology; Aalborg University + The Nordic Association of Architectural Research
- Professor Elin Børrud, Norwegian University of Life Sciences + The Nordic Association of Architectural Research
- Dr. Charlie Gullström Hughes, KTH/School of Architecture
- Dr. Lisbet Harboe, Institute of Urbanism and Landscape, AHO + The Nordic Association of Architectural Research
- Dr. Daniel Koch, KTH/School of Architecture + The Nordic Association of Architectural Research
- Dr. Anders Larsson, SLU/ Dept of Landscape Architecture, Planning and Management, Alnarp + The Nordic Association of Architectural Research
- Associate Professor Henrik Reeh, Department of Arts and Cultural Studies, Copenhagen University + The Nordic Association of Architectural Research
- Associate Professor Magnus Rönn, KTH/School of Architecture + The Nordic Association of Architectural Research
- Associate Professor Pirjo Sanaksenaho, School of Arts, Design and Architecture, Aalto University + The Nordic Association of Architectural Research
- Dr. Inger Lise Syversen, Chalmers-Architecture + The Nordic Association of Architectural Research
- Associate Professor Anne Elisabeth Toft, Aarhus School of Architecture + The Nordic Association of Architectural Research
- Dr. Anni Vartola, Aalto University + The Nordic Association of Architectural Research

**Organizer:** The Nordic Association of Architectural Research, <http://arkitekturforskning.net/na>,  
in cooperation with the School of Architecture at KTH, Sweden, <https://www.arch.kth.se>,

**Location:** School of Architecture, Stockholm, Sweden

**Conference fee:** 1500 SEK

**Contact:** [naf-conference@arch.kth.se](mailto:naf-conference@arch.kth.se)

**Further information:** Homepage under construction