

WELFARE MANAGEMENT

CRITIQUE AND THE ARTICULATION OF ALTERNATIVES

10-11 APRIL, 2008 • CARLSBERG AKADEMIET, COPENHAGEN, DENMARK

CALL FOR PAPERS

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

HELD BY

DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT, POLITICS AND PHILOSOPHY

AT

COPENHAGEN BUSINESS SCHOOL, COPENHAGEN

CONFIRMED KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Prof. Thomas Lemke (*Institute for Social Research in Frankfurt am Main*)

Prof. Jean Clam (*Centre Marc Bloch*)

Prof. Sverre Raffnsøe (*Department of Management, Politics and Philosophy*)

Prof. Niels Åkerstrøm Andersen (*Department of Management, Politics and Philosophy*)

Focusing on the study of welfare management practices today, this conference aims to explore the critical foundations of contemporary systems theory and discourse analysis. The theories of Niklas Luhmann, Michel Foucault and Jacques Derrida seem to undermine all hope for establishing a basis for normative criticism. Is the observer of modern society condemned to be a merely passive voyeur of what may or may not be problematic practices? Or are there opportunities for the observer not only to describe these practices but also to prescribe improvements on the basis of concrete criticism? Perhaps social theorists are consigned to merely articulate tentative alternatives without actually proposing any one of them or explicitly opposing the status quo. There is certainly no place outside all systems or discourses from which one might launch a universal critique of them. Whatever basis may remain for criticism, it must necessarily be grounded in a particular empirical field.

Western welfare societies have witnessed radical transformations of their governance structures in recent years. Approaches like New Public Management, Governance and Empowerment, have put the development of new forms of welfare management on the agenda. Welfare management now constantly reflects upon its own conditions for improvement and refinement. In this critical perspective, Michel Foucault's theory of empowerment, Niklas Luhmann's theory of social systems and Jacques

Derrida's deconstructivism have an important role to play because the analysis and criticism they support contributes to the development of the very fields they are applied to.

This conference seeks to take the discussion a step further by asking how it is possible to take a critical position on something that already, from its own point of view, adopts such a position. In other words, how is criticism possible when it no longer holds an external position to what it criticizes but already exists as an integrated part of the field's own development and dynamic? How is it possible to formulate a scientifically grounded criticism of the existing order under these circumstances? Is it possible to articulate a critique that does not automatically refuse to be integrated within the field it criticizes? Is it even a worthwhile ideal to stand apart from the objects of critique?

The conference wants to establish a forum for discussions of these questions and to stimulate reflection about the problem of analysis when analysts themselves occupy positions within the empirical field. The conference will be based on keynote speakers and workshops with paper presentations. We invite participants to submit papers on the overall theme of the conference. Accepted papers will be considered for inclusion in an international anthology edited by Professor Niels Åkerstrøm Andersen and Professor Sverre Raffnsøe.

The conference will be held in English.

CONFERENCE SITE

See www.cbs.dk/wmcaa for details on the conference on Welfare Management – Critique and the Articulation of Alternatives, including submission guidelines and driving instructions.

DEADLINES AND GUIDELINES

February 10, 2008	<i>Submission deadline for abstracts.</i>
February 13, 2008	<i>Contributors will be notified whether their abstract (and paper) has been accepted.</i>
April 1, 2008	<i>Submission deadline for papers.</i>
April 1, 2008	<i>Deadline for registration to the conference.</i>
April 10-11, 2008	<i>Conference.</i>

Submission guidelines for papers can be found at our conference site (www.cbs.dk/wmcaa), including submission and review procedure.

ENROLMENT

The conference is free and open to 50 scholars representing the main research streams in this field. Coffee, lunches and refreshments will be provided. A conference dinner will also be held on Thursday evening (you will have to buy a ticket to attend, the fee is 35 EURO, contact Joakim Kromann Rasmussen if you wish to attend). Please note that the number of conference participants will be limited and that presenters will receive first priority.

ACCOMMODATION

For accommodation possibilities contact Joakim Kromann Rasmussen at jkr.lpf@cbs.dk or +45 38 15 36 63.

CONFERENCE DIRECTORS

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Please direct any of the questions you might have to Joakim Kromann Rasmussen at jkr.lpf@cbs.dk or +45 38 15 36 63