

Light Cultures

New Technologies, Aesthetics, and Climate Policies

Date: 8-9th April, 2015

Venue: Roskilde University, Building 02

Keynotes:

Professor Sarah Pink (RMIT)

Professor Tim Ingold (University of Aberdeen) via Skype

Reader Tim Edensor (Manchester Metropolitan University)

Reader Don Slater (London School of Economics)



Organizer: *Associate Professor Mikkel Bille*

Aim:

Light plays a fundamental role to human biology, aesthetics, and technological development. Yet as part of people's social life it has drawn remarkably little attention in the social sciences. From a social perspective, natural and artificial light are phenomena that gain diverse cultural meanings and mediate values, most often at the margins of attention. But what constitutes "good lighting" may differ from culture to culture, or even between experts and users. This conference brings together scholars, artists and designers to present and discuss the social role and cultural appreciation and orchestration of light, shadows and darkness in the creation of atmospheres. Focus is on the three themes of cultural aesthetics, new technologies and climate policies to deal with the central question: *how is social life shaped through light?*

Deadline for conference participation (free, no lunch included): March 22nd, 2015 to mikkelbille@ruc.dk

LIGHT CULTURES - PROGRAM

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Wednesday 8.4.2015

- 09:00 *Registration and Coffee*
- 09:30 Mikkel Bille (Associate Professor, Roskilde University): Welcome and Introduction
- 10:00 **Keynote: Tim Edensor** (Reader, Manchester Metropolitan): The expanding potentialities of Light festivals
- 11:00 *Coffee*
- 11:20 Casper Laing Ebbensgaard (PhD Student, Roskilde University): Exploring illuminated night lives in Newham, London
- 12:00: Jamie Cross (Senior Lecturer, University of Edinburgh): After Kerosene: Lighting Technologies and Lightscares in Rural India
- 12:40 *Lunch*
- 13:30 **Keynote, via Skype: Tim Ingold** (Professor, University of Aberdeen): Seeing with sunbeams
- 14:20 *Coffee*
- 14:50 Karin Søndergaard & Kjell Yngve Petersen (Associate professors at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts, and the IT University of Copenhagen): Adaptive Lighting Design – Staged Experiences of light
- 15:30 Panel debate: What constitutes good lighting?
- 16:15 *Reception*
- 19:00 *Dinner for speakers*

Thursday 9.4.2015

- 09:30 *Coffee*
- 10:00 **Keynote: Sarah Pink** (Professor RMIT): Light at Night: infrastructure, atmosphere and contingency
- 11:00 *Coffee*
- 11:20 Lone Mandrup Stidsen (Post doc, designer, Aarhus University): Mapping Danish lighting trends. Sociocultural aspects of light analysed in 'BO BEDRE'
- 12:00 Charlotte Louise Jensen (Post doc, Aalborg University): What is energy efficient light?
- 12:40 *Lunch*
- 13:30 **Keynote: Don Slater** (Reader, London School of Economics): Mediating urban life through light: social knowledges and lighting design practices
- 14:30 *Coffee*
- 14:45 Iben Winther Orton (Lighting designer, Lightscares.dk): Lighting design in practice
- 15:30 Mikkel Bille (associate professor, Roskilde University): The technorant: emotions, atmospheres and ignorance in an era of energy saving lighting technologies
- 16:10 Final remarks