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RE-SCA- LING THE RU- RAL

"Learning from the
hyperspecific rural
wilderness of
Agger"



Fieldstudy

Rescaling the Rural

Abstract for track 1 'Coast'

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Learning from the hyper-specific wilderness of Agger

With this abstract, we wish to discuss the field study as a 'wild'¹ architectural condition. Becoming a student of a specific locality, through immersion within a local environment for long durations of time, has transformative effects. Through repeated experiences with third year students' field studies in Agger, Thy, we find that this process calls forth deepened understandings of site, not as 'dot on the gps-map', nor as 'building plot', but as interweaving, entangling dynamics of social, ecological and cultural forces. Through a discussion of our findings, we wish to bring about a much needed discussion of 'contextual analysis' and a movement towards what we will call a *situated thick contextualism*.

Agger - Thy, a wild field of hyper-specific entanglements

Field Study: The notion of 'field' hides an anthropocentric and plantationocentric² idea of an area that can be harvested for resources; information, experiences, living entities and materials. In this abstract, we attempt to use the term *field* as a site of immersion. Being exposed to *the field* in this sense means a simultaneous immersion in the beacon of experience, the 'object' of studies and the frame for teaching.

Wild State: Within the idea of 'wild' hides an equally anthropocentric notion that we (practitioners) are somehow able to identify 'wildness' / 'wilderness' as something partial and external to ourselves, maybe even as something 'primitive'. In this abstract we wish to discuss *wildness* as a state of shift within the categories governing that which we know as 'domesticated life'. This shift enables an extended 'thick' learning membrane where a specific and situated 'way of knowing' is made open, accessible, inviting and reflective.

¹ 'The **Wild** state': relating to wild organisms.' 'The **Wild** land': not inhabited or cultivated'. Meriam Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/wild>, visited 18.01.2022. Wilderness, in this respect is referred to as 'lacking' the domesticated.

² Reflections on the Plantationocene: A Conversation with Donna Haraway and Anna Tsing <https://edgeeffects.net/haraway-tsing-plantationocene/> 2019

This modality of learning can not be replaced by second- or third- hand descriptions, nor can it be repeated. However, through practice, ‘wild conditioning’ can be cultivated, refined and sensitized, allowing for situated conceptual understandings within specific frictions³ with- and of critical ecologies to step forward. During our work, we call this phenomena ‘*Hyper specific entanglements*’⁴.

The Rural Situation - a Thick State

The urgency for a development of practices that can enable architects to meet what is demanded within the new climatic regime⁵, points to other contextual modalities of registration, analysis, and production. When working with *hyper specific entanglements* in situated ecologies of built and non-built, of human, non human and more-than human and of a plethora of accumulated inhabiting movements within this collective and situated ‘contextual fabric’ of the rural, a need for a *situated thick contextualism*, arises.

Arriving in Agger, Thy, what we find is that while we might have travelled ‘out’ to what we know as ‘an edge’ , we have also travelled ‘into’ the centre of ‘something else’. The *scarcity* of built domestication within the rural, resides along with a *thickness* of ‘something else’, the contact with which enables us to understand connections between architectural productions and large forces such as climatic and societal hyperobjects⁶. When the coastal line becomes the classroom, we all become students. and the sea, including all of its wet and dry inhabitants, becomes the teacher.

³ ‘Nonscalability theory allows scales to arise from the relationships that inform particular projects, scenes, or events.... Because relationships are encounters across difference, they have a quality of indeterminacy... Nonscalability theory requires attention to historical contingency, unexpected conjuncture, and the ways that contact across difference can produce new agendas. In earlier work, I have called these processes “friction.” Tsing, A. 2019, p.510

⁴ “Cutting together-apart” entails the enactment of an agential cut together with the entanglement of what’s on “either side” of the cut since these are produced in one move. This notion has become indispensable for me in thinking about questions of indebtedness, inheritance, memory, and responsibility.” Juelskjær M. 2012, p.20

⁵ ‘Architects and designers may now understand that one qualification should be added to the project of designing for the planet—the question, “For which planet?” Latour B. 2018, p.10

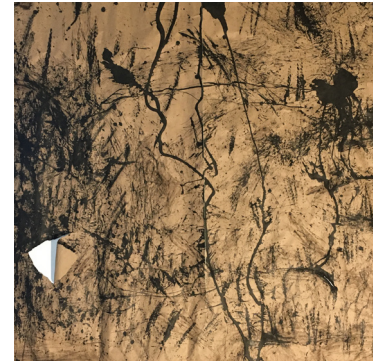
⁶ ‘Knowledge of the Hyperobject Earth, and of the hyperobject biosphere, presents us with viscous surfaces, from which nothing can be forcibly peeled. There is no Away on this surface, no here and no there.’ Morton, T. 2013, p.38



fieldstudy - exhibition in Agger



fieldstudy - exhibition in Agger



fieldstudy - exhibition in Agger



Agger 01



Agger 02



Agger 03



Agger 04



Agger 04



Agger 05



fieldstudy - exhibition in Agger



fieldstudy - exhibition in Agger



fieldstudy - exhibition in Agger



Agger 06



Agger 06



Agger 07

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Bio

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Phd stipendiat with the project: 'Towards an Ecology of Architectural Practices', and assistant Teaching Professor at the Royal Danish Academy, School of architecture, Institute of architecture, Urbanism and Landscape.

Since 2016, responsible for the 4th semester of the Bachelor Education 'Complexity in Practice' exploring site-driven project development.

Practitioner, teacher, workshopleader and lecturer at the Academy since 2006, with a special interest in artistic and collaborative practices within architectural production.

Architect at the architectural office 'DOMUS' 2006-2012.

Currently active in the platform; Radical Research CPH; a laboratory that researches, invents and creates habitats. The laboratory produces projects on all scales in a cross-disciplinary working context, focusing on the bodily and sensory experience of- and entanglement with specific spaces.

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Knud Aarup Kappel, architect MAA

Assistant professor, teacher at the Royal Danish Academy, School of architecture, Institute of architecture, Urbanism and Landscape.

Responsible for the 5th semester course in urbanism, field studies in Agger in Thy and bachelor assignment in Agger Thy throughout 2016-2021.

Artistic research within contemporary context studies. Exhibition in Agger in 2021 with Museum Thy.

Founder and owner of the private consultancy bureau KAAK/ Atelier for Byers Rum with a professional field of interest within rural, semiurban, and urban development. Particularly the development of holistic societies and strategic development plans, urban space programming, design, and transformation of places as well as dissemination of professional issues and stakeholder involvement processes.

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