

Focusing on everyday life

Within architectural theory, as well as within the social sciences in general, a renewed interest has emerged regarding how actions and phenomena of everyday life – like eating, walking, travelling, gathering, breathing, listening, and so on – can be studied in relation their social and material settings. The course *Focusing on everyday life*, deals with research on the mundane through new perspectives on the impact that seemingly trivial phenomena may have on the built environment, as well as how architecture and urban design are essential for the formation of quotidian life. The course provides opportunities to achieve an overview of everyday life as a subject of study, as a research approach and as a design practice. Accordingly, we will discuss *themes, theories* and *methods*, including:

- Architectural research concerned with everyday life
- Philosophy of everyday life
- Ethnographical methods and techniques
- Everyday life and societal changes

The introduction of ethnographic methods into architectural scholarship, or the so called 'ethnographic turn in architecture' is the outcome of several related processes: the emergence of a reflexivity trend among architectural professionals as a key epistemological feature of architectural studies, the growing realisation of architecture as a social practice and the social nature of outcomes of architectural production, the tendency to acknowledge the collective nature of design.

The reintroduction of the ethnographic methods into architecture twenty years after the pioneering work of Dana Cuff does hold remarkable potential to investigate new questions. It can contribute to dislodge unsound certainties of traditional architectural knowledge, the belief placed in the absolute authority of the historical archives and its simplifications by its practitioners reducing, even naturalising architectural research to the production of critical discourse about practices, yet taking it far from the nitty-gritty realities of design making.

The course will give an overview of theories and methodologies, with a special focus on the ethnographic approach inspired by Actor-Network-Theory (ANT), which follows the principles of no hierarchy, attention to the detail, symmetry as regards noticing what happens between humans and non-humans, undivided attention to words and the gestural and non-verbal language. The ANT-inspired ethnography denotes an approach that pays specific attention to the texture of ordinary life of designers and generates 'thick descriptions' of the knowledge practices of different participants in design and city making.

The course can be taken as a 7,5 ECTS course that includes three workshops in April, June and September, or as a 2,5 ECTS course that includes only one workshop in September.

Course leaders:, Prof. Albena Yaneva (Manchester University), Ass. Prof. Gunnar Sandin (Lund University) and Prof. Mattias Kärrholm (Lund University)

Confirmed guests: Prof. Andrea Mubi Brighenti (University of Trento), PhD Jennifer Mack (KTH Stockholm), PhD Jesper Magnusson (Malmö University), Ass. Prof. Eja Pedersen (Lund University) and PhD Kajsa Lawaczeck Körner,

Dates and sessions

Session 1: April 25-26 (In Lund LTH)

Introductory lectures by Albena Yaneva, Mattias Kärrholm and Gunnar Sandin. Short writing exercises around ANT-inspired ethnography. Seminars on pre-assignments and proposed texts.

Session 2: June 13-14. In Lund (LTH)

Lectures on the philosophy of everyday life by Andrea Mubi Brighenti. Different research perspectives on everyday life introduced by Jesper Magnusson, Eja Pedersen and Kajsa Lawaczeck Körner. Seminars based on proposed course literature.

Session 3: September 13, in Stockholm (KTH).

Jennifer Mack lectures on ethnographic methods. Seminars will be held on participants' texts and ethnographic experiments with Albena Yaneva, Mattias Kärrholm and Gunnar Sandin. This session will be held in connection with the Making Effect Research Festival arranged at ArkDes in Stockholm by the Swedish Schools of Architecture during September 14 to 16, and it will here be possible to attend a series of public events and lectures. Session 3 will be announced as an international workshop, possible to attend separately as a 2.5 ECTS course.

Application: Apply by sending a statement of interest to resarc@arkitektur.lth.se
Deadline is March 31st. **Please note whether you want to take the whole course (all three sessions), or just attend session three (September 13).**

Literature (preliminary list)

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- Yaneva, A. (2009). Making the social hold: Towards an actor-network theory of design. *Design and Culture*, 1(3), 273-288.