

**International conference at the Danish School of Education, Copenhagen Thursday 4 and Friday 5, October 2007**

## **Cognitive capitalism, knowledge economy and politics of knowledge**

In collaboration with the Department of Management, Politics and Philosophy at the Copenhagen Business School and the research priority area "The Knowledge Society" at the University of Aarhus, the research programme in Social-analytical contemporary Diagnosis at the Danish School of Education launches an international two-days conference to investigate and debate the triangular theme cognitive capitalism, knowledge economy and politics of knowledge.

The conference intends to shed cross-disciplinary scientific light on the contemporary transformations of economy and capitalism.

Qualified national and international views on the metamorphoses of economy and the sloughing of capitalism will be presented. In the last decade concepts like 'new economy', 'knowledge economy', 'knowledge-based economy', 'soft capitalism' and 'cognitive capitalism' have been ventilated. One may be eager and curious to ask what the theoretical content, conceptual strengths and the empirical validity these visionary headlines might contain and promise.

The first day of the conference these questions will be displayed and discussed in a contemporary diagnostic perspective and the following day in a critical perspective. The content and the contributions of the two days are closely interrelated.

Which current economic transformations and tendencies are in force, and which conditions do they provide for the critique of capitalism? To what extent is contemporary economic science able to comprehend, what is going on in contemporary economy and society? Can the Marxist categories and the critical approach to capitalism still be maintained? And which consequences do the transitions of economy into a 'knowledge economy' and of capitalism into a 'cognitive capitalism' have for societal understanding of knowledge? Can knowledge be grasped as a limited resource at all, or is against its social 'nature' to comprehend and consume it as a commodity?

Which new types of politics of knowledge can be outlined in the wake of knowledge economy and cognitive capitalism?

The conference will take place at The Danish School of Education, Tuborgvej 164, DK-2400 Copenhagen NV.

Thursday October 4: 9.30-16.30 in auditorium D 174

Friday October 5: 9.15-16.30 in auditorium D 169

Registration:

Please contact Hannah Mia Hendriksen, secretary at the Department of Philosophy of Education, The Danish School of Education, University of Aarhus

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Before Friday the 28<sup>th</sup> of September 2007

The conference is free.

Thursday October 4 (in auditorium D 174)

## Diagnoses of the cognitive capitalism and the knowledge economy

**9.30 - 10.15:** **Welcome and Introduction**

**Steen Nepper Larsen and Jens Erik Kristensen**, organizers of the conference and both connected to the Research programme in Social-analytical contemporary Diagnosis, The Danish School of Education

**10.15 – 12.00:**

**Yann Moulier Boutang: Cognitive capitalism**

Professor in economic science, Compiègne University, France and at the Centre Fernand Braudel, Binghamton-New York, USA. Editor of the magazine *Multitudes*. Latest work: *Le capitalisme cognitif. La Nouvelle Grande Transformation* (Editions Amsterdam 2007).

Opponent: Steen Nepper Larsen, critic and assistant lecturer, Research programme in Social-analytical contemporary Diagnosis, The Danish School of Education

**12.00 – 13.00:**

**Lunch**

**13.00 - 14.15:**

**Björn Johnson: The globalizing learning economy as a phase in the capitalist development**

Senior associate professor, Department of Business Studies Aalborg University, Denmark. An article in print: Björn Johnson M. B. Jensen, E. Lorenz and Bengt-Åke Lundvall: "Forms of Knowledge and Modes of Innovation" (In Research Policy 2007)

Opponent: Lars Axel Petersen, assistant lecturer, Institute for Culture and Identity, Roskilde University

**14.15 - 14.30:**

**Coffee break**

**14.30 – 16.00:**

**Bob Jessop: The contradictions of the knowledge-based economy**

Professor and director of the Institute of Advanced Studies at the University of Lancaster. One among many books: *The Future of the Capitalist State*, (Cambridge, Polity 2002)

Opponent: Bent Meier Sørensen, associate professor, Department of Management, Politics and Philosophy at Copenhagen Business School

