PhD Defense
Mette Ryssel Bystrup
Department of Culture and Learning

THE DEFENSE TAKES PLACE:
September 10th, 14.00-17.00

TITLE:
Social Network Relations in Neurorehabilitation Trajectories - An Entrance to Studying Inequality in the Danish Welfare State

ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE:
• Associate Professor Niels Ulrik Sørensen, Aalborg University (chair)
• Associate Professor Kirsten Beedholm, Aarhus University
• Reader in Medical Sociology Sasha Scambler

SUPERVISOR & CO-SUPERVISOR:
• Anette Lykke Hindhede, Department of Culture and Learning, Aalborg University
• Professor Kristian Larsen, The University Hospital Centre for Health Research, Rigshospitalet
• Associate Prof. Lena Aadal, Hammel Neurorehabilitation Centre and University Research Clinic
• Associate Prof. Hanne Pallesen, Hammel Neurorehabilitation Centre and University Research Clinic

VENUE:
Regionshospitalet Hammel Neurocenter, Voldbyvej 15, 8450 Hammel, mødelokale 3
You can participate in person or online
The defense will be conducted in english
Seating at Regionshospitalet Hammel Neurocenter is limited,
Registration for the event is mandatory here: https://bit.ly/3iWhwoA
Deadline 7th September
Presentation

Inequalities in illness, service provision, and outcomes are well documented in the Nordic universal welfare state. The ways in which inequalities are produced during illness recovery trajectories remain largely unknown. Brain injury rehabilitation of young adults (age 15-30) acquiring a severe brain injury provides a window into veiled aspects of inequality and the underlying mechanisms. These trajectories involve multifaceted and long-term rehabilitation accommodated by various specialized rehabilitation services provided by different welfare state institutions across sectors and legislative regulations. The age-illness combination constitute a particular vulnerability, as their transitional stage of life raises issues related to education, employment, family, and social life.

A longitudinal case study was designed following ten young injured adults and their families from before discharge at a highly specialised rehabilitation hospital to 1½ years after discharge. A multiple case study was designed containing professional records, observations, interviews, focus-group interviews and surveys and included three different perspectives, namely those of the professionals, the closest relatives and the young adult. An overall Bourdieuan theoretical framework provided analytical possibilities to help explain practices, logics, and power relations when analysing the data material and constructing rehabilitation trajectories. This was supplied with a theoretical framework concerning friendship, and social network analysis (SNA) methodology to capture, visualise and analyse the young adults’ significant social relations.

The overall research question of the study which will be answered at the PhD defense is: How is inequality (re)produced in the rehabilitation trajectories of families with a young adult who has acquired a severe brain injury?