

Exclusion/inclusion in health care meetings

Installation at Galleri Monitor, Valand

Presented at the *PARSE Conference On Exclusion and Kvalitetsmässan*, Gothenburg
15-17/11 2017

Exclusion/inclusion in health care meetings

The installation was created as part of an on-going multidisciplinary research project investigating how exclusion operates as well as the possibilities for inclusion in health care meetings. The project addresses the questions: how does exclusion operate within the context of today's health care? Is it possible for the patient to imagine her/himself anew, with the help of another? What are the possibilities and difficulties in the meeting between patient and health care professional, given that the first just entered the building, and the second has an assigned place and role in the highly professionalized, specialized and authoritative milieu of the medical establishment? How can the patient enter this institution, and how does s/he get access to care?

The question of getting access to health care can in fact be put more bluntly, with far more radical implications: how can we avoid shutting the patient out from him/her-self? The objectification and alienation of one's body resulting from illness or injury is often intensified in concrete care situations, when the body is examined and understood as a malfunctioning biological thing, and furthermore diagnosed and explained in medical language. Falling ill and being in need of care can thus imply a loss of access to one's own body and self.

The project is part of a PhD the study *Playing oneself as if another - Acting and directing strategies as practical approaches in person-centred health care*, investigating the concept of partnership between patients and care providers. This study is a collaborative project between the Academy of Music and Drama and The University of Gothenburg Centre for Person-centred Care – GPCC. Methods from theatre and film practice are employed to interpret and analyze interaction between patients and professionals in clinical healthcare encounters. The aim is to develop a multi-faceted understanding of the healthcare encounter as a complex and challenging arena for processes enacting partnership.

The installation could be described as multimedia "playing field" which includes acting performances, video and sound installations. Aspects of the research are visually presented or performed in the presentation area, by using inspiration from the process of theatrical set design. The audience can take part in a playful way to explore the results and documentation generated from the research process by listening, viewing and interacting with documentation.

"Same anamnesis – different lives"

A hospital bed is placed in the presentation area. Video screens are positioned around the bed displaying three different actors recorded while being given the same anamnesis as background information for their work with a role character. The actors demonstrate how different patients receive the anamnesis in different ways. In the ceiling over the empty bed placed in the middle of the room, a film display healthcare professionals taking care of patient. The film is recorded from an imagined patients point of view. The

visitor is invited to lie down in the bed viewing the film and imagining her or himself as the patient that the professionals in the film are taking care of.

Victoria Brattström, Actor, Director and PhD Candidate in Performance in Theatre and Music drama at the Academy of Music and Drama & Gothenburg Centre Person-centred Care University of Gothenburg, Sweden,

Linda Sternö, filmmaker and senior lecturer at Valand Academy

Helena Dahlberg, Ph.D., Senior lecturer at Institute of health and care sciences, Gothenburg University