

Eva Bendix Petersen

Nomination for the position as Vice-chair



As an interdisciplinary researcher of academic practices for over 20 years I was beyond delighted when PATHES was conceived. Here seems to be an assembly with a significant potential for hosting and stimulating good conversation among scholars who, like me, have spent their life – happily or miserably, depending on the day – at the margins of established domains. Over the years, good transactions have been had with K-12 education researchers, sociologists or historians of scientific knowledge, prosaic empirical higher education researchers, educational developers, and the odd philosopher or political theorist, etc., but here, I thought, here is a real opportunity for not only good but for great conversation! In its short life time PATHES has indeed shown itself to be a stimulating space that brings together a terrific motley crew of thinker-doers.

In taking a turn to carry the society forward I will, of course, help instantiate the plans and dreams already agreed upon. I have been in awe of the community building enterprise of the founding members and understand the need to support this work and share the load. I believe that we need to keep a keen eye on the key questions or problems that bring us together – what do we wish to think-do together that we cannot do elsewhere or alone? What does it mean that we highlight the terms ‘theory’ and ‘philosophy’ in the society’s name? What do we promise each other in doing so? How can we make this community pressing if not essential to ourselves and the world? And how can we work with a notion of ‘we’ that is both assembling and radically open? These are just a handful of the questions I wish to pursue as we continue to build PATHES together.

Brief bio-note

I hold a Masters in psychology and history (Roskilde) and a PhD in sociology (Copenhagen). I have held various academic positions in Australia and Denmark, and am currently Professor of Higher Education at Roskilde University in Denmark. I am the director of its Research Centre for Problem-oriented Project Learning, founder of the research group Critical University Studies, and the director of the university’s Unit for Academic Development. I am interested in academic practice and have written extensively on academic boundary work, the neoliberalisation of universities and academic work, doctoral education as a site of academic subjectification, and more. More recently, I have taken a particular interest in collaborative agency-oriented pedagogies for democracy.