The Anthropology and Philosophy of Moral Experience

What does it mean for human beings to be moral beings? Where are we to locate the moral dimension of human existence in the first place? How does it emerge? How do we experience moral phenomena first-hand, and what role do such experiences play in constituting and shaping our moral lives? Are moral experiences limited to certain exceptional situations and moments of crisis, or is ordinary day-to-day living the proper site of the moral? Can we speak of morality without at the same time committing ourselves to some notion of freedom?

On 19 and 20 September 2013, anthropologists and philosophers will meet to discuss these and many more questions concerning the ethical status of the human being. The conference will consist of a seminar with five longer talks and a more informal workshop comprised of a number of shorter presentations and discussions. Both events will be hosted by the Aarhus Institute of Advanced Studies (AIAS).

Organisers:
Aarhus Institute of Advanced Studies, AIAS Dale T. Mortensen Senior fellow
Cheryl Mattingly.
The research group, “Moral engines”, Contemporary Ethnography, CAS, Maria Louw.
The research project “Existential Anthropology – Inquiring Human Responsiveness”, CAS, Thomas Schwarz Wentzer and Rasmus Dyring.
THE SEMINAR
Thursday 19 September 2013
Time: 9.30-16.30
Venue: AIAS auditorium

09.30 – 09.45 Opening remarks by AIAS fellow Cheryl Mattingly
09.45-10.45 Michael Lambek: “The Continuous and Discontinuous Person: Two Dimensions of Ethical Life”

Coffee break

11.15 – 12.15 Thomas Schwarz Wentzer: “I have seen Königsberg burning.” Philosophical anthropology and the responsiveness of historical experience”

Lunch break


Coffee break

15.45 – 16.15 Discussant Uffe Juul Jensen

16.15 Conference reception
THE WORKSHOP
Friday 20 September 2013
Time: 9.00 - 16.30
Venue: AIAS Auditorium

9.00 – 9.15 opening remarks
9.15 – 9.45 Elizabeth Williams Ørberg: “Navigating both the modern and the moral: Ladakhi Buddhist youth in contemporary India”
9.45 - 10.15 Claire Elisabeth Dungey: “Negotiating ‘Proper’ behaviour: Schooling among Youth in Rural Uganda”
10.15 - 10.45 Gitte Wind: “Family life, chronic illness and morality. Chronic illness as a relational and communal matter”

Coffee break

11.15 - 11.45 Katrine Krause-Jensen: “A preference for fairness”
11.45 - 12.15 Maria Louw: “I’m atheist - but of course I believe in God”. Striving for a balanced existence in post-Soviet Kyrgyzstan”

Lunch

13.15 - 13.45 Morten Schütt: TBA

Coffee break

15.15 - 15.45 Cameron Warner: “Becoming Buddhist While Being Nepali: Re-assimilation and Paradigm Shifts”
15.45 – 16.15 Lotte Meinert: TBA
16.15 – 16.30 Closing remarks