

Roskilde University, Academic Council, meeting 4/2016, appendix 19b to pt. 3 on the agenda:

### **Proposal to appoint Frigga Haug honorary doctor of Roskilde University**

We hereby propose that Prof. Dr. habil. Frigga Haug be appointed honorary doctor at Roskilde University

#### **Grounds:**

During her long career as an active researcher, she, committedly and systematically, has been working on developing critical approaches to social science. Her contributions to Psychology, Sociology and, last not least, to feminist theory and methodology, is of crucial importance to researchers in Germany, in Denmark and in a number of other countries.

At Roskilde University/RUC, academics from several departments have been engaged in close working relations with Frigga Haug. She visited RUC frequently over the past years, invited by colleagues from the depts. of Psychology, Communication and Educational Research, as well as from the university's Center for Gender, Power and Diversity.

Since the 1970s, when Frigga Haug was a member of the research-team on critical Psychology led by Klaus Holzkamp, she has worked on the development of memory work (MW) as a specific method of research: "We experienced how language conducts politics through us" (Haug 2016, 228).

MW is a collective research method that, based on people's stories about concrete everyday episodes from their lives, contributes to develop new insights into basic social conditions. Through MW as a method, individual stories / memories are processed collectively. The special way, in which the critical working-through of memories, which is characteristic of Frigga Haug's method, makes it possible to overcome the strong individualization inherent in modern western capitalist societies. Her intention with MW is to create a platform for criticism of social conditions of human daily life. Criticism that simultaneously opens our eyes to collective courses of action.

In 2016, in her chapter on "The Politics of Hope. Memory-work as a Method to Study the Conduct of Everyday Life", Haug contributed to a volume, edited by colleagues from RUC: Here, she declares: "I consider the subject as fragile, a battleground in itself, where it wrestles with prevailing power structures to exercise agency of its own volition. In this process, the subject embodies the state, seeks to arrange itself more or less with it, and also offers resistance." (Haug 2016, p. 229)

Frigga Haug's work is firmly rooted in theory. Her main theoretical sources of inspiration are Marx, Gramsci and Luxemburg. From here, she has contributed significantly to the development of a transdisciplinary theoretical conceptual apparatus, enhancing critical insight into the relationship between man and society. Here, particular attention is directed towards the understanding of the complex ways in which social forms of government intervene in the daily lives of people, and especially how such power relations become physically embodied by and within women.

Frigga Haug's epoch-making effort for MW has created a new and socially sustainable understanding of daily life conditions. Thus, it opens up spaces for social interventions, which can expand the range of people's life opportunities - and particularly those of women.

Frigga Haug: The Politics of Hope. Memory work as a method to study the conduct of everyday life, in: Ernst Schraube u. Charlotte Højholt (Hg.), *Psychology and the conduct of everyday life*, London 2016, p. 226-240