



# Neighbor of Knowledge

Linköping University at the Swedish national “urban living expo”  
2-24 september 2017

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# We are:



**Konstantin Economou**  
Curator and Project manager, Ph.D in  
communications, culture and media  
researcher and cultural producer/curator.



**Maja Meurling**  
Project manager, BA. in Design and  
creation.



## Vallastaden 2017- Urban living expo

### What was it?

- 2-24 september
- 75 000 visitors
- 40 developers
- 1000 residences
- 78 buildings
- 800 residents during the expo
- 350 guided tours
- 425 lectures
- 500 participants
- 750 exhibition staff
- 135 000 m2 expo area

# Why take part?

## University and City

- History of collaborating in planning urban development. (Vallastaden presented at EUniverCities 2013).
- History of collaboration in the cultural sector.

## Story the university

- Chance to create a concept of how to “story the University”.
- Chance to promote LiU and its collaborations, Public reach.
- Engaging in “nextdoor” city life, “Neighbor of Knowledge”.

Using the experience to **create further methods of collaboration**, both within LiU, with city and for new fields of engagement.

# Concept, what did we want to do:

- Create a knowledge- and arts based perspective on the themes of living and urban development - extending the expo experience - and finding the exhibition concept that could give a different experience.
- Critical perspective - show contemporary social dilemmas affecting people's life.
- Highlighting the role of knowledge and the university in relation to the expo and its audience
- Engage students, staff and administration across the LiU-spectrum. Both first year student projects and top level research in the same exhibitions.



# So, what did we do:



## Everyday life

- Exhibition on living conditions.



## Who knows?

- Exhibition on the making of knowledge.



## Dorm rooms

- Video installations by two exchange students.



## Design in Pine

- Exhibition of furniture design students collaboration with chinese producers



## Active Learning Classroom

- Experimental classroom.



## At home we're the same

- Installation by media students.



## Östergötland Innovation Experience

- Showroom of social and technical innovations. In collaboration with Linköping Science Park a.o.

# Events

- Concerts "New chamber music" - performances by brass and woodwind ensembles from regional orchestra Östgötamusiken.
- the "Who knows" exhibition was activated by researchers and robots engaging the audience.
- International art project in collaboration with builders Sankt Kors
- Active participation at the expo opening. (film, robots, Parcour group, Student choir).



# Activating all of LiU

## Logistics

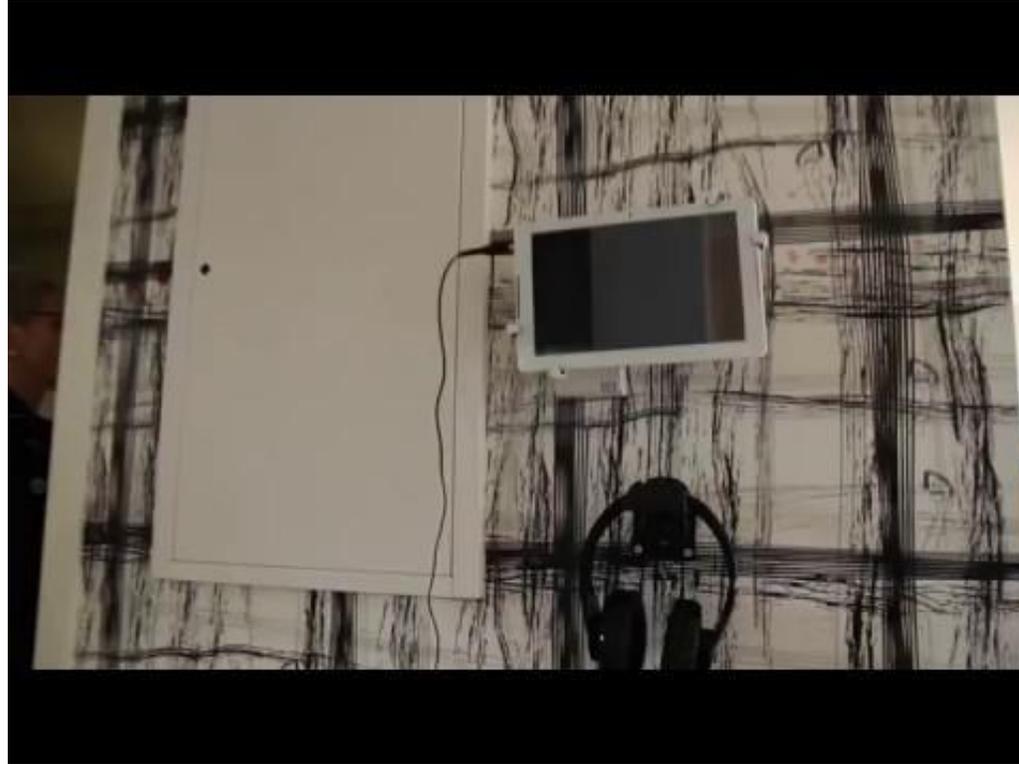
- Transport of material to the exhibitions
- Lending furniture for the exhibitions

## IT- department

- Lending us technical equipment

## Properties division

-building Active learning Classroom



## Communication and marketing

- Client and employer of students as project managers

## Research from different areas

- Gender studies
- Elderly life
- Depression
- Migration
- housing and living conditions
- AI and robotics
- Internet of things
- Design and user interaction
- Pedagogics and Active learning
- Economics
- Urban planning

## Exhibition objects from

- Furniture design students
- Craft students
- Design alumni
- LiU- teachers
- Professional artists

# Our competence and background:

- Programmes and courses in media, society and cultural production, and design in both Norrköping and Linköping. New social planning BA program
- Based on integrating theory and practice.
- Working extensively with impact and outreach of student work.
- LiU has had a close collaboration with cultural and public life in neighboring Norrköping since its inception in 1997.
- Tradition of working with cultural institutions as well as with productions companies and entrepreneurship.
- Response from city; projects, incubators, research and development fund.
- Payback from LiU; involvement, students staying on, new generations in cultural life and business.

## A previous EXAMPLE:

Collaboration between Norrköping City Museum and students from KSM:

**Se mig i ögonen (look into my eyes)**, 5 maj–1 oktober 2017

BA exam work that created a **new form of collaboration** with museums, producers and audiences with contemporary issues in focus.

“Se mig i ögonen is an exhibition that showcases experiences of being newcomers in Norrköping, and Sweden. When you enter Färgerisalen in Norrköpings City Museum from the 5th of may, you’ll meet stories that are too seldom shown to big audiences. Stories about joys, fears, dreams, about being yourself in a new environment/culture.”



# Taking courses further: Cultural production and collaboration, 30 credits

- Working exclusively in projects with outside partners.
- Long duration; one year part time studies.
- Varying backgrounds among students.
- Integrating students from day one.
- Individual work combined with collaborative efforts.
- Studying the conditions of cultural work and policy and engaging them.



# “Developing structures of collaboration that can deal with public life and contemporary life concerns”

- Give responsibility: trusting competence and creativity of the people we actually educated.
- **Real projects** - not internships - real future labor market, retaining competence in town, developing new creative generation.
- Learn to **adapt and express knowledge** to real audience. How to present real life issues and perspectives from social and cultural research.
- **Future oriented work**, projects and methods (integrative courses, models and methods. Inventory of concerns for culture and social organisations).

# How can students be activated to engage in the social and cultural sector?

**Pre-requisites:** relevant educational programmes and courses integrating theory, practice and involvement. “Cultural production and collaboration”

**Opportunities of collaboration** - activate creativity. What are the cultural arenas in town? possibilities and willingness to collaborate for real.

## **Vallastaden:**

- Model or oneoff ? Rather, pinnacle of long development of cultural impact in the region
- How we discovered/activated creativity in all of LiU

# all students were paid...

**LiU/City concerns:** cultural development, students staying in town, new labor market, alumni networks.

**Collaborative projects** can give experiences and knowledges for all, but must not lead to a whole sector starting to rely on unpaid work.

- **student or worker?**
- **future labor conditions?**
- **gratitude or gratification?**

# Concept of praktikariat

*Students: Students are exploited in the sense that they produce and reproduce intellectual knowledge and skills that are appropriated by capital for free as part of the commons. Students are furthermore frequently over-exploited as precarious workers, a phenomenon for which terms such as ‘precariat’, ‘generation internship’ or ‘praktikariat’ (from the German term ‘Praktikum’, which means internship, combined with the term ‘precariat’) can be employed.*

Fuchs, Christian. 2010. Class, knowledge and new media, University of Salzburg  
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New Delhi and Singapore), Vol. 32(1): 141–150  
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