

Press release

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Basic information

Name: Michal Frumer Email: micfru@ph.au.dk Phone: +45 9397 6038

Department of: Public Health

Main supervisor: Sara Marie Hebsgaard Offersen og Rikke Sand Andersen

Title of dissertation: Tissue changes, anticipation, ethics, and forms of life in diagnostic lung cancer surveillance

Date for defence: 10 January 2022 at (time of day): 2 p.m. Place: Online, ZOOM link: <https://aarhusuniversity.zoom.us/j/3593083616>

Press release (Danish)

Ph.d.-afhandling undersøger livet med lungekræftovervågning

Implementeringen af kræftpakker i Danmark og et sundhedspolitisk fokus på "tidlig diagnostik" har accelereret diagnostiske praksisser og udvidet, hvad der betragtes som kliniske tegn og symptomer på kræft. Disse ændringer har forbedret diagnostikken, men de har også skabt en voksende gruppe af mennesker, som får at vide, at de har et "forstadie" eller en "vævsforandring", der muligvis kan udvikle sig til kræft. De tilbydes overvågning i standardiserede programmer, så man kan følge udviklingen og gribe ind "tidligt", men kun få af disse vævsændringer udvikler sig til kræft.

Med udgangspunkt i etnografisk feltarbejde har Michal Frumer i et ph.d.-projekt fra Aarhus Universitet, Health, undersøgt de etiske og sociale implikationer af at blive overvåget for lungekræft, og hvordan overvågning og muligheden for at udvikle kræft i fremtiden manifesterer sig i hverdagen; i oplevelser, adfærd, relationer og etiske overvejelser

I afhandlingen udvikles begrebet "i mellemtiden" – som en betegnelse for en måde at være i verden på, som er en konsekvens af overvågningen for vævsændringer i den danske velfærdsstat. Det indebærer at leve med gentagen kontrol og usikkerhed om mulig udvikling af kræft, hvor diagnostiske test flettes sammen med både det dramatiske (måske jeg skal dø?) og det ordinære (det går nok, det er dejligt at blive "holdt øje" med).

Forsvaret af ph.d.-afhandlingen er offentligt og finder sted mandag den 10. januar 2022 i Samfundsmedicinsk Auditorium, Aarhus Universitet, Bartholins Allé 4, 8000 Aarhus C. Titlen på afhandlingen er "Tissue changes, anticipation, ethics, and forms of life in diagnostic lung cancer surveillance". Yderligere oplysninger: Ph.d.-studerende Michal Frumer, e-mail: micfru@ph.au.dk.

Bedømmelsesudvalg:

Lektor Loni Kraus Ledderer, Institut for Folkesundhed, Aarhus Universitet (formand)

Professor Simon Cohn, Department of Health Services Research and Policy, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Seniorforsker Laura Emdal Navne, Det Nationale Forsknings- og Analysecenter for Velfærd (VIVE), København, og Institut for Folkesundhed, Københavns Universitet.

Press release (English)

PhD dissertation explores life under surveillance for lung cancer

In Denmark, the implementation of national cancer plans and an emphasis on "early diagnosis" have accelerated diagnostic practices and expanded what might be considered as clinical signs or symptoms of cancer. These changes have improved diagnostics, but they have also produced a growing group of

people, who are told that they have a "precancer" or a "tissue change", which might develop into cancer. These people are offered surveillance in standardised regimes to ensure that it is possible to intervene "early", if cancer develops. Yet, very few of these tissue changes do actually develop into cancer.

In a PhD project from Aarhus University, Health, Michal Frumer has explored the ethical and social implications of being under surveillance for lung cancer. Based on ethnographic fieldwork, she has explored how the surveillance and anticipation of a future cancer manifest in everyday life in experiences, practices, relations, and ethical predicaments.

In the dissertation, the overall concept of "in the meantime" is developed - a form of life that is a central consequence of the surveillance for tissue changes within the Danish welfare state. "In the meantime" entails living with continuous testing and the uncertainty of anticipating cancer. Here diagnostic testing entangles with the dramatic (will I die from this?) as well as the ordinary (it will be all right, it's good to be "kept an eye on").

The public PhD defence takes place online on Monday 10 January 2022, see link above. The title of the dissertation is "Tissue changes, anticipation, ethics, and forms of life in diagnostic lung cancer surveillance". For more information, please contact: PhD student Michal Frumer, e-mail: micfru@ph.au.dk.

Assessment committee: Associate professor Loni Kraus Ledderer, Department of Public Health, Aarhus University (chairman)

Professor Simon Cohn, Department of Health Services Research and Policy, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Senior researcher Laura Emdal Navne, Danish Center for Social Science Research, VIVE, Copenhagen, and Department of Public Health, University of Copenhagen.

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