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RESEARCH EDUCATION WITHIN THE PERFORMING ARTS IN SWEDEN

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SWEDISH REGULATIONS FOR 3RD CYCLE EDUCATION IN THE ARTS

- Two separate PhD exams: on general academic ("vetenskaplig") grounds and on artistic grounds (since 2010)
- The exam goals are quite similar in their scope; some of the differences are that that:
 - - in the artistic exam the candidate should "demonstrate creative capacity in the field of XXX", and "demonstrate the capacity for artistic analysis and synthesis"
 - - the contribution to the formation of knowledge should happen through "a documented artistic research project"

OTHER REGULATIONS WITHIN THE HIGHER EDUCATION ORDINANCE

- All PhD candidates must be funded (4 years full time); the studentship is regulated at each university
- Universities can accept candidates if other kinds of funding are secured but this quite rare in the arts
- All PhD candidates has the right to two supervisors; the PhD candidate has the right to change supervisors if needed
- The PhD education has to be conducted at min. 50%, and the maximum length of the PhD education is 8 years

SOME CONSEQUENCES OF THESE REGULATIONS

- A discussion within the field concerning what can constitute a "documented artistic research project"
- More or less emphasis on textual documentation in the different programmes
- Research in the arts does not have to be evaluated according to the criteria used in the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences
- Art universities do not have to rely on collaboration with faculties providing a PhD exam on general grounds

THE HISTORY OF THE PHD IN FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS IN SWEDEN

- Before 2010 some PhD projects were conducted in collaboration with other universities, passing the general exam
- This means that artists have done doctorates in the arts, but on different conditions and leading to different exams
- 2010-2015 a national school in research in the arts (Konstnärliga forskarskolan) was established and funded by the Swedish Research council; this helped establish the field

UNIVERSITIES PROVIDING THE EXAM ON ARTISTIC GROUNDS – WITHIN THE PERFORMING ARTS

- The Faculty of Fine and Performing Arts at Gothenburg University, provides 3rd cycle education in the subject "theatre"
- The Faculty of Fine and Performing Arts at Lund University provides 3rd cycle education in the subject "theatre"
- Stockholm University of the Arts provides 3rd cycle education in the subject "performative and mediated practices", with specialisations in choreography, film and media, opera and performing arts
- Other universities may employ candidates admitted to other universities (for instance in opera, performing arts)

CANDIDATES EXAMINED SO FAR WITHIN THE PERFORMING ARTS?

- Approximately 10-15 candidates have been examined so far within the performing arts since 2005 (my estimation) of these 5 are within choreography
- These candidates have done their research education under quite different circumstances, while the field was growing and becoming more firmly established
- Many of them have continued to work within higher education

RESEARCH EDUCATION AT UNIARTS

- Uniarts obtained degree awarding powers on artistic grounds, within the area "Artistic practices" 1st of June 2016
- Until now all PhD candidates have been admitted in collaboration with other universities, especially the Faculty of Fine and Performing Arts, Lund University (that also hosted "Konstnärliga Forskarskolan")
- We currently have 15 PhD candidates employed at Uniarts, and we are recruiting 6-8 candidates starting the 1st of January 2016
- 2 PhD candidates are employed through a collaboration between Uniarts and the Royal Institute of Art, Stocholm

THE ORGANISATION OF UNIARTS' RESEARCH EDUCATION

- Uniarts has one research education subject, "Performative and mediated practices", with four specialisations: choreography, film and media, opera, performing arts
- The research education is organised jointly for all specialisations
- Courses and seminars are organised by the Research Centre for all PhDs, but the PhDs are placed in the departments close to colleagues and students within the same specialisation

THE STRUCTURE OF THE RESEARCH EDUCATION

- The syllabus for the research education is stipulated in the general study plan. The education consists of the following elements:
- 30 ects: Compulsory courses
- 15 ects: Compulsory doctoral seminars
- 15 ects: Elective courses
- 180 ects: Individual (documented) artistic research project

DEPARTMENTAL DUTIES

- Uniarts has decided to offer all PhD candidates 10-20% departmental duties (teaching, participating in working groups etc.)
- The PhD education is prolonged with the same amount of time
- Each Head of department has a dialogue with the PhD candidates in the department about possible courses and tasks, to facilitate the integration between research and education

FINANCIAL STRUCTURE OF THE PHD EDUCATION

- All PhD candidates are employed and receive a studentship/salary. The salary is regulated by a "doctoral students' salary scale"
- The main supervisor has 5% of a full time position for supervision, and the second supervisor has 3% of a full time position
- Doctoral candidates has access to some funding for their projects
- In addition doctoral candidates have access to space and technical resources, depending on availability etc.
- All these costs are paid by the research funding that Uniarts receives

ADMISSION AND RECRUITMENT PROCESS

- Uniarts has its own procedure for admission and recruitment
- The Education and Research Board proposes how the process is structured, and the Vice-Chancellor decides to announce new positions
- The process includes selections based on: applications, external reviewers evaluation of applications, interviews
- The selection is made based on a number of criteria, decided by the Education and Research Board
- The applications contain: a project description, cv, artistic reference material

EXAMINING THE FINAL PHD PROJECT

- The PhD project is examined at a public PhD defense/viva
- The "documented artistic research project" is submitted for examination, four weeks before the defense/viva
- An opponent is appointed to discuss the work critically in public at the defense/viva, so that the examining committee can see how the PhD candidate responds
- The examining committee consists of three (or five) members (and a substitute is appointed), the examining committee may ask questions at the defense/viva too

THE "DESIGN" OF A PHD PROJECT

- Within the frame of a "documented artistic research project", a PhD project can be designed in many different ways
- We do not have a "set formula" for the design; the design has to be coherent with the research questions and methods pursued in the PhD project
- The PhD project should be presented at "percentage seminars" during the PhD education (at 30%, 50% and 80% of the work)
- The presentation happens through "exposition", in forms/media appropriate for the project in a way that exposes the insights acquired through the research

SOME OF THE CURRENT CHALLENGES FOR ARTISTIC RESEARCH IN SWEDEN

- Strengthening the senior research environments
- Strengthening the structures for supervision (providing supervisors' training, exchange of supervisors etc.)
- Providing post doc opportunities
- Clarifying the actual requirements for PhD candidates and supervisors and establishing common frames of reference
- How to deal with the economy around PhD projects in the arts