



Creating a hybrid sense of belonging in Copenhagen

Monka, Malene

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Creating a hybrid sense of belonging in Copenhagen – a case study on Facebook

In the paper I examine how a cultural event (tilting at the ring) traditionally associated with the periphery of Denmark is transferred to the capital of Copenhagen. This transfer was initiated by a group of mobile youngsters originally from Southern Jutland now living in Copenhagen. After the first event, a Facebook-community was set up to organize and promote succeeding events. By analyzing empirical data from Facebook I point to how the participants draw on a range of ‘languagecultural practices’ (Cornips & de Rooij in press) to re-contextualize the rural tradition to an urban setting. I discuss whether and how the two dimensions of ‘belonging’ (Antonsich 2010), i.e. place-belongingness and politics of belonging, are made relevant by the participants.

The connection to Southern Jutland is pointed to in several ways: linguistically by using dialect orthography, materially by pointing to local products and culturally by enacting the competition (Coupland 2014). Yet, I argue that the participants do not create a copy of the activity as it is played out in its original setting, rather it is ascribed a certain urban coolness, which might be a way of demonstrating hybrid senses of belonging to both Southern Jutland and Copenhagen.

Malene Monka is a socio-dialectologist. In her PhD-thesis Monka drew on humanistic geography theories on place to explain different patterns of dialect leveling in three distinct Danish dialect areas. In her current research she and fellow researchers are investigating how place-effects may influence and explain the language use of Danish youngsters in an urban and rural Denmark.