

A look at NUK ++. Research on circumpolar inclusive youth arts festival

Dr. Rikke Gürgens Gjørnum
Akershus University College

Tine Eriksen Skjold
NUK++

From 2017-2020 The Arctic Art Festival in Northern Norway's youth initiative NUK++ will be explored by a research team from the Norwegian Arctic University to find out more about how the festival facilitate and can facilitate art work in an inclusive way. NUK++ has through 25 years developed as a unique inclusive arts festival for young people in circumpolar north. The method involves conducting follow-up research over 3 art festivals (2017-2020). Action research and continuous contact between the research team, the chairman of NUK++ and the youth's program council will be of importance in order to use the research result to further develop the festival. The research design is practice-led, and the objective is: "To investigate how NUK++ facilitate art processes for the participants, with a focus on *integration strategies* and *grades of participation* in relation to the individual's abilities." Dewey, Gadamer, Ranciere and Bishop will be used to analyze the findings.

Bios:

Rikke Gürgens Gjørnum is a professor at the Department of Aesthetics at Oslo and Akershus University College, and works as a research director at the Norwegian Arctic University in Tromsø. She has a PhD in drama/theater and has been researching the field of disability art, communication, interaction and conflict resolution within the forum theater tradition and emancipatory pedagogy.

Tine Eriksen Skjold (1989) is a freelance drama teacher and theater producer from Oslo, Norway. She has a master's degree in drama and theatre from the Department of Aesthetics at Oslo and Akershus University College, and is now working as an assistant for the research on NUK ++. The summer of 2017 she also worked as an instructor at the youth festival.