

PhD in Health and Social Sciences,
Professional Practice - Terms and Development

Trial Lecture and Public Defence of Doctoral Dissertation



Doctoral Student: Kristine Vaadal

Friday, March 11th 2022

Volda University College

[Link to live streaming](#)

Kristine Vaadal holds her trial lecture and public defence of her doctoral dissertation for the PhD in Health and Social Sciences, Professional Practice - Terms and Development. The doctorate is offered by Volda University College and Molde University College. The Disputation is the final part of the PhD.

Title

'New Femininities', Alcohol Consumption and life Beyond Young Womanhood. Negotiating Gender, Class and Age-appropriate Identities through Alcohol Consumption

Constructions of acceptable drinking are intimately intertwined with gender. Whereas women's alcohol consumption and nightlife participation traditionally has been considered problematic, it has to a large degree become normalised and expected over the last decades. However, research in this field has demonstrated that women today are negotiating contradictory expectations of drinking and going out more similarly to men, while simultaneously adhering to conventional ideals of femininity by remaining more in control over intoxication, safety, and sexuality. In other words, women are navigating both newer and more conventional ideals of femininity as they drink and go out.

In her doctoral thesis, Ph.D.-candidate Kristine Vaadal explores the meaning of alcohol in the lives of women in their late twenties and early thirties. In four published articles different aspects of alcohol consumption and nightlife participation are explored, based on in-depth interviews with women aged 18-34.

The doctoral thesis demonstrates that the women's alcohol consumption should be understood as embedded in broader life projects, related to lifestyle and career, and in light of their imagined future lives as adult women. The study shows that ideals of femininity change with age, and that gender must be re-negotiated considering new life-phases. This is reflected in the women's drinking practices. As part of growing older, the women interviewed in this study described both new ways of participating in nightlife, as well as an increased importance of the domestic sphere. Moderate, frequent, and sophisticated drinking and nightlife practices could be presented as both empowered and respectable for the participants in this study, thus enabling new drinking practices and ways of participating in nightlife. However, sexual agency in nightlife became more difficult with age and limited their autonomy in nightlife in new ways.

Supervisors

Sveinung Sandberg, Professor, PhD, Oslo University

Silje Louise Dahl, Associate Professor, PhD, Volda University College

Sébastien Tutenges, Associate Professor, PhD, Lund University

Evaluation Committee

Jukka Törrönen, Professor, PhD, Stockholm University

Sarah Maclean, Associate Professor, PhD, La Trobe University, Melbourne, Australia

Marianne Rugkåsa, Professor, PhD, Oslo Met/Volda University College



Kristine Vaadal (33) has a master in Sociology from University of Oslo. The master was completed in 2015. Vaadal is currently employed as lecturer at Department of Social Work, Faculty of Social Sciences and History, Volda University College.

Since 2021 she has held a research grant at Volda University college, with the project Mandatory Reporting of Intimate Partner Violence.

SCHEDULE

10.15: Trial Lecture

Topic for the trial lecture: «Identify Implications of the Study for Alcohol Policy, how it Challenges or Extends Relevant Theory and Literature and how a Norwegian Case Provides New Insights.»

11.00: Break

12.15: Public Defence

The dissertation is entitled: «'New Femininities', Alcohol Consumption and life Beyond Young Womanhood. Negotiating Gender, Class and Age-appropriate Identities through Alcohol Consumption»

- Procession entering (the audience rises up)
Dean, Doctoral Student, Evaluation Committee and Leader of The Doctoral Committee
- Dean introduces the Doctoral Student and her dissertation
- The Doctoral Student presents her dissertation
- First Opponent examines the Doctoral Student
- Short break – approx. 10 minutes
- Second Opponent examines the Doctoral Student
- Opponents ex auditorio
- Procession exiting (the audience rises up)
Dean, Doctoral Student, Evaluation Committee and Leader of The Doctoral Committee

The dissertation is available for public review from Friday 24th of February at Studentsørvis and in the library.

