

Högre seminarium
onsdag 29 januari 2020 i sal 4260 (Key-huset)

Higher Seminar

Wednesday 29 January 2020 in room 4260 (Key Building)

**Resounding the colonial archive with impressions from a field trip to
Ghana**

Lene Asp Frederiksen

Forskarskolan Språk och kultur, IKOS.

In the seminar I document a field trip to Ghana where I so to say travel in the footsteps of the Danish colonizers to the Gold Coast in a bid to dialogically challenge the genre of the *monologizing* colonial travelogue*. My methodological retracing of the slave route is inspired by Danish author Thorkild Hansen's book trilogy *Coast of Slaves*, *Ships of Slaves* and *Islands of Slaves* from the 1960s in which he visits the former Gold Coast (in the, at the time of his visit, still very young Ghanaian nation, which had gained its independence from Great Britain in 1957) and the Danish West Indies. Hansen was one of the first to voice a strong critique of the Danish colonial past and of a neglectful historiography through his docu-fiction. I was curious to explore in a parallel movement to Hansen's the landscape as prism and archive today. Hence, the 'reenactment' of the travelogue in my presentation functions as an attempt to recast and refracture colonial narratives of past and present. My own documentary audio recordings from the field trip are presented along with methodological reflections on how to voice *dialogical narratives* about colonialism in new digital media.

*I use the term monologizing throughout in Mikhail Bakhtin's sense. For Bakhtin, monological language is a corruption of an underlying dialogism. All signifying practices have an ultimate dialogical aim. Nevertheless, language-use can maximize this dialogical nature or seek to minimize it.