



# GASTVORTRAG

12.12.2019, 17:00 Uhr, ÜR

IKSA, NIG, Universitätsstraße 7, 1010 Wien, 4. Stock

## Stine Hauberg Nielsen

A Shot at a Healthy Future — Exploring how HPV vaccine related controversies reflect new and broader challenges to public health

Young women captured the attention of the Danish public in 2013-15 when they within a short time frame of their HPV vaccinations reported experiences of dizziness, fatigue, non-migraine-like headache, cognitive dysfunction, gastrointestinal discomfort, and widespread pain. Dramatic stories of young women, seemingly happy and healthy before their vaccinations, yet now confined to their beds, were spread across national news and social media platforms before regional 'HPV clinics' were opened. In the first half of this talk, I present the particular case of the Danish HPV vaccine controversy and situate it within global discussions of the HPV vaccine undergirded by questions of sexuality, trust, knowledge, and scientific validity. In the second half, I present insights from my long-

term ethnographic fieldwork in Denmark, where I explore the experiences of the different actors involved with the politicized and polarized debate on the safety of the HPV vaccine. My talk thus engages with questions related to the kinds of issues, values, and forms of knowledge that underlie public health demands and to what extent and why specific health care measures, in this case the HPV vaccine, match or fail to match these expectations. Furthermore, it points to the significance of exploring the particularities of how and when HPV vaccine related controversies unfold globally in order to understand how we make sense and produce knowledge concerning health and health care in a time with excess information and no monopolies of knowledge.



**Stine Hauberg Nielsen** is a PhD student at the Department of Anthropology at Aarhus University, Denmark. Her research interests lie in the critical interface between general anthropology, biology, and medicine. Her PhD project, in which she explores the Danish HPV vaccine controversy, forms part of an international and interdisciplinary research project, PUSH, initiated by Associate Professor Marie Louise Tørring. PUSH merges epidemiological and anthropological understandings and methods to study the emergence of global HPV vaccine controversies and local epidemics of HPV related side effects.