Special Guest Lecture by Cheryl Mattingly

Cosmopolitan Humanism: Alterity, Difference and the Singular Plural Community

This talk is based on a study of African American families raising children with significant illnesses and disabilities in Los Angeles. It opens with a question posed by an African American grandmother who tells a story about a surprising experience at a glamour shop. She is startled when she sees the photos that have been taken after her makeover. She asks herself: Who is this? The lecture engages her question by introducing three phenomenological themes:

(1) the experience of the gaze, or the “look,”
(2) the experience of alterity and transcendent relationality
(3) the implications of the grandmother’s experience for rethinking a humanism beyond universals of sameness.

Analytically, the talk contributes to a growing body of anthropological work in critical phenomenology.

Time: 12 September 2018 at 14.15 – 15.30
Venue: Aarhus University, building 1441/012.

After the lecture, the School will host a reception.

All are welcome