

SYMPAB - (15924) - 'DON'T WORRY, THERE WILL ALWAYS BE A NEED FOR HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS': UNDESIRE SCIENCE IDENTITIES

Katia Kromann Nielsen (Denmark)¹; Lene Møller Madsen (Denmark)¹

1 - University of Copenhagen

Short Abstract

This paper explores the role of humor in constructing recognizable, celebrated and undesirable science identities. We draw on empirical material from ethnographic fieldwork carried out at two bachelor programmes at a Danish research-intensive university. In the fieldwork, we followed the second-year students during a year across formal and informal academic and social activities. Here we focus on the informal social activities, in specific the production and playing of the yearly revue, a show with sketches, short videos and songs. The analysis shows how the revue created a strong community for students, and at the same time portrayed specific parts of the disciplines and specific aspirations, including science teaching, as undesirable. Humor in this way, acts both by creating celebrated science identities, but also by communicating strong norms about what counted as desirable aspirations and career paths.