

# Amund Rake Hoffart

**“Intersectionality, yes”: Metacommentaries on intersectionality in Nordic feminist and gender research and beyond**

At a time when many scholars claim that intersectionality studies is emerging as an academic field of its own, a specialised genre of metacommentary works on intersectionality is on the rise. There was a surge of such field-surveying works on the project of intersectionality appearing in print during the 2010s. In these works, fundamental questions about intersectionality's past, present and future are being asked repeatedly. What kind of intellectual, political or ethical project is intersectionality? What is at stake in the formulation of intersectionality as an idea? What problems does it respond to or seek to remedy? Where does it come from, and where is it heading? To whom does it belong? Who can speak in its name?

A similar turn to metacommentary can be identified within the more local context of Nordic feminist and gender research, most recently in a 2020 NORA special issue on intersectionality which had the evocative title “Intersectionality, yes, but how?”. The title phrase signals that although feminist theoretical discourses are characterised by a consensus that intersectionality should by now be considered indispensable (“intersectionality, yes”), the actual doing of intersectionality is still surrounded by an air of mystery (“but how?”). While the phrase seems to motivate interrogations of the question of how to do intersectionality in practice, this talk is more interested in analysing what is allowed to stay in the background of this narrative: the “intersectionality, yes”, that is, the notion of intersectionality as an indispensable perspective for (Nordic) feminist and gender research.

The talk explores how intersectionality is framed through metacommentary in Nordic feminist and gender research. It builds on my recent PhD study of a series of US metacommentary monographs on intersectionality and will discuss the relevance of its findings to the Nordic context.



## Bio

Amund Rake Hoffart is a PhD Candidate in Gender Studies at Örebro University, Sweden. He holds a master's degree in Philosophy from the University of Oslo, Norway. His research interests include feminist philosophy and critique, philosophy of language and gender research terminology. He is currently finalising his PhD thesis with the title *Intersectional Intersectionality? Interpretative Politics in Metacommentaries on Intersectionality* (forthcoming 2021). In the thesis, Hoffart explores the construction of intersectionality as a paradigm by analysing metatheoretical stories told about intersectionality's past (tracing its genealogies), present (defining a field of intersectionality studies) and future (searching for improved metaphors).