

PCEL-conference June 2013

Tine Jensen  
Roskilde University  
[tinex@ruc.dk](mailto:tinex@ruc.dk)

Abstract  
Remembering forgetfulness

This presentation takes an onset in an everyday life approach to forgetting. Thus, the question here is neither about "retrieval problems", as forgetting is coined in cognitive science, nor is it about psychoanalytical concepts of "repression". Rather, this paper looks at the meanings that forgetting and forgetfulness takes on in everyday activities. The empirical material is derived from a memory-work-shop in the aftermath of a seminar on remembering and forgetting in the framework of the SUBSTANce research group. Researchers wrote stories about forgetting and forgetfulness, based on the task: "Tell a story, about a time when you forgot something". These stories all revolved around forgetting: Something I could not find, someone I could not remember, something, I suddenly remembered that I forgot. The stories have commonalities, but also differences, but one commonality seems to be the discursive coupling of remembering/forgetting and accountability, interest, as well as moral stance. This presentation wants to invite the audience to discuss different takes on forgetting, rather than to the presentation of "results".