



AALBORG UNIVERSITY  
DENMARK

## Invitation to PhD defense by Jens Hundevad Bloch

### **Title of the thesis: Making of Hub Airports - a cross analytical approach based on Aeromobilities**

Industrial PhD thesis in cooperation with Aalborg University and Copenhagen Airports A/S.

**Date:** 7<sup>th</sup> of December 2018

**Place:** Auditorium, Copenhagen Airport, Lufthavnsboulevarden 6, 2770 Kastrup, Denmark

#### **Program:**

13.00 - 13.05 Moderator Lea Louise Holst Laursen, Associate professor, Aalborg University

13.05 - 13.50 Presentation by Jens Hundevad Bloch

13.50 - 14.05 Break

14.05 - 16.00 Questions

16.00 - 16.30 Assessment

16.30 - Reception

#### **Abstract:**

The thesis seeks to develop an understanding of hub airports based on the thoughts from Aeromobilities. Based on a theoretical set of lenses consisting of Policies and Materialities, the thesis investigates drivers behind 4 European hub airports: Helsinki Airport, Zurich Airport, Brussels Airport and Amsterdam Schiphol Airport. Hereafter, the development of Copenhagen Airport is analyzed, and recommendations are developed to strengthen the connectivity and the hub function in Copenhagen Airport.

In contrast to conventional quantitative aviation research, this thesis has a qualitative research approach in order to identify dynamic causalities, discourses and rationalities behind the production of hub airports. The theory of Mobilities and its subfield Aeromobilities layout the ground for this societal approach to hub airports, which both depends on local, regional and global relations. The thesis finds, that to understand the development of hub airports, the airport cannot be understood as a standalone entity, but needs to be understood as a relational and historic place in the context of society. The production of Aeromobilities takes place in a nexus of controversies and requires long-term commitment from involved stakeholders. Due to the wider societal understanding of hub airports, the thesis argues for a governance approach to bridge different stakeholders' interest. As foundation for development of a country's domestic and global reach, hub airport must be considered as a strategic instrument; however, it is important to stress that this requires long-term commitment and an acknowledge that such development of hub airports is not without associated financial and institutional cost, as well as externalities.

#### **Supervisors:**

Associate Prof. Claus Lassen, Aalborg University (PhD supervisor)

Prof. Ole B. Jensen, Aalborg University (Assistant PhD supervisor)

#### **PhD committee:**

Associate Professor Kristian Olesen, Aalborg University

Professor Frank J. A. Witlox, Ghent University

Economist & Project Manager Jagoda Egeland, OECD