The theme of this event is ‘prefiguration’, which is a term that designates the attempt to reflect, at an organizational level, the change that one is advocating at a societal level. According to Maeckelbergh, prefiguration thus means ‘removing the temporal distinction between the struggle in the present and a goal in the future; instead, the struggle and the goal, the real and the ideal, become one in the present.’ Prefiguration can take many forms and has been practiced by a variety of social movements and activist groups. One example is Occupy Wall Street. Through a series of creative techniques, such as the Human Microphone and an elaborate system of hand signals, the movement sought to create a microcosm based on the virtues of direct democracy.

This year’s EGOS theme, The Good Organization, begs several fundamental questions. One question is: What kind of society does the ‘good’ organization prefigure? In this event, we take this question as our point of departure. We do so by visiting three types of organizations that more or less explicitly advocate societal changes by ‘walking the talk’, so to speak.

On Thursday the 6th, we start by visiting the youngest party in the Danish parliament called The Alternative. Besides engaging in traditional parliamentary activities, The Alternative experiments with a variety of participatory practices, such as bottom-up policy making and live-streamed group meetings; all of this in the name of a more democratic and transparent kind of politics. After visiting the parliament, we move to the district of Vesterbro to have dinner at Absalon, which is a former church that now functions as a ‘folkehus’ (people’s house). Based on the slogan, ‘your extended living room’, Absalon seeks to create a common space where citizens of Copenhagen can meet, eat, listen to music, play table tennis, and enjoy each other’s company. In short, it’s a soup kitchen for hipsters.

It is possible to sign up for this event only or for both this and the excursion to Christiania on Friday. Sign up for the event(s) when registering for the Colloquium.

Welcome!