Prefiguring the ‘Good’ Society II: Excursion to Christiania (‘Copenhagen’s Infamous Autonomous Neighborhood’)

**When:**
Friday, July 7, 16:30-19:00
16:30-17:30: Guided tour around Christiania
18:00-19:00: Dinner at Christiania for those not participating in the official EGOS dinner

**Meeting Point:**
Contact the organizer below

**Contact person:**
Emil Husted, Copenhagen Business School (eh.ioa@cbs.dk)

**Event description:**
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 Friday the 7th, we visit the perhaps most famous social experiment in Danish history. Established as a ‘free town’ in 1971 by a group of squatters, the autonomous neighborhood of Christiania today comprises some 80 acres of land and houses around 850 residents. What makes Christiania famous outside Denmark is probably its reputation as a hotbed for cannabis trade, but this is not why we visit the community. Since its inception, Christiania has been based on principles of consensus democracy. That is, no decisions are made until all participants in the ‘joint meeting’ agree. Naturally, this makes the decision-making process slow, but also highly inclusive. The virtues and pitfalls of this type of organization will be the main topic of our visit to Christiania. Those who are not participating in the official EGOS dinner will have the opportunity to dine at one of Christiania’s restaurants.

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

**Welcome!**