

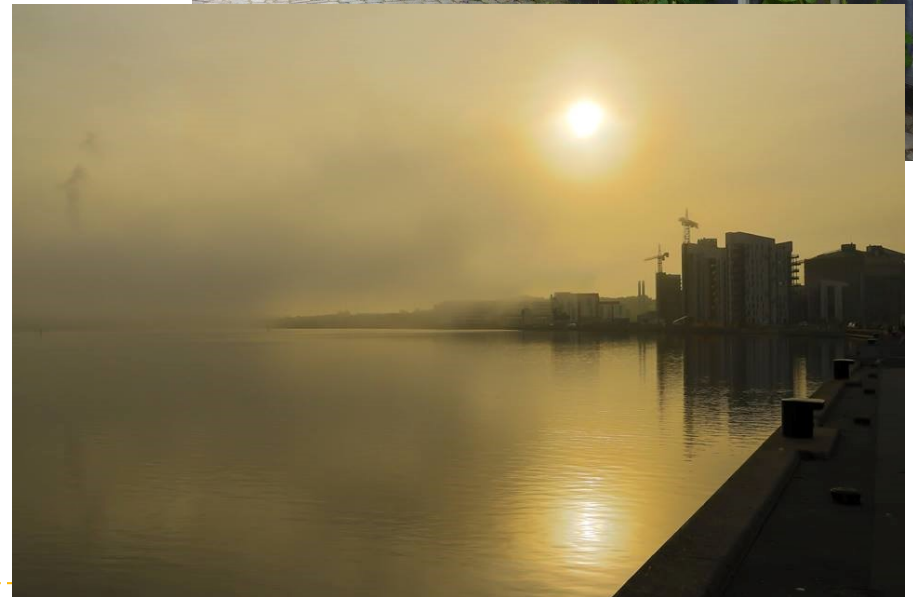
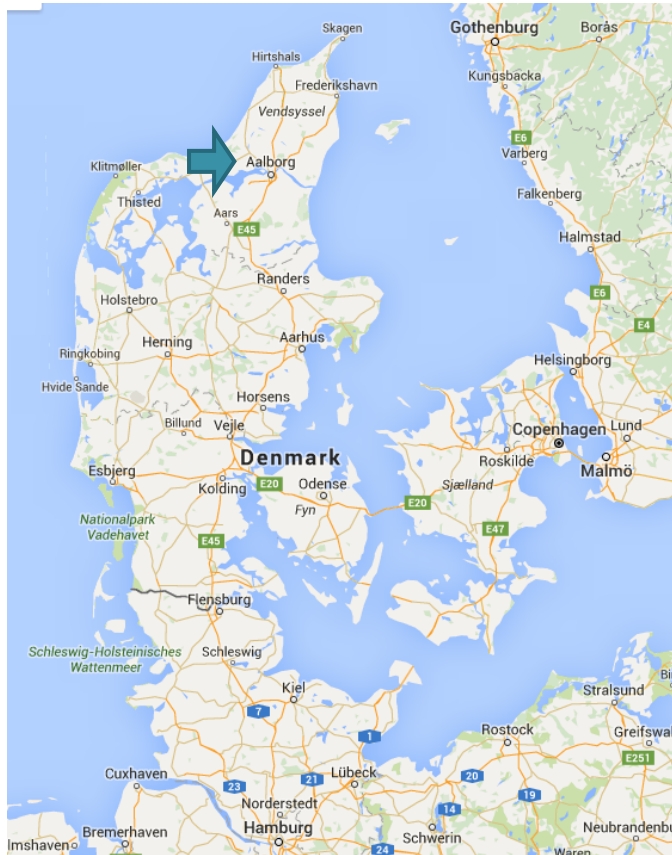
The value of using photography and storytelling with people with dementia

Alison Ward

Researcher, PhD student, MSc.

Diana Schack Thoft

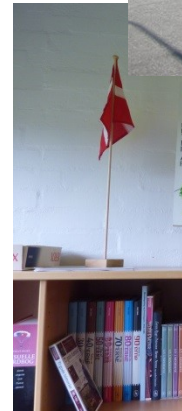
Joint degree PhD student, Senior Lecturer, MSc., RN



VUK

- ▶ VUK (School for adult education and communication)
 - ▶ Compensatory special education for adults
 - ▶ Lifelong learning

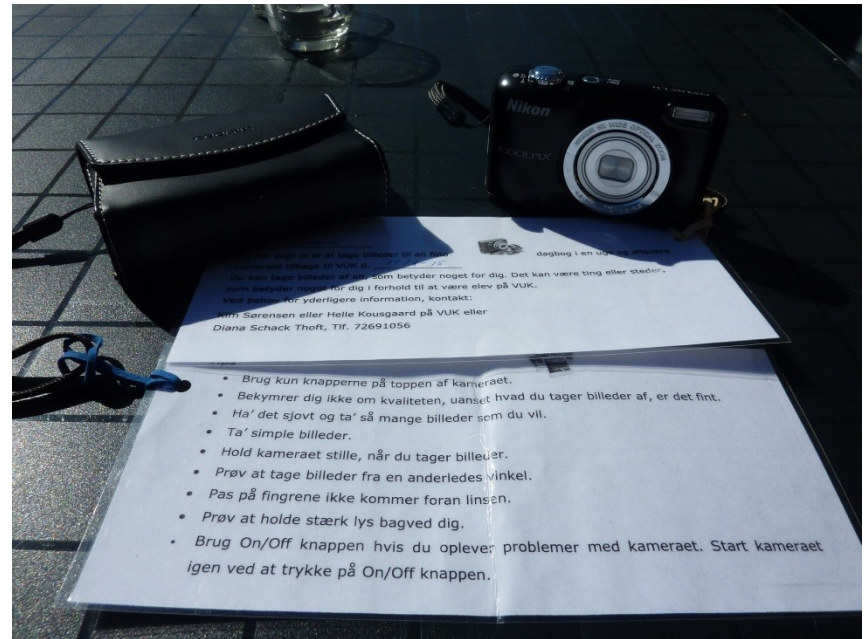
- ▶ People with early-stage dementia
 - ▶ Training and stimulation
 - ▶ Music and art therapy
 - ▶ Woodcraft



VUK, Aalborg Municipality, Denmark

Photography and Storytelling Project

- ▶ Aim: To explore the student's experiences of being a student at VUK
- ▶ 10 students
 - ▶ (5 M/5 F – Aged 67-83)
- ▶ Given a camera with instructions
- ▶ Four weekly sessions
 - ▶ (2 groups)



Session Plans

- ▶ Group Poem
 - ▶ Being a student
 - ▶ Arriving at VUK
 - ▶ Other students
 - ▶ Teachers
 - ▶ Breaks and Activities
- ▶ Storyboard of a 'typical' day at VUK
- ▶ Home and family life
- ▶ Celebration and review



Taking & Talking about the Images

- ▶ Taking the photos
 - ▶ Support and help

- ▶ The sessions
 - ▶ Open questions
 - ▶ Focus on feelings rather than memory

- ▶ The student's engagement
 - ▶ Recall of pictures
 - ▶ Sparked memories
 - ▶ Enhanced the discussion



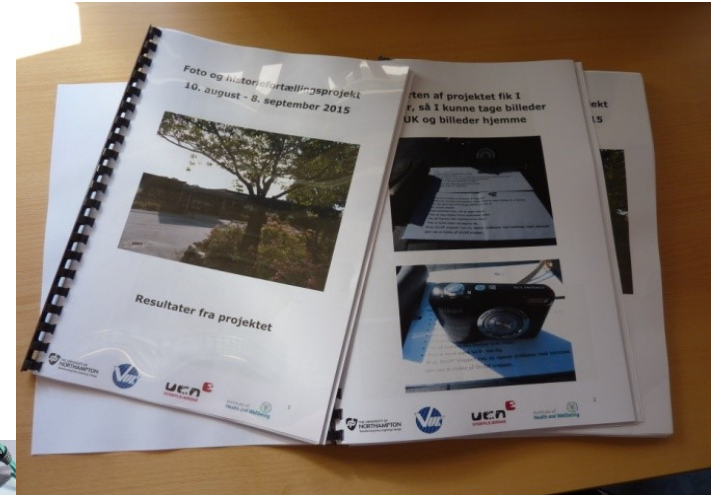
Attending VUK – How did they experience it

- ▶ Look forward to what the day brings
- ▶ Meeting new ‘challenges’
- ▶ Succeeding in tasks
- ▶ ‘Positive learning’
- ▶ Friendships



‘It is about being together and new experiences. The unique thing is that you are fed with things that you have forgotten.’

Final thoughts



Acknowledgements

- ▶ This project was jointly funded by:
 - ▶ The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust and The Baring Foundation
 - ▶ The University of Northampton
 - ▶ University College of Northern Denmark, The Department of Nursing

 - ▶ The team would like to thank the staff and students at VUK for their support and participation with this project.
-

