

Inaugural lecture

Adjunct Professor Bo Stjerne Thomsen



MAKING SPACE
FOR **PLAY**



MAKING SPACE FOR PLAY: WHY THE FUTURE OF INNOVATION DEPENDS ON THE FUTURE OF LEARNING

DTU Entrepreneurship is pleased to invite all interested parties to celebrate our new Adjunct Professor, Bo Stjerne Thomsen.

His inaugural lecture will take place on:

Friday 29 May 2026 from 14:30 to 15:30

at DTU Skylab, Building 374, "Arena", DK-2800 Kongens Lyngby.

Bo's lecture will be followed by a reception from 15:30 to 16:30.

Read more and sign up here:

<https://dtu.events/inaugurallecturebostjernethomsen>

We look forward to celebrating Bo and seeing all of you.

Best regards

DTU Entrepreneurship

Jes Broeng

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Entrepreneurship

Summary of lecture

Education stands at a turning point. Expectations are rising: stronger knowledge, greater ability to apply it to real problems, more capacity to navigate uncertainty and change, and continued need for engagement and well-being. Yet many education systems are still shaped by older assumptions about knowledge, performance, and control - with too little room for innovation.

This matters far beyond schools and universities. It affects how we prepare citizens, professionals, and communities to live with technological change, societal pressure, environmental disruption, and new forms of collaboration. It affects whether people mainly learn to reproduce what is already known - or to think creatively, act responsibly, and create value with others.

Hands-on audience experience

In this lecture, Bo Stjerne Thomsen argues that as knowledge becomes more accessible and increasingly supported by AI, education has a new opportunity: to become more embodied, more responsible, and more innovation-driven. Through examples, learning science, historical change, and a hands-on audience experience, he points to possible directions for the future of learning and highlights shifts that can make context, connection, and innovation a more integrated part of education.

Bo Stjerne Thomsen

A Danish education leader and researcher focused on learning, play, creativity, and innovation.

2023-now: Head of Educational Impact, LEGO Education

2020-2023: Chair of Learning through Play, LEGO Foundation

2017-2020: Global Head of Research, LEGO Foundation
2013-2017: Head of Centre for Creativity, Play & Learning, LEGO Foundation

2011-2013: Head of LEGO Learning Institute, The LEGO Group

2009-2011: Robot Designer, Danish Technological Institute

2001-2009: Co-Director, Novosion ApS

2009: PhD in Architecture & Design, Aalborg University

2004-2006: Assistant Professor, Aalborg University

2004: MSc in Architecture & Design

Research affiliations with MIT, Tsinghua University, Harvard University, and Tufts University.