

THOMAS SOLOMON- THE PLAY OF COLORS

**TUESDAY, 1 SEPTEMBER 2015 - 12.00 TO 13.30 @ UNI ROKKAN CENTRE,
NYGÅRDSGT. 5(6 ETG)**

Fargespill (lit. “play of colors”) is a series of musical performances in Norway that have been staged from 2004 to the present. Each performance consists of a sequence of musical and dance numbers performed by children from different minority and immigrant groups, many of whom came to Norway as refugees, together with white Norwegian children. The songs and choreographies represent the home countries of the children who perform. While the specific musical numbers used and cast members change from performance to performance, the concept remains the same – a representation of ethnic, racial and cultural diversity in Norway staged through the voices and bodies of the children on stage. From its beginnings as an cultural initiative in the city of Bergen, Fargespill has gained increasing national attention. Using as a starting point recent theorizations of multiculturalism, race and racism, as well the writings of Deleuze and Guatari, this paper analyzes the Fargespill performances. The paper especially explores the question of whether the representations of Fargespill creates a climate for embracing difference in Norway, or whether Fargespill is better understood as a reassuring story white Norwegians tell themselves about multicultural society.



Thomas Solomon is Professor in the Grieg Academy-Department of Music at the University of Bergen. He has previously taught at universities in New York, Minnesota, and Istanbul. He has done field research in highland Bolivia and in Istanbul on place and identity in Turkish hip-hop. His publications include articles in the journals *Ethnomusicology*, *Popular Music*, *European Journal of Cultural Studies*, and *Yearbook for Traditional Music*, as well numerous chapters in edited volumes.

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A LIGHT LUNCH WILL BE SERVED