With this paper I want to present and discuss my documentation of the annual Gay Pride Parade in Stockholm, which is included as a part of the empirical material of my doctoral thesis in progress. I will particularly focus on the expressions of the (Bachtinian) carnival laughter and the political implications of it articulated within this context.

The parade staged in 2002 was labelled as “not a political demonstration” by the head of the local police, which meant for gay policemen that they could participate in the parade wearing uniform. In my view, the Gay Pride Parade is all about politics, and I try to explore the ways in which one can interpret the link between the sexual politics articulated in this situation and the ways in which they are staged. Is humour/laughter a queer political tool in this context, and as such, is it powerful? What kind of knowledge is communicated in this way, and what does it mean?

I view the Gay Pride Parade as an example of alternative ways to communicate political ideas, and so the paper will discuss the Pride Parade as a possible way to challenge the dominating construction of discourse of gender, sexuality, and the web of power/knowledge articulated around these issues.

I will describe and discuss a range of examples of representation and use video clips to illustrate my line of argument. Theoretically, I mainly draw on Michail Bachtin, Judith Butler and Rosi Braidotti.