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THE PREHISTORY
The story of the AIAS up to the official opening in June 2013 is short and intense. Only in 2011 the management of Aarhus University made the first decision of creating an Aarhus Institute of Advanced Studies. Subsequently Aarhus University Research Foundation decided to donate a first round of DKK 50 mill to this project. Following a positive report from an appointed group of professors, the University began the project. An interim board of directors was selected, consisting of six professors, whose primary task was to establish a legal basis for the forthcoming institute (regulations, statutes etc.) and to take the responsibility for finding a suitable physical facility.

A property in Vennelystparken was acquired and an extensive process of renovation commenced. Statues were formulated and acknowledged by the management of Aarhus University during the spring of 2012. After an international call an executive director of AIAS was appointed in the fall of 2012 for a five year term. During the fall 2012 the interim board of directors formulated calls and implemented assessment procedures for the first applications for fellowships.

The University management at the time had a very strong wish for the official inauguration and the launching of the AIAS to take place already in the first half of 2013. Con-
sequentely, the renovation process of the building had to be prompted considerably, and the transformation of the old worn out C.F. Møller building into an up-to-date inviting and architectonically both significant and functional institute was a very comprehensive project.

**FIRST PHASE: SLOWLY BUT STEADY…**

But we succeeded: the official inauguration of the AIAS took place on 13 June 2013 with participation of a great number of invited guests. Dale T. Mortensen fellow Cheryl Mattingly from University of Southern California, USA gave the scientific speech. Director and Professor Björn Wittrock of the renowned sister institute ‘Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study (SCAS) in Uppsala lectured about the core intention behind institutes like these. And the Rector of Aarhus University Lauritz B. Holm-Nielsen performed the official inauguration.

AIAS’s first semester in function, the fall term 2013, became more hesitating than actually planned. Varying external problems (illness, cancellations) resulted in the number of fellows being slightly below what could actually be considered a critical mass to make the infrastructure of the Institute function properly. However, we did succeed in establishing the core AIAS activities and successfully, the circumstances taken into consideration. The ‘Fellows’ Seminar’ is an institution in which the AIAS fellows present their research projects to each other, and/or in which fellows invite researchers from Aarhus University or elsewhere to present their research to the other AIAS fellows. Fellows’ Seminars are mandatory for fellows, open to the public and announced broadly at the University. Seven of these seminars were held during the fall term of 2013 (see these under ‘AIAS Events’).

At the same time fellows began collaborating with other fellows about joint projects. To compensate for the relative lack of life at the Institute and to utilize the magnificent building facilities, the AIAS hosted an extensive number of external activities during the semester. A development that has continued in 2014 with a great number of academic events such as doctoral defences, scientific conferences and symposia, representative events for faculties and the University (e.g. with several ministerial visits), not to mention external relevant academic events as the Lundbeck Lectures, the Learned Society, meetings arranged by the Young Academy under the Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and Letters and many more. Please consult the overview ‘Hosted Events’ for details.

**NEXT STEP: AN INSTITUTIONAL GROUND IS LAID**

On 1 February 2014, an additional six new fellows commenced, hereby raising the numbers of AIAS fellows to a total of 16. This meant a significant change to the development of the inner life of the Institute. Besides the continuing development of the Fellows’ Seminars, more thorough substantial discussions and exchanges among the fellows were now taking place, often in connection with the weekly, mandatory ‘Fellows’ Lunch’ where fixed procedures for short academic presentations were launched as well.
An important chapter in the early history of the Institute is constituted by the EU COFUND grant under the Marie Curie programme. Intensive work had been accomplished to submit an application for funding up to the grant deadline in the spring of 2013. Already in the summer of 2013, the AIAS received a preliminary positive evaluation of the extensive grant application of DKK 46 mill, leading to intensive negotiations of a possible grant contract with the authorities of the European Union’s Seventh Framework Programme for Research during the fall 2013. These negotiations were seemingly concluded positively already in late 2013, but since no official confirmation was received, for legal reasons the AIAS was prevented from publishing both the news about the grant and the associated call for fellows. The confirmation did not arrive till late January 2014: the AIAS had actually been granted the full funding applied for, €6.14 mill (more than DKK 46 mill), to finance 40% of the total fellowship programme of the AIAS for a five year period. This was a record-breaking grant amount given by the EU programme, and of course terrifically good news and an immense pat on the back for the AIAS.

The call was published immediately. At the deadline of 23 March, the AIAS had received almost 150 applications from candidates from all over the world, representing 38 nationalities. After a comprehensive peer review process (three peers per application) the newly appointed Selection Board with a majority of external international members was able to make the final selection in late May 2014: 22 new fellows were offered a fellowship. Most of these will commence on 1 October 2014, an additional few on 1 February 2015. The selected fellows represented 12 male and 10 female fellows, 17 juniors and 5 seniors, and 12 different nationalities. The Selection Board described the level of the applicants as extremely high and very satisfactory. During the early summer of 2014, employment interviews and negotiations with all the selected fellows have been carried out. With the new fellows commencing their fellowships on 1 October 2014, the AIAS is fully-fledged: The establishing phase will then be concluded, and the AIAS is subsequently an IAS in full function.

“
It has been a challenging process to go from pure idea, in reality from sheer nothing, to a fully-fledged international institute with substantial EU funding, embedded in the relevant international organisations and networks in such a short time.”
The significant physical impression and interior design of the AIAS building has also recently been further developed as an extensive donation from the New Carlsberg Foundation has made it possible to install a permanent exhibition of a large number of important works of art by contemporary Danish artists. The works include artist like John Kørner, Tai R. Sophia Kalkau, Kathrine Ærtebjerg, Julie Nord, Jesper Christiansen, Lars Nergård and Husk-MitNavn. These works of art complement AIAS’ original signature work Ello by the American video artist Tony Oursler. Ello is placed in the front hall where it literally greets all visitors of the Institute.

CONCLUSION: FROM IDEA TO FULLY-FLEDGED IAS

In June 2014 the first two international conferences at the AIAS planned and fulfilled by AIAS fellows in collaboration with AU researchers were held: ‘Moral Engines: Exploring the moral drives in human life’ gathering about 90 participants and ‘Cold Atoms and Beyond’ with more than 60 participants. Similarly to these, a series of workshops and conferences are already in the AIAS pipeline for the academic year 2014-2015; some of the future Marie Curie fellows have even already scheduled a series of international workshops and conferences. To an increasing degree, academic focus areas are also developed directly from collaborations between AIAS fellows, within and across disciplines. This applies to the forthcoming conferences ‘More than Pretty Pictures’ (13-16 April 2015) and ‘The Hands of Time: Multiple Perspectives on Aging’ (11-12 June 2015).

It has been a challenging process to go from pure idea, in reality from sheer nothing, to a fully-fledged international institute with substantial EU funding, embedded in the relevant international organisations and networks in such a short time. An institute like the AIAS is something completely new within Aarhus University, and it is only about to find its position and function within the total activities of the University. Following the international standard of an IAS, the AIAS is relatively independent from Aarhus University. The price to pay for this position outside the university structure of faculties and institutes may be, however, that the AIAS is not automatically felt like a ‘natural’ partner to anyone horizontally within the organisation. ‘Freedom’ also has its costs, its challenges. This problem is well-known internationally among the university-based Institutes of Advanced Studies’. But such organisational challenges are to be resolved if the AIAS is to fulfil the original expectations behind its creation. These expectations were that the AIAS, besides of course housing top researchers and thus engendering excellent research results, in the long run will contribute to a decisive strengthening and expansion of the position of Aarhus University on the mental world map of research.

An aim we are not reaching within a day or a year. But by now, the beginning has been accomplished, we are airborne and we are looking forward to developing the AIAS in the years to come in accordance with the visions internally as well as externally.

August 2014
Morten Kyndrup

“An institute like the AIAS is something completely new within Aarhus University, and it is only about to find its position and function within the total activities of the University.”
AIAS Timeline

2011

- **Decision of an AIAS**
  The official decision to establish an Aarhus Institute of Advanced Studies, AIAS, by the University management, March 2011

- **AUFF Funding**
  Initial funding granted by Aarhus University Research Foundation to the AIAS, March 2011

- **Fellowship structure takes form**
  A working group is formed to discuss format of the fellowship programme, summer/autumn 2011

2012

- **Interim Director and Board**
  Interim director and board established. A further development of the fellowship programme structure, January 2012

- **Property site**
  The acquisition of the building in Vennelystparken and the beginning of the extensive renovation process, early 2012

- **First Call for fellows**
  The first call for AIAS fellows is announced, November 2012
Official Director and Board
Official appointment of the AIAS Board of Directors and AIAS Director, Professor Morten Kyndrup, January 2013

Second Call for fellows
The second call for AIAS fellows opens, March 2013

First fellows commence
Commencement of the 10 first AIAS fellows, May-June 2013

Inauguration of AIAS
The official Inauguration of the AIAS takes place, 13 June 2013

The first Fellows’ Seminar
The first Fellows’ Seminar is held, establishing a framework for collaboration between the AIAS fellows and the fellows and AU researchers, 9 September 2013

EU COFUND Grant
Signing contract with the European Union’s Seventh Framework Programme for Research, January 2014

Third Call for fellows
The third call for AIAS fellows is posted, January 2014

Second group of fellows commence
Commencement of 6 AIAS fellows, February 2014

Third group of fellows commence
23 new AIAS-COFUND fellows have been selected, and 17 will commence, October 2014
INAUGURAL SPEECH

THE IDEA OF AN INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

Björn Wittrock
Professor and Principal, Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study (SCAS)

The following text is an extended version of Professor Wittrock’s speech at the Occasion of the Inauguration of the AIAS, 13 June 2014:

The idea of advanced study was from its articulation in conjunction with the creation of IAS Princeton the idea of the free pursuit of learning “to the utmost degree that the facilities of the institution and the ability and faculty of the students will permit”. This was the stated purpose when the first institute of this type, located at Princeton, was founded in 1930 as a postdoctoral research institution. It started its operations in 1933. It should, in the words of its first director, Abraham Flexner, be “a free society of scholars – free, because mature persons, animated by intellectual purposes, must be left to pursue their own ends in their own ways.”

Like a traditional university it was devoted to the promotion of learning, but its scale was smaller and it did not offer formal instruction. Nor did it have large laboratories. It was to be a place for the most highly specialised research, yet provide an atmosphere open to intellectual exchange across all disciplinary boundaries. Among the sources of inspiration were All Souls College at Oxford and the Collège de France in Paris. Flexner, the great university reformer in early 20th century America, had himself been trained at the first real research university in the United States, namely Johns Hopkins University, an institution inspired by the leading 19th century German universities, and in particular by the University of Berlin, the famous Friedrichs-Wilhelms-Universität. Throughout his career Flexner remained a staunch defender of this tradition and its combination of scholarly specialisation and a commitment, in the spirit, of Wilhelm von Humboldt, to the idea of the unity of all scientific endeavours.

The IAS at Princeton sought at the same time to embody a Humboldtian idea of a university and an Oxford college tradition of commensality, contemplation and tranquillity. Already from the beginning, the IAS had the ambition to encompass the study both of nature and of culture.

The events in Germany and other parts of Europe in the 1930s and 40s led, to use the expression of H. Stuart Hughes, to a sea change in the intellectual landscape of the world. In this the IAS came to provide an institutional home for some of the most famous intellectual refugees, among them Albert Einstein, John von Neumann and Kurt Gödel. In the years since its creation, the IAS has achieved a position that is unrivalled in the world of science and scholarship. In all fields where it has been engaged, its contributions have standards against which other contributions may be measured.

In many ways, Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin constituted an effort to bring at least some small part of this legacy back to Germany. In October 1978, a decision was taken by the City parliament in Berlin to establish an international centre for scholarly collaboration. It was explicitly stated that one purpose was “to re-establish the contact, interrupted by National Socialism, and war, with vital intellectual currents that are still underrepresented in Germany to this day”. The initiative was also taken against the background of a perceived necessity

- “to draw the consequences of the structural transformations of the universities and of the increasing specialisation of the scientific system”.
- “to involve the city (of Berlin) more closely in the international communication of the sciences” and
- “to bring important scholars of learning to Berlin”.

Björn Wittrock, Professor and Principal, Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study (SCAS)
As a consequence the Institute for Advanced Study Berlin, Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin, was founded in 1980. The original financial support mainly came from the City of Berlin and the Volkswagen Foundation. Soon however, in 1984, the Federal Government, replaced the Volkswagen Foundation and have provided some 50% of the support of core funding ever since. Other foundations provided additional, if more marginal support. Wissenschaftskolleg now occupies an unrivalled position at the pinnacle of German academia. Throughout this development, Joachim Nettelbeck has played a significant role as head of the administration of the Kolleg. Despite a number of similarities between the institutes in Princeton and Berlin, context, size and governance were quite different in the two cases.

Institutes of advanced study are breeding zones of ideas cultivated far from the mainstream in which, as a Chinese proverb reminds us, only dead fish swim. Such a breeding zone protects against pressure to conform, but also entices subversiveness. Switching metaphors, it provides the cracks through which, as François Jacob remarked, the new enters in unexpected ways.

“"I am convinced that the Aarhus Institute of Advanced Studies, which already has displayed remarkable vitality, has every chance to play an important role as a site for curiosity-driven research at a high international level.”"

Helga Nowotny, former President of the ERC, the European Research Council, (2010-2013)
political awareness, indeed by a belief that the social and behavioural sciences could contribute to an encompassing process of democratisation. It was also inspired by a commitment to a process of change within the social sciences and towards making them more akin to the natural sciences, less speculative, more experimental in their empirical orientation and more formal in their theoretical orientation.

The result was the creation of a new institute for advanced study, the famous Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences (CASBS) at Palo Alto. The Palo Alto Center was smaller in scale than the IAS at Princeton – it did not have some hundred but only a little less than 50 residential scholars each year – and had a focus on the social and human sciences rather than on the entire field of human knowledge. However, it was a scholarly domain broadly defined. In this domain the Palo Alto Center rapidly acquired a worldwide renown and was seen as a kind of power-house for the transformations occurring in the social and human sciences.

EUROPEAN BEGINNINGS

The experiences of the IAS at Princeton and the CASBS at Palo Alto set milestones for all subsequent developments. Indeed from the mid 1960s and until the early 1980s, there were a series of efforts to draw on these experiences and to use the idea of an institute for advanced study as a vehicle for overcoming limitations of the academic systems of Western Europe so in a different intellectual and institutional context than those that had come to shape developments at IAS and CASBS.

As a result there were a handful of initiatives to establish institutes for advanced study on the Eastern side of the Atlantic. They included Bielefeld in Germany (ZiF, 1968), Jerusalem in Israel (1975) and Wassenaar in the Netherlands (NIAS, 1970–71). There was also an early effort to create an institute for advanced study, though limited to the humanities, in Edinburgh (1969). A few years later there was also the initiative that led to the creation of Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin (1981) but also to the founding of Institut für die Wissenschaften vom Menschen (IWM, 1982) in Vienna and a few years later the Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study (SCAS, 1985). Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin (sometimes abbreviated WIKO) was to some extent modelled on IAS Princeton or, perhaps more accurately, created in a process that involved reflections on the experiences and achievements of that institute and the role it had played as a haven for scholars from the German-speaking world during years of exile from Nazi Germany. WIKO shared with the Princeton institute a commitment to support all fields of science and scholarship. Most of its residential fellows were invited for a given academic year, but it also had a small number of permanent fellows. In practice most of its fellows tended to come from the humanities and the social sciences, but there was a commitment also to invite natural scientists. This encompassing orientation gradually became more pronounced.

Still, in the settings of the old world in general the increase in the number of institutes for advanced study was modest and gradual. New institutes tended to come into being as a result of initiatives of individual scholars who had been Fellows at one of the first institutes and wanted to see their own positive experiences from such institutes shared by a wider group of scholars in their home countries. They often had to answer questions from colleagues who questioned the usefulness of such institutes and implied that they entailed a diversion of resources away from regular university departments and constituted luxurious and perhaps superfluous elite institutions.

INSTITUTES FOR ADVANCED STUDY IN THEIR GLOBAL CONTEXTS

Now, a quarter of a century later, the situation is different. There are no longer a handful of institutes for advanced study. An estimate, to which I contributed in 2011, shows that there are 150 to 200 such institutes, even disregarding so-called humanities research institutes which are now to be found in universities across the world. In the past two decades, the number of institutes for advanced study has multiplied. This development might
Many institutes (of advanced study) are also places where top-level researchers from the international scientific community work closely with early career scholars, thereby constituting one of the most cost-effective investments that could be made to benefit the scholarly and scientific community of any country or region.

be seen in conjunction with three pervasive transformations. Firstly, the transformations of Central and Eastern Europe from the late 1890s onwards have had significant implications for the role of institutes for advanced study. Secondly, the growth of institutes for advanced study reflects the rapid growth of higher education. Thirdly, the global nature not only of research and higher education but the general intensification of global processes of diffusion and innovation in all realms of human activity has brought out needs to rethink the foundations of the social and cultural sciences but also their relationships to the natural, technological medical sciences.

The growth of institutes for advanced study, however, also reflects a second pervasive transformation. In the past quarter of a century, there has been a quantitative growth of higher education that has been on a larger scale than that of the 1960s. On a global scale universities have become gateways to the world of modernity. In this process, they have not only expanded in size and numbers but also become more immediately linked to processes of innovation in the economy.

At the same time, the assumptions of classical sociological analysis that the university research system essentially depends on the vitality and transmission of a system of normative commitments and guidelines, which are being reproduced through the transmission of tacit knowledge in scholarly and scientific practices from masters to disciples, are increasingly open to doubt. Universities have become increasingly exposed to global competition for students, reputation, and excellence on an unprecedented scale. In the course of this, they have had to respond to growing demands for assessments and audits, some of which are bolstering the norms of traditional academia, whereas others have the potential to undermine them. With the end of the unprecedented era of stable economic growth in the quarter of a century after the Second World War, and with a transition to more globally orientated forms of financially geared economies, the largely tax-based university growth of the 1950s and 1960s was replaced by a more exposed position of universities to the vicissitudes of global financial markets. These changes have set in motion processes that gradually introduce a series of new measures of governing universities and higher education institutions. Individually, most of these measures appear to be reasonable and justified. Jointly, they may well entail a profound reorientation of contemporary universities that may come to narrow down the space for curiosity-driven research to such an extent that much of the historic legacy of universities and of the idea of a university may come to look as descriptions of a scholarly world irretrievably lost. Given these tendencies increases of funding across the board directly to faculties and universities have come to appear increasingly unrealistic. As a result across a range of countries, governments are searching for means to support university research on a basis that allows for a more effective selection of the targets of support schemes. Normally such schemes involve a combination of large-scale exercises of assessment and evaluation and of selective funding of centres or networks of excellence. One of the most ambitious endeavours of this kind is the so-called excellence initiative in Germany, currently in the final stage of completion of a second round. This and similar initiatives in other countries have stimulated and funded support for institutional strategies aimed at a given university as a whole.

These strategic programmes and excellence initiatives entail support for fields of research where strength already exists. In the final instance, this will create a need for spaces where completely new ideas may thrive, at least during the sensitive first stage in their articulation and development. Hence it is a welcome feature of some of the strategic initiatives that they also lead to the
establishment of more or less independent but university-based institutes for advanced study. However, these institutes face a paradoxical challenge.

Their ultimate rationale lies in the fact that they function as spaces of free reflection where other ideas may emerge than those that are articulated in current strategic plans of governments and universities. At the same time, university-based institutes for advanced study have to justify their existence relative to individual universities and their long-term strategies. Furthermore, the universities themselves face question from research councils and governments about their use of the resources that have been allocated to them in an excellence initiative on the basis of the strategic plans and priorities articulated by the university. There is no easy way out of this dilemma. The most feasible path for such an institute is probably to have as much institutional autonomy as possible while seeing to it that it draws on and at least indirectly serves as an important stimulus for one or better a group of universities.

The most highly respected institutes for advanced study, including Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin, occupy an enviable position by virtue of their national role to function as a complement to the regular system of universities and research institutes at large. When this role is widely acknowledged and admired, it is easy to oversee that fact that it depends not only on legal regulation but on the wisdom, caution and constant efforts to secure it on the part of its key supporters and its leadership.

A third pervasive change in the contexts of institutes for advanced study concerns the fact that research efforts are increasingly becoming truly global in their orientation, their conceptualizations and results and also in institutional terms, including funding. Institutes for advanced study have come to play a surprisingly active role in these processes. The global nature not only of research and higher education, but the general intensification of global processes of diffusion and innovation in all realms of human activity have brought out needs to rethink the foundations in both conceptual and institutional terms of many arrangements in the social and cultural sciences, but also in relationships between these sciences and the natural ones. Jointly these transformations have seemingly made contributions of the kind of creative research environments, which institutes for advanced study represent, more needed than ever.

THE IDEA OF AN INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

Helga Nowotny calls attention to the fact that there is at hand what government ministers and university vice-chancellors, not to mention individual academics, keep demanding – but somehow do not quite seem to believe to be possible. Despite this, many institutes for advanced study do indeed provide at least an approximation of a near-ideal environment for scholars and scientists to conduct curiosity-driven research with a maximum
of intellectual freedom. Many institutes are also places where top-level researchers from the international scientific community work closely with early career scholars, thereby constituting one of the most cost-effective investments that could be made to benefit the scholarly and scientific community of any country or region. Yet, the significance of their potential contributions is often not fully recognized even within the academic community.

There may be many reasons for that: an institute for advanced study is somehow at odds with much of the thrust of the belief systems, whether we use labels such as ‘new public management’ or analogous terms, that pervade much of government policy and administration, including the administration of contemporary universities, in most of Europe, North America and in many other parts of the world. Not even academics are always prepared to defend the importance of curiosity-driven research.

It would be much too simplistic to complain about academic envy and rivalry as perennial and endemic diseases. It is more plausible to call attention to the widening gap between the autonomy and scholarly freedom that characterize daily life in an institute for advanced study and the growing demands put on universities as whole institutions as well as on individual academics within them. This creates a world of lived experience within most universities that diverges so much from those of leading institutes for advanced study as to make them seem worlds apart.

It is up to every institute for advanced study to articulate its distinctive and unique role as clearly and concisely as can be. It is the responsibility of all those who spend much of their lives in academia, especially historians and sociologists of universities and of science, to express a realistic understanding of the conditions of scholarly and scientific practices in the contemporary world in all their contextual complexity. Such an understanding cannot be based on a small set of allegedly universal values and norms but nor can it be satisfied with a description of a perplexing multiplicity. Instead, out of all contextual complexity, elements must emerge that make sense of the conditions for increasing work across the divides between human, social and natural sciences.

Similarly, global knowledge divides still exist and there are staggering asymmetries in the global division of access to the resources of research and knowledge acquisition. Academics in general and certainly any IAS worth its name must be aware of such asymmetries and attempt to overcome them. In doing so, they help articulate a sense of global conditions for a search for knowledge that goes beyond the constraints imposed by policy-makers and markets.

However, against the background of an assessment of the contemporary conditions of scientific and scholarly practices and in dialogue with colleagues from across the world, we may at present engage in an analogous quest. If we do that – and Helga Nowotny herself has done so throughout her career more than almost any other leading European researcher – we may be able to outline a convincing account of the role of curiosity-driven research and institutes for advanced study. These institutes may then also be seen as crucial to the development of the full potential of research, scholarship and human creativity in a global context where such contributions are urgently needed. If we fail to articulate this role, institutes for advanced study risk being looked upon as rare plants, perhaps worthy of respect and nourishment, but distant from the realities of today’s universities and research institutions.

I am convinced that the Aarhus Institute of Advanced Studies, which already has displayed remarkable vitality, has every chance to play an important role as a site for curiosity-driven research at a high international level. I hope and believe that it will also stimulate intellectual vitality at the University of Aarhus and far beyond. I congratulate the university for having taken this bold and important initiative and wish the university and the institute all the very best for the future.
FELLOWS 2013-2014
The AIAS has hosted **16 fellows** from abroad and from Aarhus University. These represent all academic main areas, comprise 8 different field of studies and bring **6 nationalities** together at the AIAS. From October 2014, **17 new fellows** from 16 different universities will add **11 nationalities** to the Institute.
Ted Kaizer,
Dale T. Mortensen Fellow
Dr., Senior lecturer, Department of Classics and Ancient History, Durham University, UK

Area of research: Ancient and Classics History
Project title: ‘The religious life of Dura-Europos’

RESEARCH PROJECT AT THE AIAS
I used my time at the AIAS to work on a monograph on the religious life of Dura-Europos, a small-town on the Euphrates in Syria that is known amongst scholars as the ‘Pompeii of the Syrian desert’, because of its archaeological history which has assured the brilliant preservation of its monuments and documents for posterity. Dura-Europos was founded by one of the successors to Alexander the Great, and came later under Parthian and then finally Roman control. It was destroyed by the Sasanians, a neo-Persian power, around the middle of the third century AD. Several features make Dura-Europos into what is potentially our best source for day-to-day life in a small-town situated in the periphery of the classical world: the combined discoveries of inscriptions and graffiti in at least ten ancient languages; sculptures and frescoes which uniquely combine elements of Classical and Oriental art; the most important papyrological dossier of any military unit in the Roman world; and above all more than a dozen pagan sanctuaries, plus a famously painted synagogue and the earliest Christian house church, all set in a rigorously grid-iron city plan and surrounded by well-preserved fortifications. The marvelous findings made at Dura-Europos facilitate the study of life in an ancient provincial small-town to a degree that archaeology and history do not usually allow. My project aims to produce a comprehensive overview of Dura’s Tempelgeschichte, with full details of how all the relevant finds can be linked to individual places of worship. Such in-depth study of all the relevant religious material from Dura would have invaluable implications and be of great benefit to the study of local religious life outside the main cult centres, and in the late-Hellenistic and Roman Near East in general. The Euphrates stronghold of Dura-Europos is, by far, our best test case for all aspects of the religious culture of a relatively minor locality.

WHY THE AIAS
I already had a good feel about the University and also about the city from a number of previous visits, for conferences or workshops organised by my colleague in Classical Archaeology, Professor Rubina Raja, Aarhus University. She informed me about the fellowship competition, and I took the opportunity to buy myself out of teaching and administrative duties for six months at Durham, and to be able to focus on my research.

IMPACT OF AN AIAS FELLOWSHIP
My fellowship at the AIAS allowed me to build further on the fruitful collaboration that I already had with Professor Raja. We organised two workshops together, both held at the AIAS, and I taught two classes on the subject of my current project to her undergraduate students. We also made a couple of research visits to the Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek in Copenhagen, to study the collection of tesserae from Palmyra. Professor Raja and I have been working on a joint article on these tesserae. It has truly been a great pleasure and a privilege to be a Dale T. Mortensen Fellow for half a year. The AIAS provided an excellent setting both for constructive and interdisciplinary dialogue and for pleasant social contacts with other fellowship holders, and all arrangements made by the AIAS have helped me to use my time as productive as possible. Thanks to the AIAS I have made substantial progress on my research project, which I will now aim to finish back in Durham, during a 3-year Major Research Fellowship of the Leverhulme Trust, which will start in October 2014.
FELLOWS’ PORTRAIT

Karl-Erik Andersson,
Dale T. Mortensen Fellow
Professor, MD, previously Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine, USA

Area of research: Obstetrics and Gynecology
Project title: ‘Aging bladder dysfunction’

RESEARCH PROJECT AT THE AIAS
My research project is entitled ‘Aging bladder dysfunction’ and was initiated when I was working at Wake Forest University in North Carolina. It is an ongoing collaboration between our group in Aarhus, my co-workers in Fukushima, Japan, and a European network of collaborators. The project is also a part of a grant application to the EU from the European network. Our project is focused on the relation between increasing age, atherosclerosis and reduced blood flow to the bladder as a cause of urinary urgency and incontinence and eventually of inability to empty the bladder. We have developed an animal model of chronically reduced bladder blood flow and are currently investigating the possibilities to treat the condition pharmacologically to improve symptoms and possibly to stop progression of the functional and morphological changes that are produced.

WHY THE AIAS
In an environment without the usual administrative or teaching obligations at the University, my hope was that the AIAS fellowship would offer a unique opportunity for me to advance my project and bring it to the next stage. I also expected that the fellowship should make it possible to further develop my international network of contacts. Another reason to apply was curiosity – could spending time together with colleagues with specialities far different from my own stimulate new ideas and widen my scientific horizon?

IMPACT OF AN AIAS FELLOWSHIP
My expectations have been fulfilled. I have had opportunities to establish and further develop research collaborations, both at Aarhus University and internationally. So far my time at the AIAS has been one of the most productive in my life in terms of scientific publications. The environment is ideal for scientific writing, the daily contact with colleagues from other specialities has been intellectually very stimulating, and the support from the efficient administrative personnel has been excellent.

AIAS Conference:
‘The Hands of Time: Multiple Perspectives on Aging’

Date: 11-12 June 2015

Aging has been studied from a variety of perspectives, but often within separate academic disciplines. At the AIAS, in collaboration with AIAS fellows and Aarhus University researchers, Karl-Erik Andersson is currently part of the scientific committee organizing the international conference ‘The Hands of Time: Multiple Perspectives on Aging’ held at the AIAS.

The conference will seek to enlighten the main theme of ‘Aging’ from the following four main areas: ‘The Aging Human Individual: Body’; ‘The Aging Human Individual: Mind’; ‘The Aging Society’ and ‘Aging and Culture’.
Annette Bohn,
Jens Christian Skou Junior Fellow
Associate Professor,
Department of Psychology and Behavioural Sciences,
Aarhus University, Denmark

Area of research: Psychology
Project title: ‘Cultural Life Scripts organize autobiographical memories and future expectations’
My research area is autobiographical memory focusing on cultural underpinnings and life span development. Among other things, I presented new findings on life story development at international conferences and organized the AIAS workshop ‘A Psychological View on Life Stories and Memoirs’, participated in an international project studying cultural differences in emotional memories (published in Memory) and finished a manuscript co-authored by T. Habermas on the mechanisms underlying the organization of autobiographical memories (currently under review). Last, but not least, I started a research project in collaboration with AIAS Fellow Rane Willerslev with ongoing data collection in Siberia.

Bent Jesper Christensen,
Jens Christian Skou Senior Fellow
Professor, Department of Economics and Business,
Aarhus University, Denmark

Area of research: Economics
Project title: ‘Markets, Productivity, Long Term Risks, and Sustainability’
I study the ability of markets to function desirably in the face of increasing long term risks associated with growing and aging populations, economic and financial disasters, international migration, and globalization of capital, labor, and product markets. One strategy for alleviating these challenges, which I have studied with Dale T. Mortensen, is to increase productivity to better utilize existing resources. I investigate whether a reallocation of employees to the most productive employers may be brought about by markets or require government intervention, and study related insurance and financial problems. Currently, I am working on the AIAS conference ‘The Hands of Time: Multiple Perspectives on Aging’ in collaboration with a couple of fellows and AU researchers.

Cheryl Mattingly,
Dale T. Mortensen Senior Fellow
Professor, Department of Anthropology,
University of Southern California, USA

Area of research: Anthropology
Project title: ‘Moral Epidemics and the Making of a “Good Family”: Raising Children with Autism and ADHD in the United States and Denmark’
My project focuses on the political and ethical dimensions of “care” for parents who have children with attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and autism. Theoretically, it concerns the moral dimensions of care and is informed by critical phenomenology, the anthropology of morality and philosophical virtue ethics. Thus far, the primary results of my project are two international AIAS conferences on moral experience and a third one on philosophical anthropology planned for June 2015. These conferences involve collaborative efforts by AU faculty in philosophy and anthropology. I have also completed a book, Moral Laboratories: Family Peril and the Struggle for a Good Life, University of California Press, 2014.
David Petrosyan,
Dale T. Mortensen Senior Fellow
Principal Researcher, Institute of Electronic Structure and Laser of the Foundation for Research and Technology, Greece

**Area of research: Electronic structure and laser**
**Project title:** ‘Simulating dissipative dynamics of strongly interacting Rydberg atoms’
My research spans over theoretical quantum optic and physical implementations of quantum computation and communication. At the AIAS my research is focused on the strongly-interacting atoms optically excited to the high-lying Rydberg states. Such systems are uniquely suited for simulations and studies of few- and many-body physics under well-controlled conditions. The aim of the project is to develop efficient computational methods to simulate the dissipative dynamic and equilibrium static properties of interacting Rydberg atoms under experimentally realistic conditions including noise and the environment which lead to decoherence and relaxations. The ultimate goal is to invent novel, practical schemes for quantum simulations and information processing. I have recently received the Bessel Award of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundations during my first fellowship stay at the AIAS.

Georg Sørensen,
Jens Christian Skou Senior Fellow
Professor, Department of Political Science and Government, Aarhus University, Denmark

**Area of research: Political Science**
**Project title:** ‘Rethinking world order’
I hold a PhD in social science from Aalborg University in 1983 and Doctor of Political Science (dr. scient.pol.) from Aarhus University in 1993. Currently as a Jens Chr. Skou Senior Fellow at the AIAS, I am working on the project ‘Rethinking world order’. The aim of my scientific work is to answer four questions: (1) What are the present prospects for war and peace? (2) How are the domestic situations in major types of state (advanced liberal, modernizing, fragile); are they conducive to the well-being of their citizens or not? (3) Who has power in the contemporary international system? (4) Which conditions prevail on four major dimensions of world order: security, economics, institutions, and values?

Jesper Fredenslund Levinsen,
Dale T. Mortensen Junior Fellow
Postdoc, previously University of Cambridge, United Kingdom

**Area of research: Quantum physics**
**Project title:** ‘Engineering novel quantum phases with cold atoms’
My research mainly focusses on ultracold atomic gases, with an emphasis on routes to creating strong effective interactions in quantum systems. For instance, with an experimental group I identified a novel strong effective three-body interaction with a peculiar angular dependence. My research at the AIAS has so far resulted in three refereed publications in high-impact journals and provided me with the time to write an invited review article on two-dimensional Fermi gases. At AIAS I was also very happy to be able to host an international conference for 23 contemporary physicists in collaboration with AU researcher Georg Bruun from Dept. of Physics and Astronomy Aarhus University.
Joe Soss.
Dale T. Mortensen Senior Fellow
Professor, Department of Political Science,
University of Minnesota, USA

Area of research: Political science
Project title: ‘Teachers, Parents, and the Co-Production of Educational Outcomes’
I specialise in the politics of inequality and poverty, the role of race, class, and gender in public affairs; social policy and welfare provision; criminal justice and incarceration; policy organizations and governance. During my first research stay at the AIAS during the summer of 2013, I completed work on two new articles that subsequently have been published in the Public Administration Review. In addition, I carried out preliminary work for a research project on Danish schools, pursued in collaboration with the Dept. of Political Science at Aarhus University, a project that I will continue during my second stay in 2015.

Lotte Philipsen.
Jens Christian Skou Junior Fellows
Postdoc, Department of Aesthetics and Communication,
Aarhus University, Denmark

Area of research: Contemporary art
Project title: ‘Artistic use of new technologies and new media’
In my research at AIAS, I investigate how new technologies and new media are used aesthetically. I am interested in works of art that seem to walk the line between the established scene of contemporary art and technical invention in a broader cultural sphere (like DNA manipulation, experiments based on nano technology, cloud computing etc.) I test how such works of art comply with, challenge and expand existing theory of art and aesthetics. Hence, concretely my daily work at AIAS consists in reading theory and visiting exhibitions for contemporary art. In collaboration with AIAS Fellow Rikke S. Kjærgaard, I am also planning the international multidisciplinary conference ‘More than Pretty Pictures’ to be held in April 2015 at the AIAS.

Marie Braad Lund.
Dale T. Mortensen Junior Fellow
Postdoc, previously Department of Environmental Earth System Science,
Stanford University, USA

Area of research: Microbiology
Project title: ‘Faithful but not enslaved: Drives of genome evolution in microbial symbionts’
My scientific research before the AIAS has primarily focused on the study of the function and evolution of earthworm symbionts and marine nitrogen cycling. Now at the AIAS, I am concentrating my research on the earthworm symbiosis system, which I am using as a model for understanding basic evolutionary principles. More specifically, I am studying the genome evolution of extracellular symbionts by using the nephridial (excretory organ) Verminephrobacter symbionts of earthworms as a model system. This research will provide novel insights into the factors driving the genome evolution of host-associated microbes – both beneficial and pathogenic.
Niels Peter Revsbech
Jens Christian Skou Senior Fellow
Professor, Department of Bioscience,
Aarhus University, Denmark

Area of research: Microbiology
Project title: ‘Microbial metabolism in nano-oxic and anoxic environments’
The Jens Christian Skou Senior Fellowship at AIAS made it possible for me to focus on the develop-
ment of new microsensors for microscale analysis in microbiology and physiology, and to apply
these sensors in the field. At the end of my fellowship, I thus travelled to Yellowstone National
Park and characterized the microscale distribution of hydrogen transformations in hot-spring
microbial communities using a newly developed hydrogen sensor. Much time was devoted to the
development of a completely new type of carbon dioxide sensor, and significant advances were
achieved.

Rane Willerslev
Jens Christian Skou Senior Fellow
Professor, Department of Culture and Society,
Aarhus University, Denmark

Area of research: Anthropology
Project title: ‘Human Sacrifice and Value – A Comparative Approach’
The research I am undertaking is about human sacrifice with the aim of uncovering what values
are cherished as ends in these types of sacrifices. To this end I have conducted several months of
fieldwork among the Ik, a group of hunter-gatherers in northern Uganda and among the reindeer
herding Chukchi of northeast Siberia. Both groups engage in ritual blood sacrifice. While I have still
not provided a full answer to what could be called the grand-prize question, namely ‘Why human
sacrifice?’, I have succeeded in writing a number of articles on related topics: How we might
understand the transition from hunting to domestication as generated by sacrifice (Journal of the
Royal Anthropological Institute 2015), what is the significance of faith for human sacrifice (HAU:
Journal of Ethnographic Theory 2015), and what role hunger plays in human sacrifice (Ethnos
submitted).

Rikke Schmidt Kjærgaard
Jens Christian Skou Junior Fellow
Associate Professor, Interdisciplinary Nanoscience Center (iNANO),
Aarhus University, Denmark

Area of research: Scientific data visualisation
Project title: ‘Interdisciplinary visual approaches to molecular and nanoscale data analysis’
My research focuses on how to visualise scientific data. In particular, I am interested in analysing
and developing integrated methods and tools for visualising biological data in nanoscience. By
analysing existing visual representations and tools we hope to optimize visual processes both
when we look at graphic design, 3D animations, and at interactive real-time visual solutions.
Currently, I am working on a forthcoming book publication and together with AIAS Fellow Lotte
Philipsen I am organising a 3-days international conference, ‘More than Pretty Pictures’ to be held
at the AIAS in April 2015, giving me the possibility of sharing my research with other researchers
from around the world.
Steen Hannestad.
Jens Christian Skou Senior Fellow
Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy,
Aarhus University, Denmark

Area of research: Physics and Astronomy
Project title: ‘Measuring the invisible’
A theoretical physicist by training, my primary research is in cosmology and particle physics. I am particularly interested in the connection between these two fields and in the use of astrophysics and cosmology as a probe of fundamental particle physics. My research at the AIAS focusses on developing a better understanding of how structures such as galaxies and clusters of galaxies have formed, and how observations of the large scale structure of our Universe can be used to learn more about the dark matter and dark energy which makes up 95% of the Universe.

Toke Thomas Høye.
Jens Christian Skou Senior Fellow
Senior researcher, Department of Bioscience,
Aarhus University, Denmark

Area of research: Bioscience – Biodiversity and Conservation
Project title: ‘Ecological responses to rapid climate change in the Arctic’
I am broadly interested in global change biology. Most of my work has been related to the Arctic and the dramatic climatic changes currently happening there. My project at the AIAS brings together emerging data sets on plants and arthropods from multiple Arctic sites with a focus towards providing spatial predictions. The project aims to 1) estimate how temporal variation in population and sex-specific life history traits vary spatially and affect reproductive success and to 2) develop spatial models for community responses to future climate change in the Arctic. Together with AIAS Fellow Rane Willerslev I am organising the ‘Arctic Seminar Series’.

AIAS FELLOWS’ SEMINAR

The AIAS Fellows’ Seminars are lectures given by the AIAS fellows and speakers recommended by the AIAS fellows. At these seminars, researchers from diverse fields of studies and across main academic areas and traditions are brought together, giving researchers an opportunity to meet with new horizons and angles on their research. The Fellows’ Seminar is the primary meeting ground for Fellows, AU researchers and other collaborators and are open to the public.

http://aias.au.dk/aias-fellows-seminar
FELLOWS 2013-2014

Photo: Maria Randima
FELLOWS’ ACTIVITIES

Morten Kyndrup co-organized and participated in the conference ‘Gesture’ and the annual meeting of The Nordic Society of Aesthetics on 30 May - 2 June 2013, Oslo, Norway.

Jesper Fredenslund Levinsen participated in the conference ‘Condensed Matter in the City’ 10-12 June 2013, University of London, UK.


Cheryl Mattingly gave the lecture ‘The Morally Troubled Life: Vulnerability and Virtues Ethics in an African American Community’ at the official Inauguration of the Aarhus Institute of Advanced Studies, 13 June, Denmark.

Joe Soss attended the ‘20th Conference of Europeanists’ on 25-27 June 2013 in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.


Lotte Philipsen participated in the ‘Venice Biennial’, 31 July – 4 August 2013, Venice, Italy.

Joe Soss received a research award from the Russell Sage Foundation for the project ‘Integrating Racial Relations in Understandings of the Politics of Inequality’, August 2013.


Jesper Levinsen gave a talk on ‘Highly polarized limit of the quasi-2D Fermi gas’, 15 August 2013. JILA, University of Colorado at Boulder, USA.

Jesper Levinsen participated in the Aspen Center for Physics summer workshops ‘Optical Lattice Emulators and Beyond’ and ‘Multi-Component Many-Body Systems’, 18-29 August, USA.

Annette Bohn participated in the MindLab retreat ‘Bridging Biology and Culture’, 19-21 August 2013, Sandbjerg Manor, Denmark.

Rane Willerslev went on a field trip to study the Ik, an indigenous population of hunters and subsistence agriculturalists, living in the mountains of Karamoja in Uganda near the borders to Sudan and Kenya, 20 August – 15 September 2013. Uganda.

Lotte Philipsen visited the ‘Ars Electronica Festival’, 5 - 8 September 2013, Linz, Austria.


Marie Broad Lund gave the lecture ‘Faithful but not enslaved - What drives the genome evolution of microbial symbionts?’, Fellows’ Seminar, 9 September 2013. AIAS, Denmark.

Rane Willerslev gave the lecture ‘Why Human Sacrifice? An Exercise in Radical Cultural Comparison’, AIAS Fellows’ Seminar, 16 September 2013, AIAS, Denmark.

Cheryl Mattingly held the conference ‘The Anthropology and Philosophy of Moral Experience’, 19 - 20 September, Aarhus Institute of Advanced Studies, Aarhus University, Denmark.


Niels Peter Revsbech was honoured with the prestigious Danish Grundfos Prize 2013, amounting to DKK 1 million on 26 September 2013.

Annette Bohn attended the conference ‘Launching EU’s Framework Programme 8: The Role of Social Sciences and Humanities in Horizon 2020’ 27 September 2013, Copenhagen Business School, Denmark.

Marie Braad Lund was the co-organizer of INTIME-9 (9th International Workshop on New Techniques in Microbial Ecology) 1-4 October 2013, Sletten Outdoor Activity Center, Ry, Denmark.

Cheryl Mattingly gave the Kassen Lecture: ‘Vulnerability. Virtue Ethics and the Anthropology of Suffering’ 15 October 2013, Department of Anthropology, Case Western Reserve University, USA.

Annette Bohn presented a poster on ‘A longitudinal study on life story development from age 9-12’ at the 8th Biannual Conference of the Cognitive Development Society, 17-19 October 2013, Memphis, Tennessee, USA.


Niels Peter Revsbech gave the lecture ‘Nitrogen cycling in nature - Observing microbial processes at a microscale’, AIAS Fellows’ Seminar, 21 October 2013, AIAS, Denmark.

Cheryl Mattingly gave the Caroline Thompson Memorial Lecture ‘Vulnerability, Trust and the Good Life: Navigating Between Home and Clinic Worlds’ on 24 October 2013, Occupational Therapy Department, University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA.


Niels Peter Revsbech gave the lecture ‘Nitrogen cycling in nature - Observing microbial processes at a microscale’, AIAS Fellows’ Seminar, 21 October 2013, AIAS, Denmark.

Cheryl Mattingly gave the Caroline Thompson Memorial Lecture ‘Vulnerability, Trust and the Good Life: Navigating Between Home and Clinic Worlds’ on 24 October 2013, Occupational Therapy Department, University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA.

Rane Willerslev gave a keynote talk ‘Sacrifice, Sorcery and the Ideal Hunt: On the Origin of the domestication of the Reindeer’ on 29 October 2013, JRAI Posdoc Conference, University of Aberdeen, UK.

Jesper Levinsen held the seminar ‘Few-body correlations in a quantum gas: Consequences of statistics and dimensionality’ 31 October 2013, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia.

Rikke Schmidt Kjærgaard participated in the Young Academy’s monthly meeting and was elected Chair of the Communication committee, 4 December 2013, Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and Letters, Copenhagen, Denmark.


Morten Kyndrup gave the paper ‘Kritiske Relationer. Om smagsdomme og andre slags kritik’ (‘Critical Relations. On Judgments of taste and other kinds of Critique’) at the symposium ‘Kunsten at være kritisk’ (‘The Art of being Critical’), 22 November 2013, Department of Aesthetics and Communication, Aarhus University.

Rikke Schmidt Kjærgaard participated in the conference ‘The future of 3D’, 29 November 2013, Aarhus University, Denmark.

Lotte Philipsen published the article ‘Unbound: The circulation of works of art among different cultures’ in: Journal of Aesthetics and Culture, December 2013.

Lotte Philipsen gave the lecture ‘Holy Cow! The aesthetic intersection of art and bio-science’, AIAS Fellows’ Seminar, 9 December 2013, AIAS, Denmark.

Annette Bohn gave the lecture ‘Blitzerindringer: Når verden står stille et sekund’ 10 December 2013, Odense Folkuniversitet, Denmark.


Bent Jesper Christensen was elected an External Fellow at the Centre for Financial Econometrics, a new Centre shared between the Department of Economics and Essex Business School, University of Essex, UK.
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Rikke Schmidt Kjaergaard participated in the Young Academy’s monthly meeting 8 January 2014, Royal Danish Academy of sciences and Letters, Copenhagen, Denmark.

Annette Bohn gave the talk ‘Change and consistency across time: a longitudinal study of life story development’ at the Neurex Workshop ‘The self: from autobiographical memories to the life story. Theory and psychopathology’ 12-14 January 2014, University Hospital of Strasbourg, France.

Rane Willerslev went on a field trip 15 January – 15 February 2014 to study the Ik, an indigenous population of hunters and subsistence agriculturalists, living in the mountains of Karamoja in Uganda near the borders to Sudan and Kenya, Uganda.


Lotte Philipsen participated in the Transmediale Festival in Berlin as part of the panel on ‘Post-digital Research’, and contributed to the Post-digital Research Newspaper with the article ‘Do NOT Return to Sender: Why Post-Digital Research should Distinguish between Artist, Critics, and Audience’. 29 Jan - 2 Feb 2014, Berlin, Germany.

Bent Jesper Christensen gave the talk ‘A Memorial Tribute to the Life and Work of Dale T. Mortensen’ in memory of Dale T. Mortensen on 31 January, Northwestern University, USA.


Rikke Schmidt Kjaergaard participated in the conference ‘Visualized’ 6-7 February, Times Center Manhattan, New York, USA.

Karl-Erik Andersson gave the lecture ‘Treatment of Ischemia – related Bladder Overactivity’ 7 February 2014, Centre of Medical Research, Department of Experimental Biology, Faculty of Medicine of Porto, Portugal.

Annette Bohn co-authored the article ‘A Pancultural Perspective on the Fading Affect Bias in Autobiographical Memory’ published in: Memory, February 2014.


David Petrosyan gave the talk ‘Few- and many-body physics with Rydberg atoms’ 21 February 2014, Cold atom meeting, Dept. of Physics and Astronomy, Aarhus University, Denmark.

Georg Sørensen visited Kenya and Somaliland as head of the Council for Development Policy, surveying projects and meeting with policymakers. The Council provides strategic advice for and dialogue with the Danish Minister for Development Cooperation, 23 Feb - 1 March 2014.

Toke Thomas Høye gave the speech ‘Phenological responses to a warmer Arctic - trends, drivers and trophic interactions’ 24 February 2014, Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, Lancaster, UK.

David Petrosyan gave the talk ‘Correlations of Rydberg excitations in resonantly-driven dissipative atomic ensembles’ at the External group seminar on theoretical quantum optics, 25 February 2014, Imst, Austria.

Karl-Erik Andersson gave the presentation ‘Pharmacological Treatment of Chronic Pelvic Ischemia’ at SUFU (The Society for Urodynamics, Female Pelvic Medicine and Urogenital Reconstruction), Winter Meeting, 25 Feb – 1 March, Miami, FL, US.


Rikke Schmidt Kjaergaard participated in the Young Academy’s monthly meeting 27 February 2014, Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and Letters, Copenhagen, Denmark.

Jesper Levinsen gave the talk ‘Efimov trimers under strong confinement’ at the March Meeting of the American Physical Society, 3 -7 March 2014, Denver, Colorado, US.
Rikke Schmidt Kjærgaard participated virtually in the ‘VIZBI conference’ 5-7 March 2014, Heidelberg, Germany.


Toke Thomas Høye participated 11 March in the Danish broadcast on TV2 Østjylland ‘IQ – Iskold Forskning’, based on contributions from researchers at the Arctic Research Centre.

Ted Kaizer visited the Rijksmuseum van Oudheden to see the exhibition on ‘Petra, Wonder in the Desert’ on 12 March 2014, Leiden, Netherlands.


Steen Hannestad gave an interview on 20 March at the Danish Radio Broadcast P1 commenting on the groundbreaking scientific results by Harvard scientists who have found the first direct evidence of cosmic inflation, the immediate after-effects of the Big Bang 14 billion years ago.

David Petrosyan received the Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel Research Award of the Humboldt Foundation at the 42nd Symposium for Research Award Winners of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, 20-22 March 2014, Bamberg, Germany.


Toke Thomas Høye gave an interview on the TV2 news broadcast about the role of climate changes for the early spring this year, 25 March 2014, TV2, Denmark.

Steen Hannestad gave the lecture ‘Primordial gravitational waves and the BICEP-2 measurements’ on 26 March 2014 at the SAC Seminar, Department of Physics and Astronomy, Aarhus University, Denmark.


David Petrosyan gave the talk ‘High-fidelity quantum gates with Rydberg superatoms: How to count atoms in mesoscopic ensembles’ 27 March 2014, COST meeting on Fundamental Problems in Quantum Physics, Rehovot, Israel.


Marie Braad Lund published the paper The earthworm—Verminephrobacter symbiosis: an emerging experimental system to study extracellular symbiosis in: Frontiers in Microbiology.

David Petrosyan gave a Guest seminar on ‘Correlations of Rydberg excitations in optically driven atomic ensembles’, 30 March 2014, Department of Chemical Physics, Weizmann Institute of Science, Israel.

Rikke Schmidt Kjærgaard gave the talk ‘Molecular animation: Challenges in protein dynamics’ 31 March 2014, Copenhagen Biocenter, University of Copenhagen, Denmark.


Ted Kaizer organised the colloquium on ‘The Near East between Seleucids, Parthians and Romans’, 25 April 2014, University of Durham, UK.

Georg Sørensen participated as Chairman of the Board in the Copenhagen meeting of The Danish Council for Development Policy, 28 April 2014, Denmark.

Toke Thomas Heye held the international workshop ‘Arctic Ecosystems and Climate Change’, 29 – 30 April, Aarhus Institute of Advanced Studies, Denmark.

Rane Willerslev gave the keynote talk ‘Is there a Place for Faith in Anthropology?’ at the ‘Yearly Conference of Norwegian Anthropology’, 2 May 2014, Bergen University, Norway.

Marie Broad Lund gave the talk ‘Genome evolution of vertically transmitted, extracellular symbionts of earthworms’ on 3-4 May 2014 at the 4th annual Yosemite Symbiosis Workshop, Wawona, Yosemite National Park, California, USA.

Niels Peter Revsbech gave the keynote speech ‘Oxygen, respiration and photosynthesis in the OMZ’ at the 46th international Liege colloquium: ‘Low oxygen environments in marine, estuarine and fresh waters’, 5-9 May 2014, Liege, Belgium.

Toke Thomas Heye gave the talk ‘Arctic biodiversity and climate change – long and short term effects on flora and fauna in Greenland’ 6 May 2014, Arctic Seminar Series, Aarhus Institute of Advanced Studies, Denmark.

Georg Sørensen gave the lecture ‘World Order 2014’ at the conference on ‘New World Order and Changing Relations of Power’ 12 May 2014, University of Southern Denmark.

Toke Thomas Heye edited a special issue of the journal Current Zoology, which includes his editorial ‘Reducing uncertainty in species’ responses to climate change’ and his original article ‘Phenology of high-arctic butterflies and their floral resources: Species-specific responses to climate change’, 60 (2): 186–188, May 2014.

Karl-Erik Andersson gave four lectures at the Annual Meeting of the American Urological Association: ‘New Approaches Assessing Bladder Function’ (The Science of Female Health Program), ‘Cystometry in Rodents and Man – A Comparison’ (Society for Basic Urological Research), ‘Progression of Voiding Dysfunction’ (Geriatric Urological Society) and the plenary session ‘The Ramon Guiteras Lecture: New Developments in the Pharmacological Treatment of the Overactive Bladder’. 16-21 May 2014, Orlando, USA.

Steen Hannestad co-authored the article ‘Dark energy properties from large future galaxy surveys’ in: Journal of Cosmology and Astroparticle Physics 1405, 021, May 2014.


Rane Willerslev gave the invited panel paper ‘Tapped into Culture’ at ‘Body and the Religious’ Symposium, 19-21 May 2014, Université de Toulouse, France.

Annette Bohn co-authored the poster ‘The fading affect bias as a pan-culturally used emotion regulation phenomenon’ presented at the 26th Annual Convention of the Association for Psychological Science, 22-25 May 2014, San Francisco, USA.

Cheryl Mattingly delivered the plenary speech ‘Trust, Family Peril and the Good Life: A Narrative Perspective’, 22-24 May 2014, at The MatchPoints Seminar, Aarhus University, Denmark.


David Petrosyan gave the talk ‘High-fidelity quantum gates with Rydberg superatoms’ at the Quantum Workshop on Advances in Foundations of Quantum Mechanics and Quantum Information with atoms and photons, 27 May 2014, Turin, Italy.

Ted Kaizer co-hosted a one-day workshop ‘Palmyrene portraiture’ in collaboration with Professor Rubina Raja, Aarhus University, 28 May 2014, Aarhus Institute of Advanced Studies.

Steen Hannestad gave the talk ‘Neutrinos and cosmology - a love story’ at ‘Enqfest – 30 years of cosmology’, 30 May 2014, University of Helsinki, Finland.


Rane Willerslev gave the paper ‘Sharing and its shadow: social collapse among the Ik of northern Uganda’ at the workshop ‘Egalitarianism’, 2-3 June 2014, Bergen University, Norway.


Morten Kyndrup gave the keynote presentation ‘Modernism and Aesthetic Experience. Art, Aesthetics and the role of Modernism’ at the conference ‘Art, the Aesthetic and Aesthetic Experience’, 5-7 June 2014, Helsinki, Finland.
Lotte Philipsen gave the talk ‘Para-textual aesthetics in contemporary art’ at the annual conference of the Nordic Society of Aesthetics, 5-7 June 2014, Helsinki, Finland.

Steen Hannestad gave the talk ‘Neutrinos’ at the annual meeting of Instituto de Astrofísica on ‘Fundamental Cosmology’, 6 June 2014, Spain.

Karl-Erik Andersson gave the lecture ‘Bladder and Sexual Dysfunction in Parkinsonian Disorders - Mechanisms and Targets for Treatment’ at MDS, the 18th International Congress of Parkinson’s Disease and Movement Disorders, 8-12 June 2014, Stockholm, Sweden.

Steen Hannestad gave the paper ‘Neutrino physics and precision cosmology’ at the workshop ‘Cosmological frontiers in fundamental physics’ 10 June 2014, APC, Paris, France.

Karl-Erik Andersson gave the lecture ‘Use of b3 –Adrenoceptor Agonists for the Treatment of Overactive Bladder’ at NFOG, the 39th Nordic Congress of Obstetrics and Gynecology, 10-12 June 2014, Stockholm, Sweden.


Rikke Schmidt Kjærgaard was a judge at the ‘Science as Art’ competition on 12 June 2014, iNANO, Aarhus University, Denmark.

Bent Jesper Christensen delivered the invited paper ‘Medium Band Least Squares Estimation of Fractional Cointegration in the Presence of Low-Frequency Contamination’, 12 June 2014 at the conference on ‘Recent Developments in Financial Econometrics and Empirical Finance’ and was elected an External Fellow at the Centre for Financial Econometrics, University of Essex, UK.

Cheryl Mattingly published the review article ‘Moral Assemblages, Heroin Addicts, and Ethical Becoming’ in: Current Anthropology Volume 55, Number 3, June 2014.


Georg Sørensen participated as a board member in the 13 June 2014 Board meeting of the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO), Norway.

Georg Sørensen presented the invited paper ‘No End in Sight: A Liberal World Order in Crisis’ at the Annual Meeting of the British International Studies Association (BISA), June 2014, Dublin, Ireland.

Annette Bohn was one of the organizers of the conference ‘Comparative Perspectives on Autobiographical Memory: What Human and Non-human Animals Remember About Their Past’ held by the Center on Autobiographical Memory Research (CON AMORE), 18-19 June, Aarhus, Denmark.

Annette Bohn co-authored the poster ‘Remembering the Past and Imagining the Future in Children with Anxiety Disorders’ at the conference ‘Comparative Perspectives on Autobiographical Memory: What Human and Non-human Animals Remember About Their Past’, CON AMORE, 18-19 June 2014, Aarhus, Denmark.

Karl-Erik Andersson gave the presentation ‘Chronic Pelvic Ischemia: Contribution to the Pathogenesis of LUTS – New Target for Pharmacological Treatment?’ 19 June 2014, Division of Bioengineering, Nihon University School of Engineering, Koriyama, Japan.

Georg Sørensen participated as SH Panel Member in the European Research Council meeting 23-25 June 2014, Brussels, Belgium.


Karl-Erik Andersson gave two presentations: ‘The origins of urgency: targets for effective treatment’ and ‘Do biomarkers play a role in OAB?’ 26-28 June 2014, ALLURA meeting, Galway, Ireland.


Karl-Erik Andersson gave the presentation ‘Regenerative Pharmacology or The Pharmacology of Regenerative Medicine’ at Regenerative Medicine Essentials Course 21-25 July 2014, Winston Salem. Wake Forest University, USA.


AIAS EVENTS
The Fellows’ Seminar is the primary meeting ground for AIAS Fellows, AU researchers and other collaborators, but it is not the only one...
AIAS EVENTS

AUTUMN 2013

AIAS Inauguration: Welcome: by AIAS Director Morten Kyndrup and by Rector Louritz B. Holm-Nielsen; Speech: ‘Institutes for Advanced Study: Ideas, Histories, Rationales’ by Björn Wittrock, Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study; Lecture: The Morally Troubled Life: Vulnerability and Virtues in an African American Community’ by AIAS Fellow Cheryl Mattingly, 13 June 2013

AIAS Fellows’ Seminar: ‘Faithful but not enslaved - What drives the genome evolution of microbial symbionts?’ by AIAS Fellow Marie Braad Lund, 9 September 2013

AIAS Fellows’ Seminar: ‘Why Human Sacrifice? An Exercise in Radical Cultural Comparison’ by AIAS Fellow Rane Willerslev, 16 September 2013

AIAS Conference: ‘The Anthropology and Philosophy of Moral Experience’ organised by AIAS Fellow Cheryl Mattingly and AU researchers Maria Louw, Thomas Schwarz Wentzer and Rasmus Dyring, 19—20 September 2013

AIAS Fellows’ Seminar: ‘Wage and Labour Productivity Dispersion. The Roles of Total Factor Productivity, Labour Quality, Capital Intensity, and Rent Sharing’ by AIAS Fellow Bent Jesper Christensen, 30 September 2013

AIAS Guest Lecture: ‘Materialism is Not the Solution’ by Professor Graham Harman, Department of Philosophy, American University in Cairo, Egypt, 9 October 2013

AIAS Fellows’ Seminar: ‘Nitrogen cycling in nature - Observing microbial processes at a microscale’ by AIAS Fellow Niels Peter Revsbech, 21 October 2013

AIAS Fellows’ Seminar: ‘Life Story Development. Cultural life scripts and the organization of autobiographical memories’ by AIAS Fellow Annette Bohn, 4 November 2013

AIAS Workshop: ‘A Psychological view on Life Stories and Memoirs’ organised by AIAS Fellow Annette Bohn, 6 November 2013


AIAS Fellows’ Seminar: ‘Holy Cow! The aesthetic intersection of art and bio-science’ by AIAS Fellow Lotte Philipsen, 9 December 2013

AIAS Journal Club: ‘Data visualization and scientific graphics’ organised by AIAS Fellow Rikke Schmidt Kjærgaard in collaboration with Ebbe Sloth Andersen ([iNANO]), 12 December 2013
SPRING 2014

**AIAS DUA PEP-TALKS:** ‘Molekylær Hollywood: Videnskab i 3D’ by AIAS Fellow Rikke Schmidt Kjærøgaard, 22 January 2014

**AIAS Journal Club:** ‘Data visualization and scientific graphics’ organised by AIAS Fellow Rikke Schmidt Kjærøgaard in collaboration with Ebbe Sloth Andersen, 13 February 2014

**AIAS Fellows’ Seminar:** ‘Designing molecules – 3D science animation as data visualization’ by AIAS Fellow Rikke Schmidt Kjærøgaard, 17 February 2014

**AIAS Fellows’ Seminar:** ‘The Negativity of Times. Collapsed Futures in Maputo, Mozambique’ by speaker Morten Nielsen invited by AIAS Fellow Rane Willerslev, 24 February 2014

**AIAS DUA PEP-TALKS:** ‘Digitalt valg i Danmark - hvorfor ikke?’ by Steffen Dalsgaard, Associate professor IT and Management, IT University, Copenhagen, 26 February 2014

**AIAS Workshop:** ‘Travelling Temporalities’ organised by AIAS Fellow Rane Willerslev, 6-7 March 2014

**AIAS Workshop:** ‘Death. Materiality. Time’ organised by AIAS Fellow Rane Willerslev, 10 March 2014

**AIAS Fellows’ Seminar:** ‘Rethinking world order’ by AIAS Fellow Georg Sørensen, 10 March 2014

**AIAS Workshop:** ‘Death. Materiality. Time’ organised by AIAS Fellow Rane Willerslev, 17 March 2014

**AIAS Journal Club:** ‘Data visualization and scientific graphics’ organised by AIAS Fellow Rikke Kjærøgaard Schmidt in collaboration with Ebbe Sloth Andersen, iNano, 20 March 2014

**AIAS Fellows’ Seminar:** ‘Wrestling with water: a novel interface of ecology and economy’ by speaker Mikael Skou Andersen invited by AIAS Fellow Niels Peter Revsbech, 24 March 2014

**AIAS DUA PEP-TALKS:** ‘På rejse til kræftsygdommens kerne’ by Thomas Bjørnskov Poulsen, Department of Chemistry, Aarhus University, 26 March 2014

**AIAS Fellows’ Seminar:** ‘Dura-Europos & Palmyra. Between Historiography & the Study of Religious Life’ by AIAS Fellow Ted Kaizer, 7 April 2014

**AIAS Fellows’ Seminar:** ‘Aging bladder dysfunction. Causes and targets for drug treatment’ by AIAS Fellow Karl-Erik Andersson, 28 April 2014

**AIAS Workshop:** ‘Arctic Ecosystems and Climate Change’ two-days international workshop for 20 researchers organised by AIAS Fellow Toke Høye, 29-30 April

**AIAS Guest Lectures:** ‘Dissecting an Arctic interaction web’ by Tomas Roslin, University of Helsinki, Finland, ‘Arctic terrestrial ecosystem in a changing world. Simple rules drive species interactions in the tundra’ by Pierre Legagneux, University of Québec, Rimouski, Canada and ‘COAT: A plan for adaptive monitoring of terrestrial food webs in the age of rapid climate in Arctic Norway’ by Rolf Ims, University of Tromsø, Norway, organised by AIAS Fellow Toke Haye, 29 April 2014

**AIAS Event: Arctic Seminar Series:** ‘Arctic biodiversity and climate change – long and short term effects on flora and fauna in Greenland’ by AIAS Fellow Toke T. Haye, 6 May 2014

**AIAS Fellows’ Seminar:** ‘Involuntary autobiographical memories: An introduction to the unbidden past’ by speaker Dorthe Berntsen invited by AIAS Fellow Annette Bohn, 12 May 2014

**AIAS Event: Arctic Seminar Series:** ‘Interdisciplinarity in Arctic research: Governance as a core concept? The cross-perspective of political science and law’ by Cécile Pelaudeix, Department of Culture and Society and Department of Bioscience, Arctic Research Centre, Aarhus University and Ellen Margrethe Basse, Department of Law, Aarhus University, 20 May 2014

**AIAS Fellows’ Seminar:** ‘Measuring the Invisible - Probing the dark Universe with new observational techniques’ by AIAS Fellow Steen Hannestad, 26 May 2014

**AIAS DUA PEP-TALKS:** ‘Den opmærksomme hjerne’ by Thomas Habekost, University of Copenhagen, 28 May 2014

**AIAS Conference:** ‘Cold atoms and beyond’ organised by AIAS Fellow Jesper Fredslund Levensen in collaboration with Georg Bruun, Dept. of Physics and Astronomy, Aarhus University, 25 June - 27 June 2014
HOSTED EVENTS
The facilities of the AIAS have hosted a number of significant events for Aarhus University as well as external institutions. These events function as yet another meeting ground for the AIAS fellows, AU researchers and international collaborators. The Institute will continue this in the forthcoming academic year as many conferences and workshops are already scheduled to take place at the AIAS.
HOSTED EVENTS

AUTUMN 2013

Conference: 13th OXMetrics User Conference. CREATEs, Aarhus University, 5-6 September 2013

PhD defense: Lennart Lykke, Department of Chemistry, Aarhus University, 24 September 2013

Conference: ‘Displacements: Forced migration and the arts’ organised by Mads Anders Bøgsgaard and Jakob Ladegaard, Aarhus University, 3-5 October 2013

Doctoral defence: ‘Three Conceptions of Human Rights’ by Mogens Chrom Jacobsen, 1 November 2013

Kjeldgaard Lecture: ‘Cyanogenic glucosides: a lot more than a cyanide bomb!’ by Professor Birger Lindberg Møller, University of Copenhagen, 7 November 2013

EScoDNA Kick-off meeting: Kick-off for European Graduate School funded by the FP7 framework programme, 13 November 2013

Course: ‘How to Write a Competitive Proposal for Horizon 2020’ by Dr. Sean McCarthy, 15 November 2013

Art history seminar: ‘Animation’, 19 November 2013

Aarhus Advanced Lectures in Biology: ‘Large vertebrate defaunation modulates tropical forest ecosystem services’ by Professor Carlos A. Peres, University of East Anglia, UK, 20 November 2013

COMIQ Kick-off meeting: ‘Kick Off Meeting for the Marie Curie Initial Training Network (ITN) COMIQ – Cold Molecular Ions at the Quantum Limit’, 22 November 2013


SPRING 2014

Seminars: ‘Kulturelle transformationer’, 8 January 2014

Information meeting on Excellence: Focus on the European Research Council (ERC) and Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA), 15 January 2014

Lundbeck Lecture: ‘Afhængighed – hjernens belønningsystem’ by Petrine Wellendorph, University of Copenhagen and Jakob Linnet, Aarhus University, 15 January 2014

Defence of higher doctoral degree: ‘Greek Countryside in Ancient Crimea: Chersonesean Chora in the Late Classical to Early Hellenistic Period’ by Vladimir Stolba, 24 January 2014

Lundbeck Lecture: ‘Ældgammelt DNA og menneskehedens store vandringer’ by Eske Willerslev, Natural History Museum of Denmark, University of Copenhagen, 25 February 2014

Kjeldgaard Lecture: The eukaryotic chaperonin CCT: a central hub in the protein folding process by José M. Valpuesta, Spanish National Centre for Biotechnology, Spain, 6 March 2014

Lundbeck Lecture: ‘ADHD – modediagnose eller barsk virkelighed’ by Per Hove Thomsen, Aarhus University Hospital and Dorte Damm, Aarhus University, 11 March 2014

Kjeldgaard Lecture: ‘Hexosamine metabolites enhance protein quality control and prolong life’ by Adam Antebi, Max Planck Institute for Biology of Ageing, Cologne, Germany, 13 March 2014


PhD defence: ‘Design Principles in Biology – A Philosophical Analysis’ by Sara Maria Ehrenreich Green, Dept. of Physics and Astronomy, 28 March 2014

Lundbeck Lecture: ‘Depression – lys i mørket’ by Thomas Werge, Region Hovedstaden’s Psychiatric and Henning Jensen, Royal Danish actor, 6 April 2014

PhD Defence: ‘Investigation of the hepatocellular responses to major dietary trans fatty acids - Proteomic, transcriptomic and lipidomic analyses of the cellular response’ by Lone Vendel Nielsen, 24 April 2014

Research Programme Meeting: ‘Mediality, Materiality, Aesthetic meaning’, 5 May 2014

Workshop: ‘Theory and Practice of Secure Multiparty Computation’ organised by Ivan Bjerre Damgård, Claudio Orlandi, Jesper Buus Nielsen, Aarhus University, 6 May 2014

Lundbeck Lecture: ‘Skizofreni – arv og miljø’ by Anders Børglum, Aarhus University and Preben Bo Mortensen, Aarhus University, 13 May 2014


Doctoral defence: ‘Gottlieb Bindesbøll – Danmarks første moderne arkitekt’ by Peter Thule Kristensen, ph.d., arkitekt maa, 22 May 2014

PhD defence: ‘Fertility treatment: long-term growth and mental development of the children’ by Bjørn Bay, 23 May 2014
DALE T. MORTENSEN

AIAS Advisory Board Member, Professor and Nobel prize winner in Economics Dale T. Mortensen passed away on 9 January 2014 after months of illness. Dale was a member of the AIAS Advisory Board and gave name to the first external fellows at the AIAS, the Dale T. Mortensen Fellowships.

The internal Jens Christian Skou Fellowships are named after the other Nobel Prize winner of Aarhus University, Jens Christian Skou who received the Nobel prize in Chemistry in 1997.

CONFERENCE IN MEMORY OF DALE T. MORTENSEN: 21 OCT 2014

On 21 October 2014, the AIAS will be hosting the ‘Conference in Memory of Dale T. Mortensen’ to commemorate the academic work of the Nobel laureate and to gather some of the people around his work.

The conference is co-organised by the Dept. of Economics and Business, Aarhus University, Dept. of Economics, Northwestern University, USA, and the AIAS.
SELECTION BOARD

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