



## **AIAS Off-Site Seminar for AIAS Fellows 25-26 September 2023**

**Working interdisciplinary – communication, collaboration, and funding**

### **General aims**

- To create a forum for academic exchange
- To share experiences with interdisciplinarity and cross-disciplinary collaborations – and its benefits and challenges
- To enhance knowledge about interdisciplinary funding, possibilities, and structural challenges
- To socialize with your colleagues in a beautiful and remote part of Denmark

## Working interdisciplinary – communication, collaboration, and funding

The primary focus of this year's Sandbjerg Seminar revolves around various facets of working interdisciplinary. The advantages and benefits are numerous, yet they are accompanied by challenges and barriers that can, at times, hinder collaboration. These obstacles may arise from different approaches, methodologies, and cultures in the various academic disciplines.

This has led to questions such as: How can we improve communication and fundamental understanding across different disciplines? How can we bridge the gap between the sciences and create a shared language that promotes more enjoyable, coherent, and effective scientific knowledge across boundaries? Furthermore, how are you as researchers motivated to foster scientific exchange and mutual understanding and facilitate the emergence of new ideas and unlikely collaborations?

Additionally, the seminar will draw attention to one of the primary challenges: funding! Many funding bodies are designed to support research within specific disciplinary boundaries following the current university structure, making it difficult for interdisciplinary projects to fit neatly into existing funding frameworks. This misalignment often leads to inadequate or inappropriate funding opportunities for interdisciplinary research, forcing researchers to compromise the interdisciplinary nature of your work to fit within established disciplinary categories.

**The first day of the seminar** is divided into two sessions. These sessions deal with different aspects of working interdisciplinary. Commencing with a meta-talk on the topic by the AIAS Director followed by two short booster talks from two AIAS-COFUND fellows, who will share their experiences from interdisciplinary projects to kick-start the second session of the day, group discussions.

**The second day of the seminar** delves into the issues of funding. Commencing with a presentation on interdisciplinary funding within a Danish context, followed by a workshop that discusses interdisciplinary funding, revisits the above-raised questions or questions from the seminar's first day, and explores different dilemmas connected to funding, structures, and the role of an Institute for Advanced Studies as the University's hub for interdisciplinarity and how to navigate it effectively.

# Programme

## DAY 1: MONDAY, 25 SEPTEMBER

- 08:30 – 11:00      Transportation by bus from AIAS to Sandbjerg
- 11:00 – 12:00      Arrival, check-in, coffee and possibility to go for a walk
- 12:00– 13:00      Lunch (at 'Magasinet')
- 13:00-13:45      AIAS Director, Andreas Roepstorff will in his talk titled 'Interdisciplinary Encounters and Styles of Knowing ' address different aspects of interdisciplinarity:

Becoming a researcher involves disciplining at so many different levels. One learns to pay attention, to be sensitive to nuances, and to appreciate and excel in particular styles of argumentation. This is a wonderful and critically important part of one's training and practice that may almost become second nature. At times, this becomes highly tangible in interdisciplinary collaborations. Are there ways to turn such differences into playful explorations?

Andreas Roepstorff is trained in biology and social anthropology. His research explores human interaction, cognition, and culture, often unfolding at the boundaries between humanities, natural sciences, and health. He was the founding director of the interdisciplinary Interacting Minds Centre at Aarhus University, [imc.au.dk](http://imc.au.dk).



13:45-14:00	<p>Two AIAS-COFUND fellows will give short booster talks in which they share their experiences from interdisciplinary projects to kick-start group discussions:</p> <p>The first presentation is by Christian Damsgaard, AIAS COFUND-II fellow (2020-2023).</p> <p>Christian has been an AIAS COFUND-II fellow since 2020 and will soon continue into a Tenure Track Assistant Professorship at the Department of Biology (AU). During his fellowship, Christian has studied bird vision using evolutionary, physiological, and genomics approaches, and in his presentation, he will address some of the opportunities and challenges of working on an interdisciplinary project.</p>
14:00-14:15	<p>The second presentation is by Luseadra McKerracher, AIAS COFUND-II fellow (2021-2024)</p> <p>Luseadra comes from a background in biological and biocultural anthropology, and now applies her knowledge about human biological and cultural evolution to think about contemporary public health challenges. In particular, she is interested in health equity and health promotion during pregnancy and peri-partum.</p> <p>She will say a few words about two interdisciplinary projects she has been working on while at AIAS, namely the Supporting Pregnancy fOOD and Nutrition Security (SPOONS) in Denmark project and the Canadian Art of Creation project. Both concern health promotion and nutrition during pregnancy.</p>
14:15-14:30	Coffee break
14:30-16:00	Workshop based on the presentations
16:00 –16:30	Discussion and wrap-up moderated by Andreas Roepstorff
16:30 – 17:00	Free time
18:30 -19:00	Drinks
19:00	Dinner

## DAY 2: TUESDAY, 26 SEPTEMBER

- 08:00– 09:00 Check out of rooms (Main building, reception), and breakfast ('Magasinet')
- 09:00 –10:00 Lone Koefoed Hansen will address interdisciplinary funding in a Danish context with the presentation titled: 'How funding and interdisciplinary research interweaves: my own experiences as a starting point'.  
  
Lone is an AIAS Associate fellow (2023-2025), and an associate professor in Digital Design at AU. Her research interests span a large range of scientific fields crossing several 'traditional' knowledge areas. She also serves as a reviewer for international funding bodies, as well as a member of the Danish Independent Research Fund Denmark (IRFD) Humanities panel.
- 10:00-10:45 Group work and discussion, facilitated by Lone Kofoed Hansen
- 10:45-11:00 Coffee break
- 11:00-12:00 Continued group work, discussions, and wrap-up.
- 12:00 - 13:00 Lunch (at 'Magasinet'?)
- 13:15 Bus departure to AIAS
- 15:30 Approx. arrival at AIAS



<b>Participants</b>	<b>FELLOWSHIP TYPE</b>
Bridget Vincent	AIAS-COFUND
Barbara Berger	AIAS-COFUND
Fulvio Reggiori	AIAS-COFUND
Peter Fazekas	AIAS-COFUND
Luseadra McKerracher	AIAS-COFUND
Ciara Kierans	AIAS-PIREAU
Jes Bak Sørensen	AIAS-PIREAU
Cecilie Eriksen	AIAS-SHAPE
Janet Rafner	AIAS-SHAPE
Lene Aarøe	AIAS-SHAPE
Lindsay Weinberg	AIAS-SHAPE
Nicholas Semi Haas	AIAS-SHAPE
Christian Ulrik Andersen	AIAS-SHAPE
Chao Sun	AIAS-DANDRITE
Christian Damsgaard	AIAS-COFUND
Thomas Kim	AIAS-DANDRITE
Iben Have	AIAS-CARLSBERG Monograph
Maria Louw	AIAS-CARLSBERG Monograph
Haftom Bayray	AIAS-RESEARCH
Lone Koefoed	SPEAKER
Andreas Roepstorff	AIAS-STAFF
Vibeke Sorensen	AIAS-STAFF
Lena Bering	AIAS-STAFF
Katrine Ø. Rasmussen	AIAS-STAFF
Lotte Holm	AIAS-STAFF
Helle Villekold	AIAS-STAFF