



## AIAS Off-Site Seminar for AIAS Fellows, 3- 4 October 2024

### Science and Methods - Finding Common Ground in Interdisciplinary Collaborations

#### General aims:

- To create a forum for academic exchange
- To share experiences with interdisciplinary collaborations
- To explore the understanding of different research methods across disciplines
- To discuss ways to bridge between the sciences
- To socialize with your colleagues

#### Abstract

The Sandbjerg Seminar this year is titled 'Science and Methods - Finding Common Ground in Interdisciplinary Collaborations.' Finding common ground in interdisciplinary collaboration is crucial for success. Researchers from different disciplines often struggle to understand one another due to varying epistemic hierarchies, methods and approaches to inquiry. Different disciplines can enhance the quality of research by achieving mutual understanding and speaking a 'common language'

In this seminar, we will focus on understanding different research practices and the benefits and challenges of working interdisciplinarily, employing mixed methods, leveraging overlapping methodologies, benefiting from each other's strengths, and finding common ground. We will hear from researchers who have hands-on experience with interdisciplinary projects, shedding light on the challenges and opportunities that arise when diverse scientific methods intersect.

Furthermore, we will explore how playful approaches and collective tinkering can create a conducive environment for creativity and collaboration, opening up new adjacent possibilities in research. We will reflect on what we find lacking in our current scientific methods and consider what we would like to learn from other scientific methods aiming to promote more coherent and effective interdisciplinary research.

# Programme

## DAY 1: Thursday 3. October



08:30 - 10:00

Transportation by bus from AIAS to Christiansfeld.

10:00 - 11:00

Visit to the Moravian Church and a sample of the traditional Christiansfeld honey cake.

12:00- 13:00

Arrival at Sandbjerg and lunch

13:00-13:45

**‘Opportunities and Challenges in Interdisciplinary Research’**  
By Associate Professor, K. Brad Wray

In his talk, Brad will examine the special opportunities and challenges presented by interdisciplinary collaborative research. Brad’s starting point is Thomas Kuhn’s skeptical remarks about working across disciplinary lines. Though Kuhn rightly recognizes the challenges researchers face in engaging in interdisciplinary research, Brad examines how these challenges can be transcended, and the payoff that awaits those who are able to overcome such challenges.

K. Brad Wray is an Associate Professor in the Center for Science Studies at Aarhus University. He is also a Carlsberg Monograph Fellow at AIAS, and an affiliate of the Center for Immunology of Viral Infections (CiViA), at Aarhus University.

13:45-14:30

**‘Common ground - not to be found, but hard work. Lessons from science studies’**  
By Associate Professor, Peter Danholt

Science studies is a broad and diverse field that focuses on the empirical study of scientific practices. Prominent scholars in the field are Bruno Latour, Hans Jörg Rheinberger, Donna Haraway and Isabelle Stengers. Briefly put, according to science studies, science is a nature-culture construction.

In his talk Peter will address the challenge that this poses to all disciplines, namely, not to be ‘sleepwalkers’, that mindlessly reproduce existing practices of one’s field; nor try to mimic other disciplines assumed ‘hardness’; or fall prey to a sort of pluralism where all disciplines are ‘equally good’. Not an easy task - but a necessary one, nonetheless, if science means producing knowledge in a response-able interaction with the world. The presentation will focus on Isabelle Stengers

conception of ‘interested science’ as a way to address this problem.

Peter Danholt is an Associate Professor at the School of Communication and Culture, Department of Digital Design and Information Studies and SHAPE - Shaping Digital Citizenship, affiliated with the AIAS-SHAPE fellowship programme.

14:30-15:00

**Coffee break**

15:00-15:45

**‘Experiences with working interdisciplinarily’**

By Associate Professor and AIAS Associate fellow, Donna Briggs Bødtkjer

Donna is a member of one of the AIAS collaborative groups ‘3-2-1- Go group’: ‘Anatomical Theater: Early Modern and Contemporary Dissection as Investigative Art’, in which aesthetic disciplines, medical history contemporary medical education, and digital humanities are brought together. In her talk, Donna will share some of her experiences with working on interdisciplinary projects; opportunities and challenges when different science and methods meet.

Donna Briggs Bødtkjer is a current AIAS Associate Fellow (2023-2025) and an Associate Professor at the Department of Biomedicine. She is a medical physiologist exploring the structure and function of the lymphatic circulation through an almost exclusively human-based translational approach. In addition to ongoing studies of lymphatic vessels in the lab and clinic, she is translating and modernizing Thomas Bartholin’s original lymphatic works.

15:45 -17:00

Group discussions, ‘walk and talk’ followed by a plenary wrap-up led by Associate Professor and AIAS-SHAPE fellow, Iben Have and Researcher and AIAS-PIREAU fellow, Jes Bak Sørensen

17:00 - 18:30

Free time for socializing, settling into rooms, and enjoying the surroundings of Sandbjerg.

18:30

Drinks followed by dinner



## DAY 2: Friday 4. October

08:00- 09:00

Check out of rooms (Main building, reception) and breakfast

You are welcome to explore the beautiful surroundings at Sandbjerg before breakfast, so bring running shoes or practical footwear, if you are up for it!

09:00 -11:30

**‘Interdisciplinarity and Collective Tinkering as Means of Exploring Adjacent Possibles’**

By Postdoc, Amos Blanton and AIAS Director and Professor, Andreas Roepstorff

In this workshop, Amos Blanton and Andreas Roepstorff will challenge our views on how tinkering and a playful approach can create the right environment for group creativity, and at best, group collaboration.

The workshop will be followed by a presentation on interdisciplinarity, which will lead us into a facilitated joint discussion on how we can find common ground in interdisciplinary collaborations across disciplines.

Amos Blanton is a researcher at the Interactive Minds Centre at Aarhus University, a designer and educator specializing in open-ended creative learning experiences and environments.

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.

11-30-12:00

**‘The emergent, novel social contract(s) of the university ‘**

By Associate Professor, Peter Danholt

In his talk, Peter will address the current discussions about the future role of academia and the work that is carried out at Aarhus University to actively participate in the debate. We invite you to engage in this discussion and consider the university's changing role in society.

12:00 - 13:00

Lunch

13:00

Approx. 15:30

Bus departure to AIAS. Follow-up & evaluations.  
Arrival at AIAS

