

The Politics of Traceability: How Knowledge, Artifacts, and Beings Have Been Tracked

May 5-6, 2026

Organizers: du Plessis, Pierre Louis; Hansen, Malene Friis; Rentetzi, Maria

Venue: Aarhus Institute for Advanced Studies, Aarhus University, Denmark

Program

Tuesday, May 5, 2026

8:45-9:00 Welcoming coffee

9:00-9:30: Welcome and Introductory Remarks (Maria Rentetzi, Pierre du Plessis, and Malene Friis Hansen)

9:30-10:30: Panel 1:

Ana Delgado (University of Oslo): *Natural resource extraction and exploitation: the digital turn in bioprospecting*

Nikolaos Olma (University of Aegean/University of Vienna): *At the Limits of Traceability: Low-Dose Radiation and Competing Knowledge Practices in Kyrgyzstan*

10:30-10:45: Coffee break

10:45-12:15: Panel 2:

Emily Cochayne (AIAS): *On Losing Annie in the Archive*

Chris McDermott, (independent scholar): *Tracing Missing Persons Past and Present: lessons from managing data of missing persons in humanitarian forensics*

Tom Quick (Independent Scholar): *The 'Fulfilment' of Logistical Ontology? Total Tracking at the Jackson Laboratory for Mammalian Genetics, 1955-1975.*

12:15-13:30: Lunch

13:30-15:00: Panel 3:

Jia Hui Lee (University of Bayreuth): *The Traceability of Tuberculosis (TB) Infection by Trained Rats: How Discussions about TB Diagnostic Tools Tend Towards the Search for Mechanical Subjectivity*

Erik Einum, (University of Oslo): *Traceability through animal bodies: Tracing changing value(s) of Norwegian mountain commons*

Luciano Ferrari (University of Amsterdam): *Accounting for Care: Veterinary Drug Traceability and Anticipatory Governance in Italian Beef Farms*

15:00-15:15: Coffee break

15:15-16:30: Roundtable: *Tracing in History*

Moderator: Maria Rentetzi (AIAS/FAU)
Ken Arnold (Medical Museum, University of Copenhagen)
Casper Andersen (AIAS)
Emily Cockayne (AIAS)

16:30-19:00: Network meeting and reception

Wednesday, May 6, 2026

8:45-9:00 Welcoming coffee

9:00-10:30: Panel 4:

Annika Capelan (Aarhus University): *The History of the Matter*

Bianca Roth, (University of Stuttgart): *Mediating Trust through Traceability: Blockchain, Digital Literacy and Consumer Engagement in Global Food Supply Chains*

Peter Szigeti, (Turku Institute for Advanced Studies and University of Alberta): *Preventing Tracing: The Birth of Privacy Laws*

10:30-10:45: Coffee break

10:45-12:00: Panel 5:

Katie Pfeiffer (Loughborough University London): *Regenerative Notions of Traceability: Between Care, Control, and Connection*

Christoph Borbach, (University of Siegen): *Tracking Technologies and their Counter-Practices: Resisting Datafication in the History of Wildlife Tracking*

12:00-13:00: Lunch

13:00-14:30: Roundtable: *Tracing nonhumans across borders*

Moderator: Malene Friis Hansen (AIAS)
Jens-Christian Svenning (Aarhus University)
Heather Swanson (Aarhus University)
Tom Quick (Independent Scholar)

Gavin Lamb (NHH)

14:30-14:45: Coffee break

14:45-16:00: Roundtable: *The Traceability of Material Flows*

Moderator: Pierre du Plessis (AIAS)

Jessica Coria (AIAS)

Julien Bachmann (FAU)

Toyin Kolawole (University of Botswana)

Allison Gerber (AIAS)

16:00-16:30: Wrap up and Next Steps