



Scientific Report – Highlights 2020

Introduction

The Centre for Textile Research (CTR) was established in 2005, founded by the Danish National Research Foundation and is today a research centre at the Saxo Institute, University of Copenhagen.

Since its inception, the CTR has had a strong focus on textile history and archaeology based on substantial research programs, as well as research training of young scholars and a variety of activities connected with textile history involving universities, museums and design schools. The CTR organizes seminars, conferences and courses in textile history on all academic levels. The scientific missions of the CTR are to:

- Promote, expand and consolidate textile research in the academic world;
- Establish a visible and explicit research profile with national and international references, setting new standards for future textile research;
- Explore and consolidate international textile knowledge;
- Achieve new results by conducting scientific programs in new research fields, and by inspiring all scientists to include the area of textiles in their research.

CTR team

Associate professor Eva Andersson Strand has led the centre since 2017 and is supported by a management group also consisting of Professor Marie-Louise Nosch, Professor MSO Ulla Mannering of the National Museum of Denmark, and student assistant Pernille Højfeld.

In 2020, the CTR team consisted of 15 members (including regular collaborators, but excluding student helpers). CTR team meetings were held every second Wednesday throughout the year, including internal and external scientific lectures and presentations by team members and guest researchers. Because of the corona situation and the lockdown of the university meetings were partly held via zoom.

Highlights

- Marie-Louise Nosch was appointed the new president of *The Royal Danish Academy of Science and Letters*
- Ulla Mannering was appointed professor MSO at the National Museum of Denmark, with a focus on textile archaeology.
- In 2020 CTR TexLab was established. TexLab is an *Interdisciplinary hub for the study of past cloth cultures*. CTR TexLab is further a part of the E-RIHS.dk Danish Research Infrastructure for Heritage Science, which was granted by the Danish Ministry of education of science. The hub rests upon the

expertise of CTR's multi-disciplinary network of experts, spanning archaeology, textile and animal skin research, history, art history, terminology, museums, conservation, digital and natural sciences. We will organize research activities, training and teaching events. For more information, please see [TexLab](#)

- The COST (European cooperation in science and technology) EuroWeb project, was launched in 2020. EuroWeb is a pan-European network of scholars from 13+ disciplines joins forces to bridge current cultural, political and geographic gaps in the disciplines of fashion, art and design. For more information please see [EuroWeb](#)
- In March, a team from the Centre For Textile Research set out for a tour of the many textile museums and workshops of Lyon with a special focus on silk. CTR guest scholar Dr Susanne Lervad organized the tour and introduced us to Lyon's unique textile heritage. Please see our travel journal on <https://www.traditionaltextilecraft.dk/france-lyon>
- In March, Elsa Yvanez organized a conference on [The Colour Blue in Ancient Egypt and Sudan](#). Ca. 60 people attended
- In August, Elsa Yvanez co-hosted a session at the European Association of Archaeologists annual conference (online), [In Textile Layers. Wrapped human remains, animals and artefacts in the Nile Valley from Prehistory to the Early Medieval Period](#)
- In January 2021 CTR welcomed two new Marie Skłodowska-Curie PostDocs, Corinne Mühlemann and Chiara Spinazzi-Lucchesi

Research

During 2020, the CTR team has given more than 16 presentations primarily in international contexts and has organized in-house seminars and workshops. The CTR scholars are participating in more than 27 research projects, collaborative or individual.

In 2020, several research projects continued, among them

[Margrethe Hald: the Life and Work of a Textile Pioneer: new insights and perspectives](#)

[Parchment manuscripts as a biomolecular archive: a novel approach for understanding the origins of the Merino sheep](#)

[Practises of practise: Between Crafts People and Digital Tools](#)

[The Fabric of My Life](#)

Furthermore, in 2020, MSC postdoc fellow Elsa Yavnez and Maria Mossakowska finished their projects, [Archaeology of textile production in the kingdom of Meroe \(TexMeroe\)](#) and [Monks, Nuns, and Textiles \(MONTEX\)](#). Instead, we had the pleasure of welcoming two new MSC postdoc fellows: Chiara Spinazzi-Lucchesi and Corinne Mühlemann, who both started their projects in January 2021: [EGYARN Unravelling the thread: textile production in New Kingdom Egypt \(1550-1070 BCE\)](#) and [Goods of the Earth Making and Marketing in the Pre-Mongol Islamic World](#).

MSC fellows Anne Kwaspen and Audrey Gouy continued to work on their projects: [TUNICS: The expression of cultural cross-fertilization in Egyptian clothing of the 7th-10th century AD](#) and [Textiles in Etruscan Dance 8th-5th cent. BCE \(TEXDANCE\)](#).

Collaboration and Guest scholars

We are collaborating with more than 73 universities and other institutes outside the University of Copenhagen and generally, we have a constant flow of international guest researchers but this year it was difficult because of the corona situation.

However, in February 2020 we had the pleasure to welcome Dr Tiina Kuokkanen joined CTR as a guest scholar working with a project "Daily and afterlife of children (1500 - 1900)"

From October 2020 Ida Demant and Marie Wallenberg joined CTR and TexLab working with the final experiments in the [Fashioning the Viking Age project](#). At the same time, Signe Vind was doing her BA internship with us.

Publications

In 2020, the CTR team published a number of articles, book chapters etc., of which CTR anthologies (1), articles in journals (5), articles in conference proceedings (4), other publications such as reviews, introductions, dissemination of knowledge (13), and the peer-reviewed journal, Archaeological Textiles Review (1).

Teaching

In the autumn semester, CTR taught a 15 ECTS course on “Textile Archaeology – A Hands-On Course” for a mix of international and Danish students from languages, history, archaeology and other disciplines within human sciences the possibility to do further research on the material.

In total, the CTR team supervised or mentored 2 PhD, 4 MSC and 3 MA projects.

Profiling

During 2020, CTR has further focused on profiling CTR on social media. The number of CTR’s Facebook followers has now increased from c. 3,500 followers in 2018 to 7,600+ in 2020. At the end of 2018, a CTR Instagram account was established, and at the end of 2020, c. 1130 followed this account. There is equal focus placed on profiling CTR internally on e.g. Saxo-news, info screens etc.

Conclusion

It is clear that the corona situation and the lockdown of the university affected our research and activities. Conferences and workshops as well as travel and research visits to museums and other institutions have been cancelled and/or postponed. Still, 2020 have been a productive year. CTR not only continues to have a great impact on the field of textile research but that the knowledge of CTR as specialists in the archaeological and historical material of textile is secured both within the community of textile researchers but also in e.g. archaeology, history, ethnology and linguistic.

I kindly thank the management group, the CTR team, the Saxo institute and all collaborators and look forward to a productive 2021.

Copenhagen, 17 March 2021



Eva Andersson Strand
Head of Centre