



Scientific Report – Highlights 2019

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.
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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, senior researcher Ulla Mannering of the National Museum of Denmark, and research assistant/centre administrator Anne Drewsen.

In 2019, the CTR team consisted of 17 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.

Highlights

- In January, MSC Post Doc fellow Elsa Yvanez, MA Anne Drewsen and MA Ulrikka Mokdad, organized a conference on Current Research in Textile Archaeology along the Nile, using a new platform based at CTR, the TAES research group. 45 persons attended in person, and more than 80 followed the [streamed presentations](#).
- In April, Professor Marie-Louise Nosch received “Dronning Margrethe II’s Videnskabspris”.
- Digitalising the world-renowned Danish textile researcher, [Margrethe Hald’s](#) publications and material
- Three Wednesday lectures on current research (Vikings, THREAD and Egyptian textiles) were organized during the autumn, as well as a lecture on the Italian site, La Marmotta.

- Two conference sessions were co-organised; the session Household Textiles (and Production) in and Beyond Viking Age at the EAA meeting in Bern, and the session Bronze Age Craft, Technique and Technology at the 15th Nordic Bronze Age Symposium in Lund.

Research

During 2019, the CTR team has given more than 41 presentations primarily in international contexts and has organized in-house seminars and workshops. The CTR scholars are participating in more than 25 research projects, collaborative or individual.

In 2019 already initiated projects continued, such as the 3-year project funded by the Velux foundation, [Fashioning the Viking Age](#). The aim of this project is to create new and archaeologically well-founded interpretations and reconstructions of the Viking Age dress. It forms a cooperation between the National Museum Denmark, Centre for Textile Research and Lejre Land of Legends. The project [Practises of practise, Between Crafts People and Digital Tools](#), Spinning – Motion capture – Neuro Science (POP) continued, as did the German-Danish collaboration projects with Hannover University enabled by the Anneliese Maier Award of the Humboldt Stiftung.

Furthermore, the EU funded Creative Europe project [The Fabric of My Life](#) continued. This is a collaborative project involving cultural institutions in DK, GR, and DE, housed at CTR, aiming to innovate and test new methods in the cultural sectors concerning migration history, to empower refugee women, and to train cultural workers and design students. Other ongoing research projects are the [THREAD project](#) supported by the Innovation Fund Denmark.

A research project relating to the pioneer textile researcher Margrethe Hald has been finalised in 2019 resulting in a complete bibliography with most articles published on the CTR homepage. This project will continue with an application for funding for a book.

In 2019, MSC postdoc fellow Christina Margariti finished her scholarship, [Fibres in Ancient European Textiles \(FIBRANET\)](#). Instead, we had the pleasure of welcoming two new MSC postdoc fellows: Anne Kwaspen and her project [TUNICS: The expression of cultural cross-fertilization in Egyptian clothing of the 7th-10th century AD](#), and Audrey Gouy with her project [Textiles in Etruscan Dance 8th-5th cent. BCE \(TEXDANCE\)](#). Elsa Yvanez and her MSC project [TexMeroe](#) - Archaeology of textile production in the kingdom of Meroe, New approaches to cultural identity and economics in ancient Sudan and Nubia, and MSC postdoc fellow Maria Mossakowska-Gaubert with [MONTEX](#) Monks, Nuns, and Textiles, both continued to work on their projects.

A team member held a conference on Early Modern Danish Household Textiles as well as conference on the use of costumes in dissemination at museums.

The Network [Cloth Culture in and beyond Viking Age](#) arranged two meetings (Oslo and Copenhagen) and a workshop at the Museum of Sigtuna with the aim to explore the variety and function of household textiles in the Viking Age.

Guest scholars

We are collaborating with more than 50 universities and other institutes outside University of Copenhagen and we have a constant flow of international guest researchers and visits from international scholars who wish to study textiles or use our specialized textile library. In 2019 we had the pleasure of welcoming Professor Marianne Vedeler from University in Oslo, Güzel Öztürk from Turkey working with sealings and textile in ancient Assyria, Iona Pegzone working with Baltic Folk dresses, Roxane Penisson working on prehistoric French textile tools, Inge Christiansen working on early modern textiles and textile production, and Marie Wallenberg, a weaver extraordinaire working with reconstruction of Viking clothing.

Publications

In 2019, the CTR team published a number of articles, book chapters etc, of which CTR anthologies (1), articles in journals (7), articles in conference proceedings (8), other publications such as reviews, introductions, dissemination of knowledge (24), 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 3 PhD, 4 MSC and 5 MA projects.


Profiling

During 2019, 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 6,500+ in 2019. At the end of 2018, a CTR Instagram account was established, and at the end of 2019, c. 550 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 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.

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Director