



Danish National Research Foundation's Centre for Textile Research
University of Copenhagen

CTR Brown Bag Seminars - Newsletter, October 2014

We are happy to announce hereby the fifth Brown Bag Seminar 2014 at the Danish National Research Foundation's Centre for Textile Research. The Brown Bag Seminars aim to present on-going research results about textile related topics in a broad sense to an international audience. This enables the exchange of knowledge among scholars and researchers within and possibly outside the Centre for Textile Research. Since the Centre for Textile Research has hosted a lot of visiting scholars with different backgrounds and origin over the last years and still does, the monthly event can also be seen as opportunity for both senior researchers and PhD students, to obtain feedback on their current research results.

The lectures will take place on a regular basis in the facilities of CTR, Orbit building, during lunchtime. Detailed information is provided via our monthly newsletter. The attendance does not require a confirmation.

The October Brown Bag Seminar at CTR: 28th of October 2014

When: **13:00 - 14:00**

Where: **CTR library** (second floor Orbit Building, Amagerfælledvej 56)

Time-schedule as following:

13:00 – 13:30 Seminar lecture by Lena Bjerregaard: “An introduction to pre-Columbian textiles”

13:30 – 14:00 Discussion

“An introduction to pre-Columbian textiles”

All existing pre-Columbian textiles are grave finds. Almost all of them are clothing items. Due to the very dry desert of the coast of Peru where they were buried, many of the textiles are extremely well preserved, and their colors are still vivid. The museum-held textiles represent many different cultures and are from 500 BC to 1500 AD. Most of them were excavated by grave robbers and entered the museums btw. 1890 and 1920.

Textile production in old Peru was through all cultures very prestigious and professional weavers held high status. No Inka event (1450-1550) passed without textile offerings and gifts, and textiles were widely used as bribe or reward. Writing was not used in old Peru and all information in the highly developed and complex societies of pre-Columbian Peru was recorded in textiles (Kipus, Tocupus).

The ancient Peruvians were master dyers and a very wide range of elaborate textile techniques were used. The materials were camelid hair (llamas), cotton (that grew in 5 different colors), and plant fibers.

Lena Bjerregaard has a BA in Ancient American Languages and Cultures, University of Copenhagen. She has been trained as a conservator (specializing in Arch. Textiles) at the School of Conservation, Copenhagen. Since 2000 she has been working at the Ethnological Museum in Berlin (responsible conservator for the arch. Peruvian Textile collection). Lena is now visiting scholar at CTR where she (among others) is working on a catalog of her Berliner textile collection.

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