



Scientific Report Highlights 2022

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 Management

Since 2017 the CTR leader is senior associated professor Eva Andersson Strand. In 2022, Eva Andersson Strand together with Susanne Lervad, and Dr Rachele Pierini forms the CTR management group.

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

CTR Open House

On 6 May, CTR held an open house for students and colleagues to present the research and experimental archaeology going on at CTR.

During the day, at least 50 persons came by to see presentations on Ancient Egyptian textiles, the creative flow in tapestry weaving, textile research through archives, textiles in burial archaeology, philological and linguistic research on Linear B and textile mythology, Viking fashion, Motion capture and craftsmanship, a modern approach to technical, cultural and human loss through textiles.

The visitors also took part in a number of practical activities, such as:

- Examining archaeological textile fragments under microscopes in TexLab
- Tryin ancient textile production methods: spinning and weaving!
- Dig up real archaeological textiles



Presentation underway at the CTR Open House. Photo © CTR

Seminar: Margrethe Hald and the Nordic History of Textile Research

On 22 April, CTR held a seminar on the textile researcher, Margrethe Hald, and her impact on textile research in Denmark as well as the Nordic countries. Archaeological textiles abound in the Nordic countries, and finds of complete costumes from the Bronze Age and Iron Age sparked the interest of scholars as early as the mid-19th century but it was not until later that their potential was fully realized. The seminar shed light on the early textile research and how this became a research field in its own right within the Nordic countries.

Apart from the Danish project group researching Margrethes life and work, textile experts from the Nordic countries also gave presentations. After the presentations, the participants visited the Margrethe Hald exhibition in the campus library. C. 20 persons participated in person, while c. 50 participated online.

All material on Margrethe Hald is published Open Access on <https://www.traditionaltextilecraft.dk/margrethe-hald>



Poster for the Margrethe Hald seminar



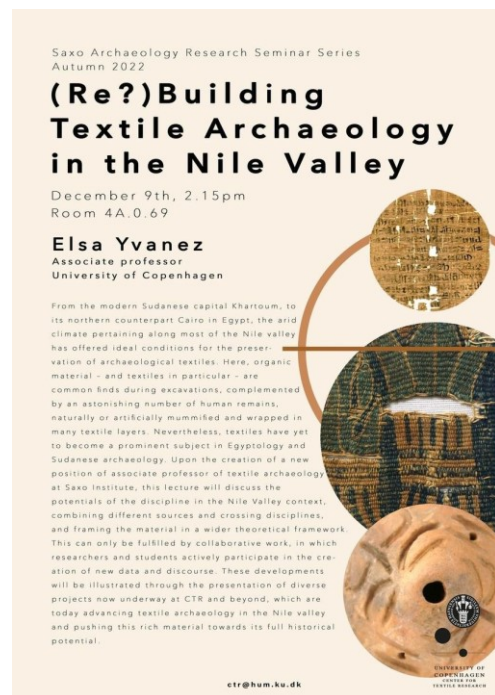
The seminar participants at the Margrethe Hald exhibition at the Library. Photo © CTR

Presenting a new ERC-project: "Fashioning Sudan"

From September 2022, CTR hosts a new project entitled "Fashioning Sudan. Archaeology of Dress along the Middle Nile" (ERC StG n°101039416) which is led by associate professor Elsa Yvanez and was presented on 9 December. The approach taken in the project will merge different academic fields, such as archaeology, textile and animal skin research, palaeo-proteomics, and socio-cultural theory, to develop an interdisciplinary study of garments.

The project will encompass the high-resolution analysis of textile and animal skin garments from the Bronze Age to the Late Medieval period, in close connection with their archaeological context. The results will reveal which animal and plant species were exploited, as well as skills and craft dynamics. It will then question how to use clothing and socio-cultural theories to reveal previously unknown aspects of past Sudanese lives.

We hope to bring new and more representative knowledge about the populations of ancient Sudan and to highlight the entanglement of dress practices in the fabric of society.



Poster for the presentation of the project.

International workshop Current Research in Textile Archaeology along the Nile

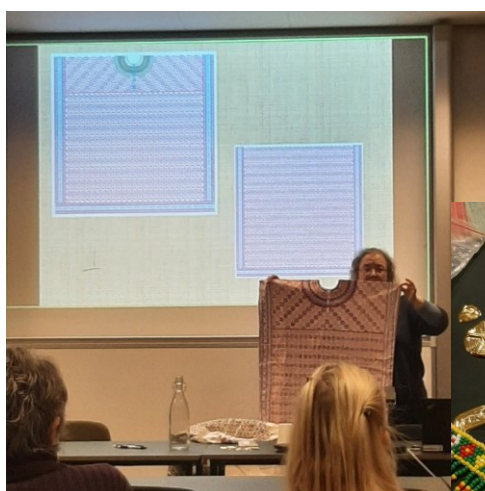
On 5-6 December, an international workshop was held on the current research in textile archaeology along the Nile. The aim of the workshop was to bring together researchers in archaeology, but also philology and iconography to discuss issues related to textiles in Ancient Egypt and Sudan and their current state of art, from different perspectives. The main topic of this workshop will be the investigation of resources and processing of fibres in textile production in Ancient Egypt and Sudan.

First day was presentations, including a presentation on the reconstruction of clothing from Tutankamons tomb by Gillian Vogelsang Eastwood, Director of the Textile Research Centre of Leiden, the second day was training in spinning and weaving for the presenters and CTR researchers.

C. 40 persons followed the presentations in person, while c. 150 persons was registered to follow day one online



Collage © Chiara Spinazzi-Lucchesi



Gillian Vogelsang Eastwood presents one of the reconstructed tunics from Tutankamons tomb.

Photo © Anne Drewsen



Reconstructed ornaments for the tunic.

Photo © Anne Drewsen

Research

We are collaborating with a large number of universities and other institutions outside the University of Copenhagen. After the Covid-years, CTR has seen a resurgence in collaborations as well as requests from scholars wanting to be guest researchers at CTR.

During 2022, the CTR team organised 22 workshops, meetings and conferences, and gave 50 presentations primarily in international contexts. The CTR scholars participated in 36 different research projects during 2022, collaborative or individual, national and international, such as:

In 2022, Marie Skłodowska-Curie postdoc Chiara Spinazzi-Lucchesi finalised her project "EgYarn, Unravelling the thread: textile production in New Kingdom Egypt" as did Corinne Mühlemann with her project "Goods of the Earth: Making and Marketing in the Pre-Mongol Islamic World", and Rachele Pierinis project "Trans-Plant). The project "Fabric" led by Marie-Louise Nosch also ended in 2022 as did the "The Past in Motion" project led by Eva Andersson Strand.

Projects still running were Magali-An Berthons project "TEX-KR: Making and Unmaking of Textiles during the Khmer Rouge Regime", and Maria Mossakowska-Gaubert project collaboration "RECONTEXT: Reconstructing the history of Egyptian textiles from the 1st Millennium AD at the National Museum of Denmark.

In 2022, CTR welcomed Elsa Yvanez and her ERC-project "Fashioning Sudan, Archaeology and dress along the middle Nile". Furthermore, the project *Textile resources in Viking Age landscapes* (TriVal) funded by DFF led by Eva Andersson Strand started.

Marie-Louise Nosch was awarded the Gad Rausing Prize for outstanding research into ancient history and the possibilities of textile materials has led to a completely new and flourishing field of research in the humanities in 2022.

Team and guests

The CTR consisted of 17 persons in 2022, including interns and student helpers.

Three guest researchers visited CTR in the autumn: Jeanne Svensky Ligte, Lena Larsson Lovén, and Maria Herrero Ojal.

Profiling

During 2022, CTR has further focused on profiling CTR on social media. The number of CTR's Facebook followers is now over 8,000 and the Instagram account is followed by more than 2,000. The followers are a mix of students from UCPH, scientific researchers, and craftspeople. CTR is also profiled internally on Saxo-news, info screens etc

Conclusion

2022 has been another productive year (please see resume in numbers). 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 linguistics.

Eva Andersson Strand

Head of centre

Figures and facts

Resume in numbers	2022
Workshops and seminars	22
Conferences	0
Regular meetings	21
Papers presented	50
Supervision	5
Teaching full courses and lectures	1
Research projects	36
External collaborators, with all researchers	78

Funding	Number applied for 2022	Number Received 2022
Funding	21	8

Number of publications authored and/or edited by CTR 2022, summary	Number of publications 2021	PR
Monographs	1	
Other publications/editorial work	0	
Articles in journals	12	11
Articles in anthologies	6	5
Articles in conference proceedings	4	2
Other publications: reviews, introductions, dissemination of knowledge	10	
Web-published research reports	2	
Archaeological Textiles Newsletter (ATN)	1	
Total	38	