

CTR Annual Report 2018

Scientific Report 2018

Introduction

The Centre for Textile Research (CTR) was founded by the Danish National Research Foundation in 2005 and is today a research centre integrated in the Saxo institute at the 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

Since 2017, the CTR director is associate professor Eva Andersson Strand who together with professor Marie-Louise Nosch, research assistant Egzona Haxha (January-May) and research assistant Anne Drewsen (June-December) form the CTR management group.

At the beginning of 2018, the CTR team consisted of 23 national and international members and at the end of 2018, 18 members (including regular collaborators as well as collaborators in Thread and Fabric of Life projects). CTR team meetings were held every second Wednesday throughout the year, featuring internal and external lectures and presentations.

Research

During 2018, the CTR team has given more than 40 presentations outside the university and has organized in-house seminars and workshops. The CTR scholars are participating in more than 16 research projects, collaborative or individual.

In the fall 2018, two new research projects were launched. The EU funded Creative Europe project [*The Fabric of My Life*](#) which is a collaborative project, housed at CTR, between cultural institutions in DK, GR,

and DE with the aim 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. The other project is a 3-year project funded by the Velux foundation, [Fashioning the Viking Age](#), housed at National Museum Denmark. 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.

In 2018, MSC postdoc fellow *Magdalena Öhrman* finished her scholarship, [Multi-sensory Representation of Textile Work in Latin Poetry and Prose](#). Instead, we have had the pleasure of welcoming one new MSC postdoc fellow: Elsa Yvanez and her project [TexMeroe](#) - Archaeology of textile production in the kingdom of Meroe, New approaches to cultural identity and economics in ancient Sudan and Nubia.

MSC postdoc fellow *Maria Mossakowska-Gaubert* and *Christina Margariti* continued to work on their projects, respectively [MONTEX](#) Monks, Nuns, and Textiles and [FIBRANET](#) - Fibres in Ancient European Textiles.

Other ongoing research projects are the [THREAD project](#) supported by the Innovation Fund Denmark, the project [Capturing our Intangible Past – Practises of Practise](#), and the German-Danish collaboration projects with Hannover University enabled by the Anneliese Maier Award of the Humboldt Stiftung.

2018 has been an active year - already in January, MSC Post Doc fellow Christina Margariti, in collaboration with colleagues from TORS and the School of Conservation, organized a theoretical and practical two-day *Textile Fiber Workshop*. In March, CTR organized in collaboration with the international *ATOM project* a two-day workshop on *Textile production in Kültepe. A CTR inter-disciplinary workshop* focusing on the Bronze Age textile production in Kültepe, Anatolia. In addition, scholars and students, a total of 35 persons, from both Saxo and TORS participated. Furthermore, in the spring semester 2018, CTR arranged 4 *MakerSpace for Textile Heritage* meetings with focus on building databases and digital mapping. The spring semester ended with a visit from the CTR evaluation panel (Ulla Lund Hansen, Saxo institute, Mary Harlow, University of Leicester, UK and Marianne Vedeler, University of Oslo, Norway) in which all CTR members presented their on-going projects to the panel and to the management of Saxo institute.

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.

CTR is 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 2018, that included journalist and textile researcher Virginia Postrel (US), assoc. prof. Abby Lillethun from Montclair University (US), PhD student Joanna Slomska from University of Warsaw (PO), PhD student Chiara Spinazzi-Lucchesi from University of Turin (IT), Assoc. prof. Hans Barnard, UCLA (US), and prof. Cecile Michel from CNRS Nanterre (FR).

New research applications/projects

The status of CTR and the quality of research at CTR means that a large number of applicants chose to apply for a Marie Skłodowska-Curie fellowship at CTR. In 2018, 10 researchers applied.

The CTR team members applied for a variety of projects such as excavation in Peru, masterclass for MSC applicants, seminar on Egyptian textiles, terminology on seal skin, digitalization of the Margrethe Hald archive and more. Of larger projects, the Fashioning of the Viking Age in cooperation with the National Museum as well as The Fabric of Life, a project under Creative Europe (ca 188,000€) are relevant to mention.

CTR team members sent 32 applications for a total of over 36,000,000 DKK in 2018.

Publications

In 2018, the CTR team published a number of articles, book chapters etc, of which CTR anthologies (2), articles in journals (14), articles in anthologies (5), articles in conference proceedings (3), other publications such as reviews, introductions, dissemination of knowledge (6), and Archaeological Textiles Review (1).

42 papers and posters have been presented at seminars and conferences.

Teaching

In the spring semester, Marie-Louise Nosch and Sidsel Frisch taught a 30 ECTS course *Dragt og Magt* and Eva Andersson Strand a 15 ECTS course *Textile archaeology a hands-on approach*. In July, CTR also hosted a 15 ECTS summer school *Textiles and Fashion in Theory and Practice through 3000 Years*, which is a collaborative course in history, archaeology and ethnology. Marie-Louise Nosch and Eva Andersson Strand have in 2018 taught and supervised on all academic levels. In total, the CTR team has taught at 13 courses supporting the lecturer with textile expertise.

Eva Andersson Strand supervised 1 MA project, and mentored 2 postdocs. Marie-Louise Nosch supervised 2 MA projects, 2 PhDs and 4 postdocs. Jane Malcolm-Davies supervised 1 BA project.

In line with the University of Copenhagen's commitment to integration of new citizens, the CTR took in an IGU contract of two years for archaeologist Farzana Khosrawi from Kurdish Iran.

Profiling

During 2018, CTR has focused on profiling CTR on social media. [CTR's Facebook](#) now has over 3,500 followers, and an Instagram account was being introduced at the end of 2018. More focus has been placed on profiling CTR internally on e.g. Saxo-news.

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 and history. The international panel evaluating the Saxo Institute, as well as professor Mike Parker Pearson at the evaluation meeting stated this. In conclusion, CTR remains a Centre of excellence.

Copenhagen, 27 February 2019



Eva Andersson Strand

Director