On the occasion of its 15 years anniversary, the Centre for Textile Research will organise a 5-day conference celebrating the vibrancy and diversity of today’s textile research and opening discussion on its future perspectives.

We wish to particularly welcome all members of CTR’s extended network, young scholars and students, as well as senior scholars working in the many fields covered by textile studies (e.g. archaeology, history, museum curation, conservation, sociology, ethnography, textile crafts, etc.).

The conference will blend scholarly pursuits with a variety of learning experiences: divided into 11 thematic sessions, activities will include keynote lectures, papers and posters on current research projects, panel discussions, and hands-on experiences, as well as a ‘textile fair’ and museum visits. The focus will be on methodological approaches - exploring the diverse aspects of textile production and textile research - and transcend historical and geographical boundaries.

Preliminary program:
Registration and opening of the ‘textile fair’
1/ Looking back: The progress of textile research in Northern Europe and the Mediterranean
2/ Deep in the matter: textiles, raw materials and novel scientific methods
3/ Landscapes of textile production
4/ Furnishing burials
5/ Reuse, repair, redesign
6/ Weaving sources together
7/ Textile tours at the National Museum of Denmark
8/ Ancient dress. Towards a global history of fashion
9/ Sensory studies in textile research
10/ Looking forward: Roundtable discussion on the future directions of textile research (panel discussion)
11/ Excursion at Lejre Land of Legend for hands-on experiments along the textile chaîne opératoire or museum visits.

Practical information:
We invite contributions in the form of papers and posters, to participate in the research sessions 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, and 9.

Please send abstracts (max. 200 words, with mention of your name, affiliation, contact information, and number of the relevant session) at ctr@hum.ku.dk by April 1st, 2020.

Presentations: 20 minutes. With your permission, the presentations will be streamed online. Please secure necessary permissions.

Registration required (information will follow).
Fees: - senior scholars and general audience: 200 euros
- PhD students: 100 euros
- all other students: free

More information to come on https://ctr.hum.ku.dk/
In this session, we encourage speakers to join with papers and posters on textile and skin value, evidence of use and secondhand use as well as redesign of ancient cloths and garments.

The richness of textile research lies in its true interdisciplinarity. Textile scholars draw information from multiple sources and develop sophisticated methodologies with the aim of interrogating sources of different types and provenance. Disciplines such as Archaeology, Egyptology, Ancient history, and Philology join forces with Art history, Anthropology and Ethnology. Moreover, in this blend, different research traditions come together, and we witness an inspiring encounter of theories, concepts and approaches. This session will display how we weave various sources together and foster new insights on the crossroad between disciplines.

Fashion has long been deemed a modern phenomenon, starting in the Middle Ages and characteristic of Western societies. In the past years, however, the rise of global history approaches and the growth of textile research have redefine the very concept of fashion – recognising an inherent “fashion impulse” to human populations since time immemorial, regardless of social class and ethnic background (Craik, in Welters & Lilletun, Fashion History, a Global View, 2018). A broad cultural concept, fashion is now defined as “changing forms of dress that are adopted by a group of people at a certain time and place” (o.c., p. 4). This session will illustrate the diversity of past fashion systems, which never stayed static but constantly evolved through the material choices, weave, texture, shape and color of the garments, as well as through hairstyles and ornaments. We invite papers exploring these different aspects through archaeological, textual, and iconographic sources.

Textile research is experiencing the “sensory turn” that has appeared in Humanities and Social Sciences, giving rise to the anthropology, history and sociology of the senses and affecting the work of always more scholars. This session will explore the possibilities offered by sensorial approaches to the study of textiles. Textiles from all periods will be studied in their multi-sensorial dimensions, not only limited to their visual paradigm, but also including hearing, smell, and touch. Research papers and posters on textiles’ sounds, colors, smells, movements, etc., will embody the diversity of physical experiences surrounding textiles. The session will develop a diachronic dialogue on textiles and will bring together scholars from different backgrounds on various aspects of the senses and sensory experience applied to textile research. As sensory studies challenge knowledge through experience and experimentation, the session will be followed by a “sensory textiles tour” at the Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek.

10/ Looking forward: Roundtable discussion on the future directions of textile research (panel discussion)

11/ Excursion at Lejre Land of Legend or museum visits
Hands-on experimentations along the textile chaîne opératoire, led Ida Demand and Eva Andresson Strand.
Visits of the Copenhagen Museum or Roskilde Viking Ship museum.