



## CTR anniversary conference

# OLD TEXTILES - MORE POSSIBILITIES

14-18 June 2021. Copenhagen/online

On the occasion of its 15 years anniversary, the Centre for Textile Research will organise a conference celebrating the vibrancy and diversity of today's textile research. Together with the EuroWeb network (COST project), we will also open a discussion on its future perspectives in Europe and beyond.

We wish to particularly welcome all members of CTR's extended network, EuroWeb members, 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.). An online platform will host lectures, posters and a textile 'fair', with the possibility for speakers to be present in Copenhagen (depending on the Covid-19 situation).

The conference will blend scholarly pursuits with a variety of learning experiences: divided into 9 thematic sessions, activities will include keynote lectures, papers and posters on current research projects, panel discussions, and hands-on demonstrations in an online textile 'fair'. 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:

- 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/ Ancient dress. Towards a global history of fashion
- 8/ Sensory studies in textile research
- 9/ Looking forward: Euroweb and the future of textile research (panel discussion)

We invite contributions in the form of papers and posters, to participate in the research sessions 2-9.

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](mailto:ctr@hum.ku.dk) by

**November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020.**

Presentations: 20 minutes. The presentations will be streamed online. Please secure necessary permissions.

Registration required (free, information will follow).

More information to come on <https://ctr.hum.ku.dk/>



# OLD TEXTILES - MORE POSSIBILITIES

## Preliminary program and research sessions

### 1/ Looking back: The progress of textile research in Northern Europe and the Mediterranean

Keynote lectures: Lise Bender Jørgensen and Margarita Gleba

### 2/ Deep in the matter: textiles, raw materials and novel scientific methods

Chair: Laura Viñas Caron. Keynote lecture: Luise Ørsted Brandt

The production of textiles is a long and complex process that begins with the harvesting and preparation of fibres. In the past, different plant and animal resources were used for making textiles, including wool, flax or cotton. For this reason, characterising the materials that were used in the past provides information not only about textile production but also about other closely related aspects such as animal husbandry, agriculture, trade of materials as well as exploitation and management of available resources. Over the last years, the advent of scientific methods to the field of textile archaeology has provided deeper insights into these questions. In this session we aim to discuss the possibilities and challenges of these new types of scientific techniques. We welcome papers on aDNA, proteins, isotope analyses, imagery techniques (e.g. SEM), dye analyses, archaeobotany and archaeozoology.

### 3/ Landscapes of textile production

Chair: Eva Andersson Strand. Keynote lecture: Karina Grömer

The work on raw materials, textile tools and production, preserved archaeological textiles and skins, in combination with aspects of consumption and contextual examinations, provide the unique opportunity to include all results and discuss the cultural, economic, social and gendered influences on the landscape of textile production. These results, without doubt, enrich not only textile research, but also archaeological research in general and thereby provide a better and more plausible picture of past peoples and societies. In session Landscape of Textile Production, this topic will be examined and discussed. We invite scholars working in this research field and welcome studies on any region and time.

### 4/ Furnishing burials

Chair: Ulla Lund Hansen. Keynote lecture: Marianne Vedeler

Textile analyses in burials has so far mostly concentrated on textiles used to cloth the deceased and on textiles used to wrap or cover the body. A growing number of archaeological studies is however bringing new information on the interior of graves, grave chambers, and their grave goods, highlighting the important role of textiles in the furnishing of burials. It now appears that grave goods were very often wrapped in textiles as well, sometimes piece by piece. Even the inside walls of a grave chamber could be clad with textiles, in addition to the furnishing of a funerary resting 'bed' with pillows, quilts, mattresses etc. This session invite archaeologists and textile experts to track this fragmentary evidence, building a new perception of burials in prehistoric and historic times from all geographical areas.

### 5/ Reuse, repair, redesign

Chair: Vivi Lena Andersen. Keynote lecture: Ingun Klepp

Through all of history the value of textiles, skin and clothing is evident. The high-quality raw materials and time consuming processes that lay behind each produced item resulted in a consciousness of textile value that is rarely seen today. Textile and skin were perhaps produced for a certain purpose, but would, as years went by, be transformed as the need for repair, reuse and perhaps even redesign became necessary. In archaeological and historical textiles this is visible as mending, patching, turning and piecing, all made in order to fully exploit the resources – whether of need or as an adaption to the changing fashion. Discussions could for example address repair techniques or skills, life cycles of garments, new inspiration from old clothes or emotional values linked to garments.

This sustainable approach seems to be long forgotten in the modern fast-consuming fashion world, which could highly benefit from the experiences of the past. 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.

### 6/ Weaving sources together

Chair: Marie-Louise Nosch. Keynote lecture: Corinne Mühlemann

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 interweaving 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 at the crossroad between disciplines.

### 7/ Ancient dress. Towards a global history of fashion

Chair: Elsa Yvanez. Keynote lecture: Mary Harlow

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 redefined the very concept of fashion – recognising an inherent “fashion impulse” to human populations since time immemorial, regardless of social class and ethnic background (Craig, in Welters & Lillethun, *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.

### 8/ Sensory studies in textile research

Chair: Audrey Gouy. Keynote lecture: Susanna Harris

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.

### 9/ Looking forward: EuroWeb and the future of textile research (panel discussion)