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THE ART OF DISAGREEMENT:
THE DIRECTOR’S ACCOUNT 2020-2021

At the Aarhus Institute of Advanced Studies, we have recently revealed a new large sculpture – *Ars, Scientia, Justitia*, by the renowned Danish artist Bjørn Nørgaard. Such an event offers countless associations that could serve as a useful point of departure for the director’s annual account 2020-2021; the onset of spring, the end (so far) of the lock-down, the importance of interdisciplinarity, the dialogue between art and science and the difference between justice and ethics, the critical dialogue and the way we build societies.

Interestingly, society building is one of the many research topics that fellows immerse themselves in while at AIAS. It was Danish polyhistior and discoverer of electromagnetism, H. C. Ørsted who emphasized how the open and critical dialogue between science, justice and art provides the pillars upon which we build our hopefully open and free societies. In reading about Ørsted, I stumbled upon his critical dialogue with another Danish icon, N.F.S. Grundtvig, a Danish pastor, theologian, writer and politician. Grundtvig had the view that science and religion were opposites and could not coexist. Ørsted was of exactly the opposite view, as he was looking for a God through scientific studies of nature and its beauty. In other words, they disagreed.

**DISAGREEMENT AND DISPUTES**

Disagreement and disputes are some of the key components in all scientific and scholarly work. As a result of my own background as a physical chemist, my favorite example of a scientific disagreement is the dispute between Bohr and Einstein in the 1920s on the interpretations of the newly discovered Quantum Mechanics. I like this, not so much due to the specific content, but rather because they remained great friends and admirers of one another, and because their disagreement sparked a leap forward in our understanding of the complex theories. I am not sure that Grundtvig and Ørsted were great friends, but their stories, as well as the story of Bohr and Einstein, remind us how important it is to disagree and of the fruitfulness of a constructive dispute. One can say that knowledge is conserved through agreement, and insight is advanced through constructive disagreement.

The art of disagreement is presently a bit overshadowed by an increasing tendency to polarize and to form echo chambers immune to opposing views. Recently, a dispute has erupted in Denmark when a member of parliament criticized a group of named scholars and academic environments. Immediately, this critique resulted in a large number of opposing statements addressing both the actual criticism and the fact that it was uttered from the parliamentary rostrum. Expecting the art of disagreement to manifest itself in this dispute appears very unlikely. I am quite sure that neither parts are likely to change or even adjust their views in spite of all the intellectual and oratorical powers invested in the debate.

**CRITICAL DIALOGUE AND CONSTRUCTIVE DISAGREEMENTS AT AIAS**

Our ambition at AIAS is to create an academic environment, where the critical dialogue and the art of disagreement are core values. Fellows must constantly challenge the conventional wisdom, break new intellectual ground and advance their own and our knowledge of the world and those who live in it. Simultaneously, we must strive to understand, accept and listen to those who disagree. It is a recurring point in the post-fellowship evaluations that we collect every year when fellows leave AIAS. They value highly the formal and informal discussions with other fellows and the opportunity to engage in a critical dialogue and friendly disagreements across scientific, cultural and personal differences. The opportunity to interact with and be inspired by other fellows leaves no opinion, viewpoint or idea untouched.
POST-PANDEMIC RETURN TO ‘REAL LIFE’
So, as we zoom-out of a strange and unusual academic year dominated by the Corona pandemic, we must zoom-in on the coming year at AIAS. In addition to the 36 Cofund fellows presently at AIAS, we have also recently appointed 28 Associate fellows. The Associate fellows are delocalized at the Aarhus University campus, but we hope they will become an integral part of the community at AIAS as they team up with the fellows localized at AIAS and thus provide an additional strengthening of the link between AIAS and the departments at Aarhus University.

Quite a few inter-personal and academic skills will most likely have to be removed from their isolation and brought into action again as we reopen AIAS after the lockdown. Some of them might even have to be relearned again as we move our academic lives from the virtual reality to the real reality. I am looking forward to the lively discussions at the Monday lunches and Friday breakfasts, and I am eagerly looking forward to real, live seminars.

In other words, I can hardly wait to disagree again.

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Our ambition at AIAS is to create an academic environment, where the critical dialogue and the art of disagreement are core values. Fellows must constantly challenge the conventional wisdom, break new intellectual ground and advance their own and our knowledge of the world and those who live in it. Simultaneously, we must strive to understand, accept and listen to those who disagree.
Cognitive musicologist and AIAS window barista Niels Chr. Hansen reflects on how a global pandemic in 2020 transformed academic life at the institute and beyond.

When societies across the globe—including here in Denmark—went into lockdown in response to a sweeping coronavirus pandemic, academic life changed forever. The giant M&M-shaped alien resident of the AIAS Lobby, Tony Oursler’s artwork Ello, continued its cries for help, but, for a while, no one was around to respond to (or politely ignore) them. At the time, I had just arrived from Australia as a newly minted fellow with a curious mind and a brand new espresso machine strategically situated for serving caffeine-deprived fellows passing by my office window. Barely had I tasted the sweet juices of the indulgent AIAS Monday lunches when we were suddenly sent home to work.

The negative consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic on research activities are well-documented. Laboratories were temporarily closed, fieldwork and medical trials were disrupted, conferences and research visits were cancelled, and instruction became extra challenging once academics were asked to teach their own kids along with those of others. Yet, for some, the resulting disruption to daily life also created unique opportunities for scientific enquiry, which we as AIAS fellows were perhaps in an especially privileged position to exploit.

**CORONA SONGS FOR UNDERSTANDING THE ROLE OF MUSIC IN HUMAN EVOLUTION**

Given my research interest in the evolutionary origins of music, heartening videos of balcony singing, live-streamed concerts, humorous corona covers, and virtual choirs in split-screen format provided powerful real-life demonstrations of music’s purported capacity for building social cohesion and adaptive coping strategies. Early on, Twitter conversations on this topic developed into weekly Zoom meetings and Google drives shared with international colleagues. I later coined the #MUSICOVID hashtag and co-founded a global research network under that name, currently totalling an interdisciplinary crowd of >400 music psychologists, historical musicologists, ethnomusicologists, educators, therapists, performers, and industry partners representing >200 universities and other organizations from 45 countries on six continents. I guest-edit a steadily growing Frontiers Research Topic investigating “Social Convergence in Times of Spatial Distancing: The Role of Music During the COVID-19 Pandemic,” which documents the scientific outcomes of the network’s multi-faceted work. The CULT Committee of the European Parliament, moreover, invited me to join a focus group on “Cultural & creative sectors in post-COVID-19 Europe,” producing a 150-page report of actionable policy recommendations to consolidate professional resilience of musicians inhabiting their new digital diaspora.

**TRENDS IN A POST-PANDEMIC RESEARCH LANDSCAPE**

I believe some of these initiatives exemplify burgeoning trends in a post-pandemic research landscape. First, the pandemic saw many large-scale collaborations—potentially better suited for tackling grand, societal challenges in the future. A key goal of forming MUSICOVID was indeed to prevent redundant efforts whereby multiple, small groups waste funding and intellectual resources on tackling identical research questions in parallel. By joining forces across institutional and national boundaries, we strove for valid and timely answers, thus facilitating swift progress towards more specialized research problems. Our multi-national survey investigating musical engagement in 5,000+ representative individuals from three continents attest to the fulfillment of this aim.

Second, pandemic research generally became more open, interconnected, and cross-culturally diverse. For example, many publishers provided fee waivers for COVID-19-related research which, in our case, enabled participation from regions of the Global South that are traditionally vastly underrepresented in music science. As psychological researchers we were, furthermore, compelled to acquire and develop technical skills for collecting data online. Modern citizen science methods and rich information sources (e.g. social media, mobility, epidemiology) enable us to understand social behaviour in all its complexity. My own crowdsourced CORONAMUSIC DATABASE and ongoing applications of natural language processing tools to social media data demonstrate how I faced up to this challenge.
Third, accessibility increased as meetings and conferences—including the MUSICOVID launching events—moved online. We music scientists were in some ways ahead of the curve when, back in 2018, we organized our international ICMPC/ESCOM conference with hubs in Graz, Sydney, La Plata, and Montreal. Effectively, this reduced travel-related emissions by 70%, increased global attendance by 50%, and heavily minimized participation costs. As a newly elected General Secretary of the European Society for the Cognitive Sciences of Music (ESCOM) in 2022-2024, I am looking forward to playing a more active role in the mission towards sustainable and inclusive conferencing.

TIME AND SPACE FOR RECONSIDERATION
At AIAS, we also held virtual gatherings, but quickly realized that social community building necessitates regularity and diligent programming. A newly formed Seminar Committee, therefore, interspersed the fortnightly Fellows’ Seminars with external speakers, introducing us to topics as diverse as transmissible cancers, translational traitors, barbaric B-cells, past pandemics, political pathogens, mannerisms, and musical universals.

Just like the pandemic provided refreshing opportunities to reconsider one’s place in the academic ecosystem, it bears mentioning that AIAS offers this gift every day—even in peace times when the surrounding world remains open to business. In the year ahead, we can hopefully reciprocate with the gift of our physical presence—perhaps fuelled by coffee served through an office window.
STUDYING THE ORIGIN OF A SURPRISING MOLECULAR DIVERSITY IN THE UNIVERSE

By: Mie Andersen, AIAS Fellow and Associate Professor, previously Technische Universität München, Germany

Fellow Mie Andersen applies computational modeling and advanced data science techniques to study how catalytic materials accelerate the formation of molecules – from the inside of a chemical reactor to the gas clouds in the Universe. Catalytic processes are ubiquitous and have a huge impact on our society in areas such as energy conversion, pollution control and the production of fuels and chemicals.

Once, we believed that the space between the stars in the Universe was rather empty and at most composed of single atoms, since the extremely low temperatures and gas densities make it difficult for atoms to meet and react to form stable molecules. However, the development of more and more powerful space telescopes has revealed to us that rich chemistry is happening in the gas clouds. In fact, by now more than 200 different molecules have been detected, including biologically relevant molecules such as sugars and amino acids.

TACKLING A COMPLEX PROBLEM FROM THREE ANGLES
In my AIAS project, I collaborate with researchers from the Center for Interstellar Catalysis at the Department of Physics and Astronomy at Aarhus University and the Leiden Observatory in the Netherlands. We aim to determine whether the molecular building blocks of life can be formed at nanoscale dust grains in interstellar space. Reaching this ambitious goal requires a close interplay between three types of research; astronomical observations, laboratory experiments and computational modeling.

Currently, I am working on building a model for understanding how atoms and molecules interact with silicate grains, which are among the most abundant dust materials observed in space. Dust grain analogues are also being synthesized and character-
University and to pursue independent research projects. With the Villum grant, I will also extend my modeling activities towards more industrially and societally relevant problems. Specifically, my group and I will be studying how to design a material that could convert CO₂ into more useful fuels and chemicals such as methanol and thereby help tackling both climate change and our dependence on fossil fuels. Having the AIAS and Villum projects run in parallel is a great advantage since I can exploit synergies, both in terms of the methods applied and the chemical reactions studied.

**BUILDING A CAREER IN THE MODELING OF CATALYTIC MATERIALS**

Simultaneously with the AIAS Fellowship, I have also been awarded a Villum Young Investigator grant of DKK 8 million. The AIAS Fellowship and the Villum grant are highly important for my career, as they allow me to start my own group at Aarhus University.

"We aim to determine whether the molecular building blocks of life can be formed at nanoscale dust grains in interstellar space. Reaching this ambitious goal requires a close interplay between three types of research; astronomical observations, laboratory experiments and computational modeling."
ART AND GENTRIFICATION IN THE CHANGING NEOLIBERAL LANDSCAPE

By: Tijen Tunali, AIAS Fellow, previously University of Tours, France

In her AIAS research project, Fellow Tijen Tunali studies art and gentrification and addresses a significant methodological difficulty that has made her rethink the changing roles of art and the artist in neoliberal urbanism. Hereby, Tunali is contributing with new knowledge on urban-centric artistic theory that can be applied in instance urban redesign.

Through disciplinary inquiries of urban studies, sociology, art history, cultural geography and philosophy, my project focuses on the politics of aesthetics in the contemporary urban space from a dialectical angle. It interrogates how, on the one hand, art has been compatible with corporate intervention and state control in the public space; and on the other hand, it engages in, facilitates and makes visible the actions and strategies of resistance against urban injustices, gentrification and displacement.

Art criticism as a crucial tool for new and agonistic forms of political engagement in the changing neoliberal urban space is a novel approach to both humanities and social sciences. Hence, there is a significant methodological difficulty: How can we both recognize the political value of aesthetics and achieve social research that attempts to wrench an effective response into a reflective space where it can be “made sense of”? The aim of my project at AIAS is to address this difficulty and rethink the changing roles of art and artists in neoliberal urbanism to reveal the dialectical potential of aesthetics in the political redesign of the urban space and culture.

SCIENTIFIC RIGOR AND INTELLECTUAL CURiosity

The multi-layered approach that my research envelopes finds a good home at AIAS’s multidisciplinary atmosphere that unites scientific rigor with intellectual curiosity. So far during my AIAS fellowship, I have produced two articles, two special journal issues, one edited book and an international conference. The special journal issue Street Art’s Politics and Discontents investigates street art’s role as both resource and resistance in contemporary urban culture. The other one Art and Urban Social Struggles aims to understand how we can interpret the relationship of various forms of urban creativity to urban social struggles from the perspective of subcultures, freedom of expression, community participation, sustainable environment and social and spatial justice.

CONTESTING CURRENT VIEWS ON ART AND GENTRIFICATION

The book that I have edited Art and Gentrification in the Changing Neoliberal Landscape includes a multiplicity of perspectives on art’s relationship to gentrification by art historians, urban geographers, sociologists and architects and contests the outdated discussion of art and the artist’s role as the facilitator of gentrification and displacement. It discusses how the aesthetic reconfiguration of the neoliberal city does not only allow uneven and exclusionary urban redevelopment strategies, but also facilitates the growth of anti-gentrification resistance.

The conference on Art and the City: Urban Space, Art and Social Change, that I have organized, brought together 30 presenters from a variety of disciplines and across six continents, in April 2021. The participants discussed art’s capacities of struggle and agonism, of contestation and re-appropriation that emerge through the creation of common and shared spaces for socialization, mobilization and political action in the urban public space. My latest article “Right to the Urban Public Space and Aesthetic Dissensus for Democratic Citizenship” will be published in September by the Journal of Urban Cultural Studies. It discusses the relationship of activist aesthetics in the urban space to changing practices and conceptions of citizenship.

My research aims to open new critical avenues to reconsider aesthetics in urban geography and culture, but it also provides an urban-centric toolkit of artistic theory and lexicon for scholarly thought and practice that approach the spaces of Western urbanism as a potential locus of capitalist resource and resistance.

Image opposite page, to the right: ‘Löhne raus, Mieten runter’ [Wages up, Rent down], Berlin 2019.
By: Tijen Tunali.
Image: “Artik sokaklar benim, görüyorsun değil mi?” [The streets are mine now, do you see it?] lyrics from Turkish singer Barış Manço, Istanbul 2019. By Tijen Tunali.

MEASURING THE EFFECTS OF HUMAN DISTURBANCE ON WHALES
– LINKING CHANGES IN BEHAVIOUR TO FAT RESERVES AND REPRODUCTION IN THE LARGEST ANIMALS ON THE PLANET

By: Fredrik Christiansen, AIAS Fellow, previously Murdoch University, Australia

Marine ecophysiologist Fredrik Christiansen studies the largest animals on the planet, whales. During his AIAS fellowship, he has developed a method to measure and weigh whales using drone technology. His research is of importance for the preservation of healthy ecosystems and can be applied to wildlife conservation.

Large whales, including baleen whales, play important roles in marine ecosystems. After being hunted to the brink of extinction in the last century, most species of baleen whales are showing strong signs of recovery. However, as human coastal development keep expanding as a result of a growing human population, whales are being increasingly exposed to human activities which can impede or even reverse population growth.

While some of these effects are non-lethal, as for instance noise from shipping or oil and gas development, they can negatively affect the behaviour of whales. If frequent enough, these disturbances can lead to long-term negative effects on the animals’ health and fat reserves, which play a critical role in their survival and reproduction. This in turn can lead to population effects. Healthy populations of whales are, thus, of great importance for maintaining healthy marine ecosystems.

LINKING WHALE BEHAVIOUR TO BODY CONDITION AND VITAL RATES

My research seeks to understand how changes in whale behaviour, caused by human disturbance, can have negative energetic effects on an animal, by changing its energy demand and acquisition, its prey consumption; and how cumulative effects from repeated disturbance can reduce an animal’s body condition, its fat reserves.

Most baleen whales are migratory. They spend the summers building up fat reserves in nutrient rich polar regions, which they rely on during the winter when they migrate to warmer tropical or temperate waters to breed. During the breeding season, they mate, give birth and nurse their calf, but they are also fasting. Being fat is very important for baleen whales, since it will determine their ability to survive and provide enough energy to their offspring, known as calves, to grow and survive.

By studying the relationship between body condition, survival and reproduction, I can link changes in behaviour to individual vital rates, and ultimately predict the population consequences of human disturbance on baleen whales. This bioenergetic framework will provide a valuable tool for wildlife managers to help mitigate the effects of human activities on marine mammals.
USING DRONES TO MEASURE THE SIZE AND HEALTH OF WHALES

As part of my research at AIAS, I am developing non-invasive methodologies to measure the body condition and mass of free-living whales, since most of our understanding of whale physiology and bioenergetics comes from whaling data. To measure the size and mass of whales, I am using a technique called photogrammetry to measure the length and width of whales from aerial photographs taken with drones. I have developed methods to convert these measurements to volume and mass, which I use to measure the body condition of individual whales.

The academic freedom and support provided by AIAS has been instrumental for me to develop this technology and to collect valuable data from numerous baleen whale populations around the world, which has led to international collaborations in Australia, Argentina, South Africa and Oman. The value of this work will stretch beyond my fellowship, and has really helped me to establish myself as a marine mammal researcher, and to develop close collaborations with world leading scientists at Aarhus University and internationally. This spring, I have just been awarded a large research grant by the US Office of Naval Research, which enables me to stay at Aarhus University to continue my research on marine mammals.
My original project at AIAS has focused on HIV, the virus causing the now 40-year-long AIDS pandemic. I have a long-standing interest in this virus, and started HIV research as early as during my bachelor studies. Living with an HIV infection is manageable in most countries today, when you have access to antiviral therapy. However, antiviral therapy has some negative impacts; it is not a cure for the infection and needs to be taken for the rest of a person’s life, which can therefore become costly. In addition, it comes with adverse effects for some individuals. However, what strikes me more on a personal level is that people living with HIV often encounter stigmatization because of their viral infection. Therefore, I have focused my research efforts on finding a cure for HIV.

DEVELOPING A THERAPEUTIC VACCINE FOR HIV

Together with my collaborators at the Department of Biomedicine at Aarhus University, I have investigated the use of plasma-cytoid dendritic cells (or pDCs) – a unique type of immune cell that is specialized in targeting viruses – as a therapeutic vaccine. The idea behind the therapeutic vaccine is that we give the immune system of a person living with HIV a boost that helps to control the virus, so that antiviral therapy is no longer needed. This could result in a functional cure to HIV; the virus is not completely gone, but it is no longer detectable and cannot be transmitted to another person. Think of it like other viruses many of us are already living with, such as different herpes viruses, CMV or human papilloma virus. We don’t like these viruses, and we prefer not to have them, but we manage to live with them and generally don’t stigmatize each other for having any of these viruses. It would be nice if a person living with HIV had the same opportunities and was not encountering stigmatization. Some of the research findings from my AIAS project have been published in a special edition in the journal *Frontiers* and more are on the way. Parts of my research have been delayed as I, like many others, was distracted by a new pandemic, this time not caused by a human retrovirus but a human corona virus. However, I became distracted in the literal sense and started researching this new virus.

INVESTIGATING SARS-COV-2

The severity of COVID-19 is linked to the excessive production of inflammatory cytokines, which are proteins that activate our immune system. This is also known as a ‘cytokine storm’. However, we do not know all of the cell types that may contribute to this cytokine storm. My new project focuses again on the pDC, as it is a powerful component of the immune system against viruses. We have investigated if the pDC can sense (i.e. immunologically ‘see’ the corona virus) and initiate an antiviral response. We found that the pDC could indeed sense SARS-CoV-2 and produce different cytokines in response. Some of these cytokines are highly desired because they prevent infection with SARS-CoV-2, but others may be causing the disease severity.

We are now trying to find out which molecular mechanism is facilitating the production of the cytokines. If the cytokines are produced via different mechanisms, it gives us the opportunity to therapeutically target and inhibit the cytokines that contribute to disease severity, without interfering with the desired antiviral cytokines.

EQUAL HEALTH OPPORTUNITIES AND FUTURE ZOONOTIC VIRAL TRANSMISSIONS

Within approximately a year, the health industry has developed several successful vaccines for SARS-CoV-2, something that we have not been able to accomplish for HIV after 40 years of research. The SARS-CoV-2 vaccines prevent severe COVID-19,
a tremendous achievement for the whole industry. However, for the people who cannot receive a vaccination, for example due to other illnesses, it is important that we also look for better COVID-19 treatments, so nobody is left behind.

A better understanding of how SARS-CoV-2 attacks our body is indispensable to achieve better treatments. I hope the fundamental knowledge generated by my research will help with this, and also help us to prepare for future zoonotic viral transmissions, i.e. where a virus transfers from an animal host to a human host, which is how both SARS-CoV-2 and HIV came into circulation amongst humans.

My AIAS fellowship has almost come to an end, and it has been an incredible experience. To make this shift in virus research, both AIAS and my collaborator at the Department of Biomedicine, Associate Professor Martin Roelsgaard Jakobsen, have been tremendously supportive and inspirational. They have given me the freedom and financial support that has made this research possible and I could not have done this without either of them.

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GUTFEELINGS – INVESTIGATING THE BRAIN-BODY INTERACTION AND INTEROCEPTION

By: Micah G. Allen, AIAS Fellow, Associate Professor, Cambridge Psychiatry, Cambridge University, UK

An AIAS Seminar and collaboration has taken Fellow Micah G. Allen into new research directions that is supported with an ERC Starting grant to study how the active ingredients in cannabis, cannabinoids, influence the interaction between brain and body.

As part of my AIAS Fellowship, I conduct research into brain-body interaction and interoception – literally, our “gut feelings”. In this work, together with my research lab the Embodied Computation Group, we investigate how the heart, lungs, gut, and other visceral systems interact with the brain during decision-making and emotional processing.

To accomplish this, we develop innovative psychophysiological tasks and mathematical models, and then apply these approaches to brain data collected from hundreds of participants in the Aarhus Community. This work is important not only because it helps us to understand the basic processes, which underlie emotional consciousness, but also as it enables us to better understand how these processes can go awry in mental illnesses like anxiety and depression.

AIAS COMMUNITY SPARKING IDEAS FOR NEW RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

My AIAS fellowship has enabled me to expand this research program in a variety of interesting new directions, through collaboration and dialogue with the rich interdisciplinary community of AIAS Fellows and Associates. For example, in the previous year I developed a new collaboration with AIAS Fellow and Professor of Biomedicine Sâmia Joca, in which we apply techniques developed jointly in our labs to understand how cannabinoid compounds such as THC and CBD modulate brain-body interaction, neural computation, and mental health. This project was recently awarded an ERC Starting Grant, enabling me to greatly expand our translational and clinical research into new pharmacological domains.

THE COMPUTATIONAL NEUROSCIENCE OF BRAIN-BODY INTERACTION

I have also published numerous independent research manuscripts as part of my AIAS fellowship, including an interdisciplinary tutorial on robust data illustration that has received more than 500 citations over the previous two years, and several interdisciplinary theoretical papers on the computational neuroscience of brain-body interaction.

Ultimately, this past year of my AIAS fellowship has been an extremely successful one, thanks to the intellectual freedom and rich multidisciplinary environment afforded by the institute. Although I will be sad to conclude my 3-year AIAS-COFUND Fellowship this Fall, I will not be too far from the community as I will happily take up a Professorship in Computational Neuroimaging at the Department of Clinical Medicine at Aarhus University this Fall.
We develop innovative psychophysiological tasks and mathematical models, and then apply these approaches to brain data collected from hundreds of participants in the Aarhus Community. This work is important not only because it helps us to understand the basic processes, which underlie emotional consciousness, but also as it enables us to better understand how these processes can go awry in mental illnesses like anxiety and depression.

**ERC STARTING GRANT TO MICAH G. ALLEN**

Micah G. Allen was awarded an ERC Starting grant of DKK 11 million for the project ‘CANNABODIES: Modelling the Influence of Cannabinoids on the Embodied Mind,’ that will address foundational questions about how cannabinoids influence our minds and bodies to improve future therapeutic use of the compounds. The grant was awarded on 3 September 2020, during his AIAS fellowship, and will add fresh directions to his research on brain-body interaction.
28 ASSOCIATES – FOUR EXAMPLES OF AIAS ASSOCIATES

A new AIAS Associate Fellowship programme for both young international researchers and established researchers employed at Aarhus University was launched in April 2021. Currently, 28 AIAS Associates have been appointed for a 3-year-period. The AIAS Associate programme seeks to bring Aarhus University researchers and the network of AIAS fellows even closer together with an ambition to connect leading talent across disciplines and across research environments to foster new ideas and directions. Know more about the Associate programme:
aias.au.dk/opportunities-at-aias/aias-associates

FELIX RIEDE
AIAS Associate Fellow
Professor, School of Culture and Society - Department of Archaeology and Heritage Studies, Aarhus University, Denmark

Area of research: Cultural Evolution
I am a trained archaeologist, but committed interdisciplinarian working at the interface between the Biosciences, the Earth Sciences and the Human Sciences. Motivated by cultural evolutionary theory that conceptualises cultures as information transmission systems bounded by communities of practice, I apply a range of quantitative methods to understand how culture changes, especially in relation to climatic and environmental change. Thanks to an ERC Consolidator Grant, my current focus is on the period between 15,000 and 11,000 years ago but during my time at AIAS I seek to build up a more comprehensive approach that includes non-archaeological aspects of culture and that also seeks to use our evidence-based insights about how culture changes in a future-oriented way. Even after just a few months, I have already made new, relevant and inspiring contacts at AIAS.

DORTE KRAUSE-JENSEN
AIAS Associate Fellow
Professor, Department of Bioscience – Marine Ecology, Aarhus University, Denmark

Area of research: Marine Ecology and Biodiversity
My research focuses on the ecology of vegetated marine ecosystems, particularly seagrass meadows and kelp forests and their contribution to marine C-sequestration (blue carbon). These vast hidden forests have multiple ecological functions, and I explore how their protection and restoration in many ways can serve as nature-based solutions to mitigate and adapt to climate change and stimulate biodiversity. I also have a special interest in Arctic marine vegetation, and the expansion of these habitats in response to warming and loss of sea ice along the Arctic shores. I appreciate the opportunity to be part of AIAS’s multi-disciplinary environment and to use the facilities of AIAS to organize collaborative events. Despite still having all my usual work obligations, I hope to contribute in a positive way and to benefit from AIAS’ inspiring community.
Area of research: Neurobiology of early life stress and addictions
Learning how to cope with adversities early in life is a key strategy for survival in almost all species. The continuing process of creation and re-organization of neuron connections in the brain, depending on an individual’s life experiences, is known as experience-dependent plasticity. My research has been dedicated to understanding how early life stress (ELS) can be toxic to brain development, leading to a wide range of long-term adverse effects such as mood disorders, obesity and addictions. The research program I have been developing has interdisciplinary and translational values, from studies with animals to human neuroimaging. I have always been interested in understanding how ELS derails the course of brain development, promoting experience-dependent plasticity related to cognitive impairments associated with immune, metabolic and molecular modifications. As a new professor here at Aarhus University, I believe that the interdisciplinary and networking activities proposed by AIAS provide a great opportunity for me to push my boundaries and expand my field of knowledge. While doing so, I look forward to contributing and adding another perspective to the already diverse department.

Area of research: Experimental Psychology, Human-computer interaction, Food science
Broadly speaking, my research topic revolves around how the brain makes sense of the world by integrating information from multiple sensory modalities. In practice, I focus on food because eating is one of the most multisensory activities we engage in on a daily basis. I want to understand why and how people eat what they do, so we can come up with ways to encourage behaviour change for a healthier, more sustainable lifestyle. I am very excited about my AIAS associate fellowship. Coming from different academic disciplines, I already take a very transdisciplinary approach in my research, so I am happy to take that even further at AIAS. The good thing about food is that everyone can relate to it, so I hope to organise wine tastings and workshops to bring everyone to the table.
FELLOWS 2020-2021
& ASSOCIATE FELLOWS 2021-2024
Despite of the corona pandemic that has marked the academic year of 2020-21, AIAS has hosted 47 fellows who have arrived at AIAS from around the globe, bringing 20 nationalities together from 40 different universities. Adding to this highly international and multi-disciplinary research community of AIAS are the 28 AIAS Associate fellows who have joined in 2021 for the next three years. Know more about the fellows here...
BOGDAN C. IACOB
AIAS COFUND Fellow
Assistant Professor, Institute of History, Romanian Academy, Romania

Area of research: European History in Global Context

I explore the cultural and political emancipation of Southeast Europe within global institutional and symbolic hierarchies in times of decolonization and Cold War. My research focuses on the contributions of Balkan scholars to projects created by the UNESCO aiming to democratise world cultural representations. I connect these academic transnational engagements to agendas of regional and European cooperation as well as to local governments’ relations with the Global South. By connecting multiple, intersecting geographies of humanities and politics, I am reconstituting the Balkans’ trajectories of Europeanization and globalization before 1989.

CHRISTIAN DAMSGAARD
AIAS COFUND Fellow
Assistant Professor, previously University of British Colombia, Canada

Area of research: Comparative Animal Physiology
Project title: ‘Sensory evolution from a bird’s eye perspective – elucidating the physiological basis for superior eyesight’

Visual perception requires energy, which must be sustained by a constant supply of oxygen to the light-absorbing retina of the eye. Yet, the retina of sharp-sighted birds does not possess internal capillary beds to supply oxygen, as most other tissues do, so adequate oxygen delivery by simple diffusion seems fundamentally impossible. This AIAS project investigates mechanisms that distribute oxygen and energy within retinal cells. I perform these experiments on multiple species of birds and reptiles to unravel the physiological basis for the evolution of superior vision.

CHRISTINA KIKONA
AIAS COFUND Fellow
Associate Professor, previously Department of English, Hellenic American University, Greece

Area of research: Comparative literature and Cultural Theory
Project title: ‘The unexpected: toward a politics and aesthetics of discontinuity’

Examining different literary and cinematic works, the project challenges dominant discourses depicting the past and the present in terms of a future proclaimed as determinate, such as the promissory political narratives of a better world displaced onto a continually differed future. Alternatively, a politics that is no longer a future-oriented promise, but a present-oriented action embracing unpredictable events is theorized. The project approaches social exclusion from the perspective of temporal consciousness and posits the unexpected as the locus from which the present is organized as space-time of openness to the other.
CHRISTOS TSIROGIANNIS
AIAS COFUND Fellow
Associate Professor, previously Antiquities Unit, University of Cambridge, UK

**Area of research:** Forensic Archaeology  
**Project title:** ‘Monitoring the Trade in Illicit Antiquities’

My research explores the ways in which international trafficking networks supply looted, smuggled and stolen antiquities to their various clients. Case-by-case, I am mapping the paths that are used and record the individuals, companies and institutions participating in this criminal trade. At AIAS I am developing a new method for tracing ‘problematic’ antiquities, and my aim is to help the authorities and the public to understand better the problem on an international scale in order to protect what has not yet been looted and to help the actors involved to become more ethical.

CICI ALEXANDER
AIAS COFUND Fellow
Associate Professor, previously Department of Life and Environment Sciences, Bournemouth University, UK

**Area of research:** Remote Sensing  
**Project title:** ‘Innovative remote sensing techniques for developing green infrastructure strategies to support biodiversity conservation and carbon sequestration’

My project at AIAS will use innovative, and complementary, remote sensing techniques for assessing and monitoring green infrastructure. Airborne Laser Scanning, using the technique of Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR), has advantages over other remote sensing techniques for characterising the three-dimensional structure of vegetation. The main objectives are to develop indices for the quality of urban green networks, methods for the rapid assessment of changes in woody vegetation cover and for the identification of forests of High Nature Value, using multi-spectral imagery in addition to the Danish national LiDAR datasets.

CRISTINA ESTEVA FONT
AIAS COFUND Fellow
Postdoc, previously University of California – San Francisco, USA

**Area of research:** Health and medical sciences  
**Project title:** ‘Targeting prostaglandins in chronic kidney disease’

PGE2 regulates the kidney function through its four receptors: EP1-EP4. The main aim of this project is to elucidate the role of PGE2 receptors on chronic kidney disease (CKD). Since I started my AIAS fellowship, I have been developing a novel knockout mouse model where the EP4 receptor is deleted specifically in the kidney. Ongoing I am validating a CKD model using adenine on the diet for 4 weeks that causes kidney fibrosis. This model will be used on the EP knockout mice, once they are fully characterized.
DAVID STOKES
AIAS COFUND Fellow
Professor, New York University, USA

Area of research: Biophysics and Structural Biology
Project title: ‘Molecular Mechanisms of Ion Transport across Biological Membranes’
Biological membranes are a fundamental property of cellular life. They serve as physical and chemical boundaries that allow cells to control the composition of internal compartments. Transport across the membrane requires specialized proteins, which adopt a variety of strategies depending on the substrate. KdpFABC is a particularly interesting example that combines elements from two major protein families: P-type pumps and potassium channels. Our studies have focused on how this transport system is coupled to the chemical energy of ATP and the actual path taken by potassium as it moves across the membrane.

FREDRIK CHRISTIANSEN
AIAS COFUND Fellow
Assistant Professor, previously School of Veterinary and Life Sciences, Murdoch University, Australia

Area of Research: Bioenergetics/ Ecophysiology
Project title: ‘Understanding the population consequences of human disturbance on baleen whales’
With human-wildlife interactions becoming increasingly frequent around the world, I am interested in how human disturbance can affect wildlife populations. In particular, I am interested in how changes in individual behaviour (caused by human disturbance) can lead to changes in energy consumption and expenditure, and how this can influence an animal’s body condition, survival and reproductive success, and ultimately population dynamics. Focusing on baleen whales, I use a combination of research techniques, including drones and small archival tags, to determine these relationships.

HALE GÜNEY
AIAS COFUND Fellow
Postdoc, previously Institute of History, Dept. of Ancient History, University of Cologne, Germany

Area of research: Ancient History, Ancient Economy, Ancient Numismatics, Greek Epigraphy
Project title: ‘The Economy and Connectivity of Central Anatolia during the Roman Period’
The issue of the economic behaviour of ancient cities has been a controversial subject within the field of ancient economics. In the past three decades, only a small number of ancient cities have been studied to question the old and new approaches and determine the dynamics of the urban economy in the Roman World. Therefore, this project intends to give an account of the old and new approaches to the ancient economy to delineate an appropriate perspective on the cases of the Galatian cities in Central Anatolia during the Roman period.
HELEN VAN NOORDEN
AIAS COFUND Fellow
Associate Professor, University of Cambridge, UK

Area of research: Ancient Literature and Theology
Project title: ‘Reframing the Sibylline Oracles’
Studying the Sibylline Oracles offers a way to map the contours of multicultural apocalyptic discourse in antiquity. These Greek verses about the history and fate of humankind were composed and edited by Jews and then Christians under Roman rule, but attributed to a legendary prophetess, and draw on both Biblical and Greek traditions. Reframing this corpus in contexts that span several centuries and religious identities, and translating key sections, I bring out their multifaceted stylistic texture, various bids for authority, and hybrid cultural identity.

IWONA JANICKA
AIAS COFUND Fellow
Associate Researcher, Centre Marc Bloch, Berlin, Germany

Area of research: Philosophy and Literature
Project title: ‘How to Build a Common World? Contemporary Continental Philosophy and the Question of World Formation’
The project’s point of departure is an assumption that philosophy has difficulty conceptualising possible alternatives to the status quo. It is also challenged by envisioning alternative futures. In the context of recent ecological and technological developments, this research examines how selected 21st thinkers move from social diagnostics and critique towards gestures of affirmation and construction in philosophy. Furthermore, it investigates the implications of this shift for concrete political and social practices. At the heart of this project lies the question of habitation, co-habitation and habitability in the world today.

IZA ROMANOWSKA
AIAS COFUND Fellow
Postdoc, previously Barcelona Supercomputing Center, Spain

Area of research: Agent-based modelling, Archaeology and Complexity Science
Project title: ‘Reconstructing ancient demographics through archaeological-historical data integration and computer simulation: the cases of the Dutch Roman Limes and Roman Palmyra’
In this project, I leverage archaeological datasets and apply cutting-edge computational techniques, to enhance our understanding of ancient demographics, thus tracking the ups and downs of border communities across centuries. By combining data science, spatial modelling of rural and urban settings as well as High-Performance Computing enabled agent-based simulation, I develop an evidence-based narrative for the population dynamics of two important border regions of the Roman Empire and gain insight into the sources of resilience and failure of human groups in the past and now.
JEFFREY KERBY
AIAS COFUND Fellow
Postdoc, previously Environmental Studies, Dartmouth College, USA

**Area of research:** Ecology & Geography

**Project title:** 'The many scales of Arctic ecological dynamics: confronting contradictions and gaps with new tech'

The Arctic is warming at twice the global average, yet our fundamental understanding of the speed, intensity, and causes of widespread ecological changes in northern tundra landscapes remains limited. At AIAS, I explore how scale, and its pervasive influence on pattern, influences how we perceive and understand plant and animal life history expression (i.e. when to grow, reproduce, recover) in response to climatic or biological disturbances. Using computational approaches and drone/time-lapse camera imagery, my work in the Arctic and beyond explores classic ecological questions at little-studied but ecologically meaningful scales.

JENS GEORG LEIPZIGER
Jens Christian Skou Fellow
Professor of Renal Physiology, Department of Biomedicine, Aarhus University, Denmark

**Area of research:** Medicine, Physiology, Nephrology

**Project title:** 'The discovery, relevance and application of the Cystic Fibrosis Urine Test'

I am a medical doctor and a physiologist interested in how the kidneys work. Many years of research made us aware that something is missing in our understanding of this organ. One key to progress are the talented students in our laboratory that make extraordinary and surprising experimental observations. For us this lead to the discovery that the anion channel CFTR, that is defective in Cystic Fibrosis (CF), plays a decisive role in our kidneys, allowing us to excrete bicarbonate in the urine when needed. We are now working on a urine test to help the caretaking of CF patients.

JIHAN ZAKARRIYA
AIAS COFUND Fellow
Assistant Professor, previously Beni-Suef University, Egypt

**Area of Research:** Literature, ecocriticism, gender studies

**Project Title:** 'Gender and environmental violence in Arabic literature and culture: an ecocritical study'

My project provides an interdisciplinary ecocritical perspective on different forms of human and environmental violence and insecurities. I pursue this objective through a selection of contemporary and modern Arabic novels that reveal and connect different dimensions of real aspects of gendered, ecological and political-religious violence. My project argues that the destruction of the environment in Arabic literature parallels and intersects with the violation of women’s bodies that both have marked recent real religious political conflicts in Lebanon, Iraq, Algeria and Egypt.
JOANNA KALUCKA
AIAS COFUND Fellow
Assistant Professor, previously VIB/KU Leuven Center for Cancer Biology, Leuven, Belgium

*Area of research:* Biomedicine, Cell biology
*Project title:* ‘Endothelial cell heterogeneity during obesity’
As a molecular biologist, my primary research goals are directed towards understanding metabolic and molecular drivers of the process of new blood vessel formation and how it is regulated by the tissue microenvironment. Ultimately, my aim is to broaden our understanding of blood vessel dysfunction in obesity and its role in the development of obesity-related metabolic syndrome. Given the emerging importance of understanding the heterogeneity of blood vessel cells, using a multidisciplinary approach (e.g. single cell RNA-sequencing), I currently characterize how blood vessels of adipose tissue obtained from obese patients can modulate immune reactions. The ultimate goal is to find a way of reducing the risks of obesity-mediated organ dysfunction via, for example, inhibiting mechanisms leading to blood vessel dysfunction.

KAREN GRAM-SKJOLDAGER
Jens Christian Skou Fellow
Associate Professor, Aarhus University, Denmark

*Area of research:* 20th century international history
*Project title:* ‘When International Organizations Improvise. Institutional Responses to International Crises, 1945-2020’
During my time at AIAS, I have been working on a research proposal that takes its cue from the current crisis of post-World War II liberal international order and asks the essential, yet largely overlooked, question of how International Organizations have reacted in times of crisis and (potential) disintegration since World War II. More precisely, I have spent my time putting together a thorough state-of-the-art research proposal related to this problem and constructing a research design that will allow us to make a first exploration of this issue.

KATARZYNA JAZDZEWSKA
AIAS COFUND Fellow
Associate Professor, Cardinal Stefan Wyszynski University, Warsaw, Poland

*Area of Research:* Ancient Greek and Roman Literature
*Project Title:* ‘An Author to his Reader. Dedicatory Prose Prefaces in Ancient Literature’
The project is a diachronic examination of dedicatory prose prefaces to ancient Greek and Latin texts. Such prefaces allowed an author to directly address a specific, named dedicatee and to implicate him as a participant in a communicative act; as such, they represented a form of the social practices of gift exchange, networking, and patronage. During the project, I will collect evidence on the development of dedicatory prefaces over time, create a typology and comparative overview of dedicatory conventions, as well as interpret their literary and rhetorical functions.
KEES VAN KERSBERGEN
Jens Christian Skou Fellow
Professor, Department of Political Science, Aarhus University, Denmark

**Area of research:** Comparative political science

**Project title:** ‘High Speed Society, Slow Motion Democracy: Assessing why and how social acceleration is impairing the problem-solving capacity of liberal democracy and what to do about it’

Social acceleration – defined as the progressively faster rate of technological, social and life-pace change – presents a dilemma for democratic problem solving: Either the political system speeds up decision-making processes by toning down, circumventing or downright eliminating slow democratic procedures, or democratic procedures are unbendingly held on to at the cost of effective and swift problem solving. At AIAS, I am developing a research programme to assess empirically whether, to what extent, why and how social acceleration is impairing the problem-solving capacity of liberal democracy – and what to do about it.

KEI HIRUTA
AIAS COFUND Fellow
Assistant Professor, previously Eurias Fellow, Paris Institute for Advanced Study, France

**Area of research:** Political Theory

**Project title:** ‘Responses to Democratic Crisis’

What does it mean for democracy to fail? How can trust in democratic government be restored and malfunctioning democratic institutions be repaired? And what should one do if a democratic system breaks down and one finds oneself in a non-democratic society? My research considers this set of questions by re-examining the works of mid-20th-century thinkers, including Hannah Arendt, Isaiah Berlin, Albert Camus, Judith Shklar and Masao Maruyama. I hope to show that their ideas remain pertinent today, when democracies across the world are confronted with a new series of crises.

LAU MØLLER ANDERSEN
AIAS COFUND Fellow
Postdoc, previously Karolinska Institutet, Sweden

**Area of research:** Cognitive Neuroscience

**Project title:** ‘The cerebellum as an internal clock – altered cerebellar activity in Parkinson’s disease giving rise to abnormal temporal discrimination?’

In my project, I will examine the hypothesis that the cerebellum functions as an internal clock and how the dysfunction of this clock may give rise to abnormal temporal discrimination in Parkinson’s disease patients. The cerebellum is an understudied part of the human brain. Recent studies, however, has shown that the cerebellum is involved in many cognitive domains. I will use the technology of magnetoencephalography to non-invasively record neural activity of the cerebellum as it unfolds, shedding new light on cerebellum’s role in Parkinson’s disease.
LAURE GUIRGUIS
AIAS COFUND Fellow
Associate Professor, Institute for Research on the Arab and Muslim World, Aix-Marseilles, France

**Area of research:** Social History, Cultural History, Transnational History
**Project title:** 'The New Left in the Arab East: Entangled Histories of Revolutionary Hopes and Violence (1956-1979)'

With this research on the New Left in the Arab world, I focus on translocal militant interactions to challenge false universalisms and entrenched dichotomies between the East and the West, the North and the South, Orient and Occident, or center and periphery. This research also participates in recent efforts to put into question the verdict of the defeat of the Left by shedding new light on the dynamics of rupture and continuity in militant and intellectual paths and, thereby, on the resilience of radical and democratic traditions in the Arab world.

LISA M. WU
AIAS COFUND Fellow
Associate Professor, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, USA

**Area of research:** Biobehavioral medicine, psychosocial oncology, neuropsychology
**Project title:** 'The Role of Light and Circadian Rhythms in Cancer- and Cancer Treatment-Related Symptoms: A Prospective Controlled Study of Breast Cancer Patients During Treatment’

Circadian rhythms are the approximate 24-hour biological and behavioral rhythms important for our bodily functions. Cancer patients often experience circadian disruption, as well as significant side effects and symptoms due to cancer and its treatment. These symptoms may be driven by circadian disruption. Light exposure happens to be the strongest entrainer of circadian rhythms, and could also be important to our understanding of cancer symptoms. This project is a transdisciplinary collaboration that seeks to determine whether circadian rhythms underlie cancer symptoms, and whether light exposure plays a role.

LUCIA ANGELINO
AIAS COFUND Fellow
Assistant Professor, previously University Paris 1 Pantheon - Sorbonne, France

**Area of research:** Philosophy
**Project title:** 'The phenomenology of acting in synchrony with others: towards the bodily roots and sensorimotor foundations of the sense of we-agency in musical joint action’

How do individuals come to act, feel and think qua members of a team without a prior plan? In this project, I will address this question by looking at the kind of collective improvisation attained by the “free jazz” at the beginning of sixties. Combining theoretical work on the concept of collective intentionality with phenomenological analysis of a few study-cases my aim is to outline a refined notion of singular-yet-plural intentionality — beyond current thinking in analytic philosophy — by drawing on the rich and sophisticated insights offered by the phenomenological tradition.
**LUSEADRA MCKERRACHER**  
AIAS COFUND Fellow  
Postdoc, previously McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada

**Area of research:** Nutritional Anthropology, Reproductive Health, Developmental Origins of Health and Disease  
**Project title:** ‘Food Insecurity during Pregnancy in Copenhagen and Aarhus: Implications of Neighborhood Vulnerability, Social Policy, and the "Ghetto Plan" for Maternal-Child Health in Urban Denmark’

Being food insecure – not having enough nutritious, culturally-appropriate food or worrying about running out of food—while pregnant is associated with worse health outcomes for birthing parents and their babies. But, can a strong social safety net protect pregnant people from food insecurity? My SPOONS project investigates whether the Danish welfare state buffers Denmark’s most vulnerable neighbourhoods from food insecurity. To the extent that Denmark’s welfare state falls short, SPOONS also explores ways to support pregnancy food security, in the interests of building a healthier and more equitable next generation.

**MARK JOHNSON**  
AIAS COFUND Fellow  
Associate Professor, previously University of St Andrews, Scotland

**Area of research:** Animal biology  
**Project title:** ‘From dinner to winner: How individual foraging performance determines success in marine megafauna’

Predators rely on energy gained in brief encounters with prey to grow and reproduce. But these events are seldom observed in large marine predators making it unclear whether foraging is constrained by the availability of prey or the capabilities of predators. I am using unique sound-based remote-sensing tags on whales, seals, and sharks to examine predator-prey interactions at unprecedented resolution. By quantifying the sensory and bio-mechanical constraints on predators, and the individual tactics they use to forage efficiently, we may learn better how human activities impact these increasingly threatened animals.

**MICAH G. ALLEN**  
AIAS COFUND Fellow  
Associate Professor, Cambridge Psychiatry, Cambridge University, UK

**Area of research:** Cognitive neuroscience, computational psychiatry  
**Project title:** ‘The Visceral Brain: A Computational Approach to the Embodied Mind’

Psychiatric illnesses impact one in four Europeans, resulting in extensive suffering and billions in economic loss. Thus far, psychiatric research has investigated the causes of mental illness by focusing on mechanisms solely ‘within the head’. However, many illnesses are characterised and compounded by disruptions in bodily experiences and function. Indeed, I have found that signals from the heart and other organs influence how we perceive the world and make decisions. These so-called ‘gut-feelings’ are critical for healthy cognition; yet current models largely ignore their impact on the brain. Until we understand the mechanisms governing these brain-body interactions, our ability to both identify mental illness risk factors and develop effective treatments will be incomplete. To overcome this limitation, this project will combine innovative methods for manipulating gut feelings with computational neuroimaging of brain-body interaction, revealing new targets for embodied psychiatric treatment.
MIE ANDERSEN
AIAS COFUND Fellow
Associate Professor, previously Technische Universität München, Germany

Area of research: Astrophysics, chemistry, computational catalysis
Project title: ‘Descriptor-based modelling of the reactivity of interstellar dust grains’
The space between the stars in the Universe is not empty, but home to a variety of different rather complex materials and molecules, including sugars and amino acids. In close collaboration with partners doing astronomical observations or laboratory experiments, the aim of my project is to apply quantum mechanical calculations and recently developed machine learning methods to study whether complex molecules could be formed on silicate- or carbon-based interstellar dust grains. This is of fundamental interest since it could give leads to the conditions necessary for the development of life.

MORTEN STORM OVERGAARD
Jens Christian Skou Fellow
Professor, Dept. of Clinical Medicine - Center of Functionally Integrative Neuroscience, Aarhus University, Denmark

Area of research: Neuroscience
Project title: ‘Science and subjectivity - testing the implicit assumptions in theories of the neural correlates of consciousness’
Why are we conscious, and how does consciousness relate to neural counterparts. In this project, a number of assumptions are identified that divide the waters between theories of consciousness, and which makes direct comparisons difficult. 1) Whether consciousness is rich or sparse, 2) whether it is gradual or dichotomous, 3) whether neural correlates of consciousness are specific or universal, and 4) whether they are stable or dynamic. Through a series of experiments, the project will falsify and validate these assumptions, thus informing the collective body of theories of consciousness.

NIELS CHR. HANSEN
AIAS COFUND Fellow
Assistant Professor, previously MARCS Institute, Western Sydney University, Australia

Area of research: Psychology, Empirical Musicology, Cognitive Neuroscience
Project title: ‘Why humans make music: uncovering missing links in the behavioural and neuro-hormonal underpinnings of musical evolution’
Despite its cross-cultural omnipresence with evolutionary origins far beyond 40,000 years of archaeological evidence, it remains a mystery why humans invest vast resources on creating and listening to music. I conduct corpus studies, brain scans, and behavioural experiments with oxytocin nasal sprays and advanced computer models to investigate how music induces social cohesion, attracts mates, and helps us cope emotionally in crisis times such as the COVID-19 pandemic. This contributes crucial evidence for music as a complex, socially embedded, biologically underpinned, and cross-culturally universal behaviour, distinguishing humans from other species.
NIKOLAJ T. ZINNER  
Jens Christian Skou Fellow  
Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy, Aarhus University, Denmark

Area of research: Physics  
Project title: ‘Quantum few-body networks with superconducting circuits’

My research goal in this project is to produce a prototype of a fully quantum mechanical network that can perform non-trivial quantum tasks. It hinges on a new class of quantum spin transistor that my collaborators and I are now working closely with experimentalists to realize. Building on these ideas, I want to take the next step of building a quantum network that can classify or manipulate quantum information in an autonomous manner, and provide a blueprint for how this can be realized in superconducting quantum circuits.

PARASKEVI MANOLAKI  
AIAS COFUND Fellow  
Postdoc, previously Environmental Conservation and Management, Open University of Cyprus

Area of research: Stream Ecology  
Project title: ‘Effects of global changes on river ecosystem functioning: Understanding underlying mechanisms of multiple stressors using aquatic plant traits’

Most of the global changes in rivers occur as multiple interacting stressors and lead to a chain of effects on the ecosystem structure and functioning. My AIAS project studies how aquatic plants respond through their biological traits to multiple stressors, and seeks to determine how response traits affect stream functioning. My project follows the scaling approach from individual to ecosystem dynamics through the community level, and tests 1) how a community response to a change and 2) how a changed community affects ecosystem process. I am currently working on the mesocosm experiments using the experimental field facilities at Aarhus University.

PETER EBERT ANDERSEN  
AIAS COFUND Fellow  
Assistant Professor, previously Institute of Molecular Biotechnology (IMBA), Austria

Area of research: Molecular innovation in genetic conflicts  
Project title: ‘Innovation of genome regulation through arms race evolution in animals’

All life forms exist in constant conflict. Not just externally with other life forms trying to eat or out-compete it, but also within their DNA where genetic parasites populate their genomes. To protect their DNA, all organisms continuously evolve improved molecular defenses to suppress parasite proliferation. My project at AIAS aims to investigate how the innovation of the molecular arms race between host organisms and genetic parasites contribute to the general regulation of host cell biology – the spoils of war in genetics.
PETER FAZEKAS
AIAS COFUND Fellow
Postdoc, previously Centre for Philosophical Psychology, University of Antwerpen, Belgium

Area of research: Philosophy, Psychology and Cognitive Neuroscience
Project title: ‘Self-generated mental life: Developing an overarching philosophical account and a novel neuro-cognitive research paradigm’
Thoughts and images spontaneously popping into our mind are central features of self-generated mental phenomena like mind-wandering, dreaming and hallucinations. My project proposes a new model of these spontaneous thoughts and develops a novel experimental paradigm exploring whether hypnotic dreams (induced by instructions to ‘have a dream’ in a hypnotic state) can serve as hypnotic analogues of mind-wandering and dreaming. An affirmative answer could revolutionise how features of mind-wandering and dreaming — which are notoriously hard to study due to their spontaneous nature — could be examined in a well-controlled manner.

PHILIPP REICK
AIAS COFUND Fellow
Assistant Professor, previously Centre Marc Bloch, Berlin, Germany

Area of research: History
Project title: ‘Making it home: A transnational history of building cooperatives and urban housing in interwar Europe, 1919–1926’
In the early 1920s, organized construction workers across Europe launched a new and powerful movement of producer co-operation. These Building Guilds and Bauhütten aimed to democratize labor relations by giving workers a say in how their everyday work was organized, how revenues would be spent, and how training and research could benefit employees and the public alike. Largely ignored by historians, this was a crucial experiment in industrial democracy. By comparing the movement in several European countries, the research project closes a striking research gap in social and labor history.

RASMUS O. BAK
AIAS COFUND Fellow
Associate Professor, previously Stanford University, USA

Area of research: Biomedicine
Project title: ‘Precise CRISPR-mediated genomic integration of large transgenes in human cells’
My research project focuses on editing the human genome for therapeutic purposes. Numerous genetic diseases are caused by an error in a single gene. Using newly developed gene editing technologies (like the CRISPR system), I hope to be able to correct these disease-causing mutations and cure patients definitively. This project addresses the challenge when patients suffering from the same disease display different mutations scattered within the same gene. To make a universal gene editing cure that would apply to all patients, one would need to insert the full functional gene into the genome. For large genes, this poses a unique technical challenge that I hope to overcome.
RENEE VAN DER SLUIS
AIAS COFUND Fellow
Assistant Professor, previously the Department of Microbiology and Immunology, University of Melbourne, Australia

**Area of research:** HIV, dendritic cells, immunomodulation, therapeutic vaccine

**Project title:** ‘Evaluating the effect of genetically engineered human plasmacytoid dendritic cells to induce specific anti-HIV responses and kill HIV-infected cells’

Antiretroviral therapy (ART) has revolutionized the treatment of infection with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) but ART needs to be taken life-long and has side effects. Therefore, there is a need to cure HIV infection or induce virus “remission” so that ART can be stopped. The aim for my research at AIAS is to evaluate the potential of stem-cell-generated plasmacytoid dendritic cells (pDC) to induce new and enhance existing immune responses to target HIV infected cells. This is challenging because HIV possess mechanisms to evade immune recognition, but if this approach is successful, it could lead to a personalized cell-based therapeutic vaccine treatment for people living with HIV.

RUBEN PAUWELS
AIAS COFUND Fellow
Associate Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium

**Area of research:** Medical Imaging

**Project title:** “DEEP-CBCT” - Next-Generation Dental Cone-beam Computed Tomography: Artefact Reduction and Bone Quality Assessment through Deep Learning

Cone-beam computed tomography (CBCT) is a radiographic imaging technique that has become the modality of choice for several clinical applications. However, CBCT images are highly susceptible to aberrations (‘artefacts’) e.g. due to X-ray scatter and beam hardening. My project aims to develop, train and apply convolutional neural networks (i.e. a type of deep learning) for artefact correction in CBCT. The resulting improvements in image quality will improve diagnostic efficacy and allow for the development of novel, automated bone quality assessment techniques.

SANDRA ECKERT
AIAS COFUND Fellow
Associate Professor, Faculty of Social Sciences, Institute for Political Science, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt, Germany

**Area of research:** Business and Social Sciences

**Project title:** ‘Everyday Life in the Single European Market: Consumer and Business Perceptions’

This project examines the role of consumers and business actors in the Single European Market. How do these actors perceive European regulation, and by which means do they seek to influence evolving policies? Through its qualitative, in-depth analysis that draws on computer assisted analysis of documents and interview data, it generates new insights into how diverging strategies in and perceptions of regulation originate. A topical question in this context is how the COVID19 crisis poses new challenges for the Single Market and thus the core of European integration.
SEBASTIJAN RIČKO
AIAS COFUND Fellow
Postdoc, previously University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

**Area of research:** Organic chemistry, organocatalysis
**Project title:** ‘New Reaction Concepts in Organocatalysis’
A molecule is chiral if it and its mirror image are not superimposable. These pairs are called enantiomers and have an interesting property, they interact differently with biological macromolecules, the cells or the proteins in our body. My aim at AIAS is to develop new ways of making chiral organic molecules from simple substrates using small organic molecules as chiral catalysts. In this way, the creation of one of the enantiomers is favored over the other. This could be applied to the synthesis of potential drugs, drug candidates and other important chiral scaffolds.

SHUBIAO WU
AIAS COFUND Fellow
Associate Professor, previously Department of Agricultural Engineering, China Agricultural University, China

**Area of research:** Environmental science
**Project title:** ‘Intensified Constructed Wetlands for Treatment of Ammonia Stripped Effluent: Nitrogen Transformations and Removal Pathways’
Wastewater is often discriminated because of its negative impact on the environment, since it often contains various contaminants such as organic matter, N and P, which can result in eutrophication of water systems. However, these compounds cannot only be seen as waste, which is just not handled properly in the right place, but are also valuable nutrients to the plants. Therefore, my project at AIAS is trying to investigate the possibility of using constructed wetlands as a low cost but effective technique for nutrients recovery and bioremediation of polluted waters.

STEFAN BARGHEER
AIAS COFUND Fellow
Assistant Professor, University of California (UCLA), USA

**Area of research:** Historical Sociology
**Project title:** ‘Culturalism: The Remaking of Race in the American Century’
I look at the production of scientific knowledge on the relation between race and culture. During the Cold War the concept of culture took over many of the core characteristics previously assigned to race. Scholars stressed the homogeneity of cultures, their boundedness in space, and stability over time, three characteristics previously associated with an essentialist concept of race. While European countries used such an essentialist notion of race to classify people during the era of Empire, the United States as the dominant nation in the post-war world promoted essentialist notions of culture to do the very same.
**SYLVIE TESSON**  
AIAS COFUND Fellow  
Assistant Professor, previously University of Lund, Sweden

**Area of research:** Microbial ecology, Aero-microbiology  
**Project title:** ‘Dispersal and ice nucleation activity in airborne microalgae – their impact on atmospheric processes’

My research aims at unveiling the dispersal capacities of microalgae over geographic scales and their interaction with the environment. These photosynthetic organisms can cause harmful events (e.g., water contaminations, dermatologic and respiratory issues) and contribute to large scale processes. At AIAS, I am investigating how microalgae are emitted into the atmosphere, the impact of atmospheric conditions on their survival, and their ice nucleation activity at warm sub-zero temperatures. Results will bring novel insights in organismal ecology, in alien species propagation, and in the role of biogenic microorganisms on atmospheric processes.

**THOMAS LEPPARD**  
AIAS COFUND Fellow  
Assistant Professor, Florida State University, USA

**Area of research:** Archaeology  
**Project title:** ‘Interpersonal Violence and Early State Formation’

My project involves comparative analysis of the role of violence in the transition from egalitarian to inegalitarian lifeways. Drawing on archaeological, anthropological, and biological datasets, I am undertaking quantitative assessment of patterning in bioarchaeological evidence for interpersonal violence in Holocene Afro-Eurasia, assessing the relationship between the structure and distribution of trauma in funerary populations over time and changing metrics of wealth distribution. The outcome—establishing whether there is a meaningful correspondence between fluctuating patterns of intra-group violence and the formalization of inegalitarian social organization—has potentially broad implications for how we theorize the emergence of the state.

**TIJEN TUNALI**  
AIAS COFUND Fellow  
Postdoc, previously Le Studium/ Marie Sklodowska Curie Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Tours, France

**Area of research:** Visual Sociology and Cultural Criticism  
**Project title:** ‘Art and Gentrification in the Changing Neoliberal Landscape’

My project examines the multifaceted relationship of gentrification and art. It focuses on Barcelona, Istanbul and Berlin – the three large global cities with international artistic hubs and a growing immigrant population. The aim of the project is twofold, namely: (1) to rethink the changing and dialectical roles of the art and artists in “new urbanism” that puts the interests of capital over the interests of ordinary inhabitants, (2) to reveal the potential of aesthetics in the critically reflecting formation of agonistic experience that constitutes democratic political culture in the urban space.
TON OTTO
Jens Christian Skou Fellow
Professor, Department of Anthropology, Aarhus University, Denmark

**Area of research:** Cultural and social change
**Project title:** ‘Navigating the present. An anthropological study of human agency and temporality’

I am interested in how human beings understand social change and design their future. A key hypothesis for my project is that humans, when imagining their future, explicitly and/or implicitly invoke visions of the past. This orientation in time, called historicity, is known to be culturally variable and is important for the experience and execution of human agency. We know very little about the details of the relationship between social agency and historicity and the aim of my case study of a Melanesian movement for social change, the Paliau Movement from 1946 to the present, is to develop a model for the comparative study of this universal but culturally variable mechanism.

YANXIA ZHANG
AIAS COFUND Fellow
Assistant Professor, School of Environment, Nanjing Normal University, China

**Area of research:** Environmental exposure and Health risks
**Project title:** ‘Exploring phthalate contamination of globally traded vegetables produced in plastic Greenhouses’

My research at AIAS focuses on the risk cycle of phthalate transfer driven by food trade between the EU and China under the current policy conditions. I will quantify phthalate exposure and health impacts associated with exposure from vegetable consumption as an example traded with China, explore whether there are existing policy loopholes, and provide science-based support for alternative policy measures if there is. My methods are related to an environmental mixed unit input-output model, a process-based Life Cycle Assessment, exposure scenario modelling, urinary metabolites biomonitoring, phthalate dose-response curves of diabetes or other diseases, and cost-benefit analysis.
AIAS ASSOCIATE FELLOWS
2021-2024

Assistant Professor Alonso Rosas-Hernández
Department of Chemistry
Aarhus University

Professor Anders-Christian Jacobsen
School of Culture and Society, Systematic Theology
Aarhus University

Professor Anja-Verena Mudring
Department of Chemistry
Aarhus University

Associate Professor Annette Bohn
Department of Psychology and Behavioral Sciences
CON AMORE, Aarhus University

Associate Professor Brad Wray
Department of Mathematics – Science Studies,
Aarhus University

Assistant Professor Cathrin Bengesser
School of Communication and Culture - Media Studies
Aarhus University

Associate Professor Christoph Mathys
School of Culture and Society – Interacting Minds Center
Aarhus University

Professor Daniel Erik Otzen
iNANO and Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics
Aarhus University

Professor Daniele Nosenzo
Department of Economics and Business Economics
Aarhus University

Professor Dorte Krause-Jensen
Department of Bioscience – Marine Ecology and Artic Research Centre
Aarhus University

Assistant Professor Edward Payne
School of Communication and Culture – Art History
Aarhus University

Associate Professor Elisa Uusimäki
School of Culture and Society – Biblical Studies
Aarhus University

Assistant Professor Elizabeth le Roux
Department of Biology - Ecoinformatics and Biodiversity
Aarhus University

Assistant Professor Felicity Davis
School of Pharmacy – Department of Biomedicine
University of Queensland, Australia and Department of Biomedicine
Aarhus University

Professor MSO Felix Riede
Department of Archaeology and Heritage Studies, Aarhus
University & Oslo School of Environmental Humanities, University of Oslo, Norway

Professor Gregers Wegener
Department of Clinical Medicine – Translational Neuropsychiatry Unit
Aarhus University

Assistant Professor Ilke Uysal Ünalan
Department of Food Science
Aarhus University

Assistant Professor Jörg Krieger
Department of Public Health – Research Unit for Sport and Body Culture
Aarhus University

Professor Klaus Mølmer
Department of Physics and Astronomy
Aarhus University
Associate Professor **Lili Zhang**  
Department of Mechanical and Production Engineering  
Aarhus University

Assistant Professor **Marcia Allison**  
School of Communication and Culture – Rhetoric  
Aarhus University

Assistant Professor MD **Markus Rinschen**  
Department of Biomedicine, Aarhus University and Department of Internal Medicine, University Hospital of Cologne, Germany

Assistant Professor **Qian Janice Wang**  
Department of Food Science  
Aarhus University

Associate Professor **Rodrigo Grassi-Oliveira**  
Department of Clinical Medicine – Translational Neuropsychiatry Unit, Aarhus University

Professor, Dr. Odont. **Rodrigo Lopez**  
Department of Dentistry and Oral Health  
Aarhus University

Assistant Professor **Ross Deans Kristensen-McLachlan**  
School of Communication and Culture – Cognitive Science  
Aarhus University

Assistant Professor **Shuai Wei**  
Department of Chemistry  
Aarhus University

Assistant Professor **Tobias Skiveren**  
School of Communication and Culture – Scandinavian Studies,  
Aarhus University and University of Oslo, Norway
FELLOWS’ PUBLICATIONS AND ACTIVITIES
FELLOWS’ PUBLICATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

PUBLICATIONS: BOOKS, BOOK CHAPTER


Kirill Postoutenko and Darin Stephanov are co-editors of the book Ruler Personality Cults from Empires to Nation-States and Beyond Symbolic Patterns and Interactional Dynamics. Routledge, 2021.


Iza Romanowska is co-author of the book Agent-Based Modeling for Archaeology: Simulating the Complexity of Societies. Santa Fe: The SFI Press, 2021

PUBLICATIONS – JOURNAL ARTICLES

Tijen Tunali is author of the article ‘Humour As Political Aesthetics In Street Protests During The Political Ice Age’ in: The European Journal Of Humour Research, 3 September 2020.

Ruben Pauwels is co-author of the article ‘In vivo quantification of mandibular bone remodeling and vascular changes in a Wistar rat model: A novel HR-MRI and micro-CT fusion technique’ in: Imaging Science in Dentistry, 16 September 2020.

Iza Romanowska is co-author of the article ‘Ceramics in Cities in Context. An Overview of Published Roman Imperial to Umayyad Pottery in the Southern Levant’ in: Hellenistic and Roman Antiochia on the Chrysonhoras, the Former Gerasa. Contributions on the Archaeology and History of a Decapolis City, 17 September 2020.

Rasmus O. Bak is co-author of the article ‘Targeted Knockout of the Vegfa Gene in the Retina by Subretinal Injection of RNP Complexes Containing Cas9 Protein and Modified sgRNAs’ in: Molecular Therapy, 23 September 2020.


Ton Otto is author of the article ‘Ancestor Cults in Geelvink Bay’ in: Tribal Art XXIV number 97, September 2020.


Fredrik Christiansen is first-author on the report ‘Assessing the body condition of the world’s only non-migratory humpback whale population, the endangered Arabian Sea humpback whale’ for The Scientific Committee of the International Whaling Commission, October 2020.

Christos Tsirogiannis is author of the article ‘The Itinerary of a Stolen Stele’ in: The Unesco Courier October-December 2020 issue.


Niels Christian Hansen is co-author of the article ‘Perceptual learning of tone patterns changes the effective connectivity between Heschl’s gyrus and planum temporale’ in: Human Brain Mapping, 5 November 2020.

Fredrik Christiansen is co-author of the article ‘Creation of accurate 3D models of harbor porpoises (Phocoena phocoena) using 3D photogrammetry’ in: Marine Mammal Science, 11 November 2020.

Bogdan Iacob is author of the article ‘Liberal Anti-communism and historical commissions in Romania and Moldova’ in: Revue d’études comparatives Est-Ouest no. 2-3, 16 November 2020.

Jeffrey Kerby is co-author of the article ‘Drone data reveal heterogeneity in tundra greenness and phenology not captured by satellites’ in: IOP Science, 24 November 2020.

Jeffrey Kerby is co-author of the article ‘Reindeer use of low Arctic tundra correlates with landscape structure’ in: IOP Science, 26 November 2020.

Jeffrey Kerby is co-author of the article ‘Aboveground biomass corresponds strongly with drone-derived canopy height but weakly with greenness (NDVI) in a shrub tundra landscape’ in: IOP Science, 1 December 2020.


Jennifer Galloway is co-author of the article ‘Palynostratigraphy of the lower Paleogene Margaret Formation at Stenklí Fiord, Ellesmere Island, Nunavut, Canada’ in: Palynologii, 10 December.

Ton Otto is co-author of the article ‘From Drifters to Asylum Seekers’ in: The Contemporary Pacific vol 32 (2), 11 December 2020.

Paraskevi Manolaki is co-author of the article ‘Probing the Response of the Amphibious Plant Butomus umbellatus to Nutrient Enrichment and Shading by Integrating Eco-Physiological With Metabolomic Analyses’ in: Frontier Plant Sci., 16 December 2020.

Tijen Tunali is author of the special journal issue ‘Street Art’s Politics and Discontents’ in: Journal of Urban Cultural Studies vol 7, December 2020.


Sandra Eckert is co-author of the article ‘EMU reform proposals and their (non) implementation: An overview’ in: SAFE White Paper, no. 78, December 2020.

Ruben Pauwels is co-author of the article ‘Estimation of the radiation dose for dental spectral cone-beam CT’ in: Dentomaxillofacial Radiology, 22 December 2020.

Ruben Pauwels is first author of the article ‘Attitude of Brazilian dentists and dental students regarding the future role of artificial intelligence in oral radiology: a multicenter survey’ in: Dentomaxillofacial Radiology, 12 January 2021.

Fredrik Christiansen is co-author of the article ‘Poor body condition associated with an unusual mortality event in gray whales’ in: Marine Ecology Progress Series, 21 January 2021.


Fredrik Christiansen is co-author of the article ‘Acute and chronic behavioral effects of kelp gull micropredation on southern right whales’ in: Marine Ecology Progress Series, January 2021.


Iza Romanowska is first-author of the article ‘Trends in ceramic assemblages from the Northwest Quarter of Gerasa/Jerash, Jordan’ in: Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports, 26 January 2021.

Anna B. Neuheimer is co-author of the article ‘Environmental, evolutionary, and ecological drivers of slow growth in deep-sea demersal teleosts’ in: Marine Ecology Progress Series, 26 January 2021.

Ruben Pauwels is co-author of the article ‘Artefacts at different distances from titanium and zirconia implants in cone-beam computed tomography: effect of tube current and metal artefact reduction’ in: Clinical Oral Investigations, 5 February 2021.

Jeffrey Kerby is co-author of the article ‘Herbivory and warming interact in opposing patterns of co-variation between arctic shrub species at large and local scales’ in: PNAS, 9 February 2021.

Joanna Kalucka is co-author of the review article ‘Angiogenesis in Adipose Tissue: The Interplay Between Adipose and Endothelial Cells’ in: Frontiers in Physiology, 9 February 2021.

Iza Romanowska is co-author of the article ‘A Study of the Centuries-Long Reliance on Local Ceramics in Jerash Through Full Quantification and Simulation’ in: Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory, 15 February 2021.

Niels Christian Hansen is co-author of the article ‘Audiovisual structural connectivity in musicians and non-musicians: a cortical thickness and diffusion tensor imaging study’ in: Scientific Reports vol 11, 22 February 2021.


Ruben Pauwels is co-author of the article ‘Evaluation of ten cone-beam computed tomography devices for endodontic assessment of fine anatomical structures’ in: Journal of Endodontics, 27 February 2021.

Joanna Kalucka is co-author of the article ‘Effects of the Novel PFKFB3 Inhibitor KAN0438757 on Colorectal Cancer Cells and Its Systemic Toxicity Evaluation In Vivo’ in: Cancers, 28 February 2021.

Martin Kristian Thomsen is corresponding author of the article ‘Carbon dioxide and bicarbonate accumulation in caiman erythrocytes during diving’ in: Journal of Experimental Biology, 12 May 2021.

Iza Romanowska is co-author of the paper ‘Sensitivity analysis in archaeological simulation: An application to the MERCURY model’ in: Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports, 12 May 2021.


Lau Møller Andersen is co-author of the article ‘The cerebellar clock: Predicting and timing somatosensory touch’ in: NeuroImage, 2 June 2021.

Mie Andersen is co-author of the article ‘Adsorption Enthalpies for Catalysis Modeling through Machine-Learned Descriptors’ in: Chemical Research, 3 June 2021.

Martin Kristian Thomsen is co-author of the article ‘The CRISPR/Cas9 Minipig—A Transgenic Minipig to Produce Specific Mutations in Designated Tissues’ in: Cancers, 16 June 2021.

Rasmus O. Bak is co-author of the article ‘Development of β-globin gene correction in human hematopoietic stem cells as a potential durable treatment for sickle cell disease’ in: Science Translational Medicine, 16 June 2021.


Martin Kristian Thomsen is co-author of the article ‘Targeting AP-1 transcription factors by CRISPR in the prostate’ in: Oncotarget, June 2021.

Fredrik Christiansen is co-author of the article ‘Acute and chronic behavioral effects of kelp gull micropredation on southern right whale mother-calf pairs off Peninsula Valdés, Argentina’ in: MEPS, 24 June 2021.

Jeffrey Kerby is co-author of the article ‘Contrasting dynamical responses of sympatric caribou and muskoxen to winter weather and earlier spring green-up in the Arctic’ in: Food Webs, June 2021.

Amy Iler and Alfonso Blázquez-Castro are co-authors of the article ‘Can flowers affect land surface albedo and soil microclimates?’ in: International Journal of Biometeorology, 12 June 2021.

Joanna Kalucka is co-author of the article ‘Tumor vessel co-option probed by single-cell analysis’ in: Cell Reports, 15 June 2021.

Iza Romanowska is co-author of the article ‘Reconstructing the social, economic and demographic trends of Palmyra’s elite from funerary data’ in: Journal of Archaeological Science, 5 July 2021.

Doug Speed is co-author of the article ‘Improved genetic prediction of complex traits from individual-level data or summary statistics’ in: Nature Communications, 7 July 2021.

Niels Christian Hansen is co-author of the article ‘Viral tunes: changes in musical behaviours and interest in coronamusic predict socio-emotional coping during COVID-19 lockdown’ in: Humanities and Social Sciences Communications, 26 July 2021.

Sylvie Tesson is co-author of the article ‘First tracking of declining Caspian terns Hydroprogne caspia breeding in the Baltic Sea reveals high migratory dispersion and disjunct annual ranges as obstacles to effective conservation’ in: International Journal of Avian Biology, 27 July 2021.

Micah Allen is co-author of the article ‘What Might Interoceptive Inference Reveal about Consciousness?’ in Review of Philosophy and Psychology, 14 August 2021.
EXTERNAL ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

Bogdan C. Iacob co-organized the symposium Public Diplomacy: From Cold War to COVID, AIAS, 16 September 2020.

Jeffrey Kerby gave the invited talk ‘Towards addressing complexity in the Greening of the Arctic’ at the BIOCHANGE seminar, Aarhus University, 16 September 2020.

Sandra Eckert organized and chaired the panel discussion and exhibition Drawing Europe Together on the EU, AIAS, 17 September 2020.


Rasmus O. Bak gave the presentation ‘Modulation of gene expression in hematopoietic stem cells using CRISPRa and CRISPRi’ at an online symposium World CRISPR Day, 20 October 2020.


Iza Romanowska gave the talk ‘Agent-based Modelling in Historical Research’ at the Taller Toletum, Hamburg, Germany, online, 23 October 2020.

Rasmus O. Bak gave a presentation on ‘Genetic Manipulation with CRISPR’ for The Danish Patent and Trademark Office, online, 28 October 2020.

Kei Hiruta, gave the talk ‘Freedom or Nationalism?: Hannah Arendt, Isaiah Berlin, and the Hungarian Revolution of 1956’ at the Political Theory Research Seminars, University of Copenhagen, online, 28 October 2020.

Iza Romanowska gave the talk ‘The lure of artificial worlds, or what can ABM do for you?’ at the Materials, Culture and Heritage Seminar, Aarhus University, 29 October 2020.

Sandra Eckert gave a talk at the workshop European Administrative Networks, University of Copenhagen, 5-6 November 2020.

Helen Van Noorden gave the invited lecture ‘Narrative Authority in the Sibyline Oracles’ at the Centre for the Study of Antiquity and Christianity, Aarhus University, 11 November 2020.


Jeffrey Kerby gave the talk ‘What does it mean when the Arctic turns green(er)’, Colgate College, Environmental Studies, US, November 2020.


Christos Tsirogiannis gave the invited talk ‘Reflections on the antiquities market: Selected cases of identified antiquities and fakes’ at the ‘Webinars cycle on the art market on the occasion of the 50 anniversary of the 1970 convention’ co-organized by the UNESCO office in Montevideo and The Ministry of Culture of Uruguay, online, 8 December 2020.


Iza Romanowska gave the conference talk ‘An Archaeological Perspective on the Environmental Kuznets Curves’, at the Annual Meeting of the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA), Chicago, 7 January 2021.

Lau Møller Andersen gave the talk ‘The cerebellar clock-predicting and timing somatosensory touch’ at the Division of Psychology, Karolinska Institutet, Sweden, 13 January 2021.

Iza Romanowska gave the keynote ‘Agent-based modelling as a paradigm shift in archaeological research’, at the ReSoc Conference, University of Bochum, Germany, 15 January, 2021.


Iza Romanowska gave the talk ‘The artificial past: adventures in agent-based modelling and archaeolinguistics’ at the conference Computational and Digital Archaeology Laboratory Series, University of Cambridge, UK, online, 25 January 2021.

Sandra Eckert gave the talk ‘The EU Regulatory State in a Turbulent Age: Implications of Crises Responses for the Core of Integration’ at the Jean Monnet Lecture, Gutenberg University Mainz, online, 27 January 2021.

Laure Guirguis gave the talk ‘The Copts in Egyptian Political Life after Mubarak’s Demise’ at The Popular University of the Institute for Research and Studies on the Middle East and the Mediterranean (IREMMO), Paris, online, 4 February 2021.

Luseadra McKeachner gave the invited talk ‘Racialization as non-white is negatively associated with multiple indicators of health and health experiences in a sample of 350 pregnant people from Hamilton’ at the Canadian National Perinatal Nutrition Meeting (CNPRM), Canada, online, 10 February 2021.

Sandra Eckert organized and chaired the panel ‘Women and the Political Arena. A long-term comparison’ at the Johanna Quandt Young Academy at Goethe in cooperation with the Cornelia Goethe Center, online, 12 February 2021.

Jeffrey Kerby gave the public lecture on the intersection of science and photography at the ‘National Geographic Explorer Series: Jeff Kerby’ at the Northern Ireland Science Festival, online, 16 February 2021.

Christos Tsirogiannis gave the talk ‘Looting in Modern Greece: Ethics and the 5th Column’ at the Tourist Guides Association of Thessaloniki Northern Greece, online, February 2021.

Iza Romanowska gave the talk ‘Archaeological Data Science and Modelling with Python’ at the Digital Practice in Archaeology Course, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, online, 23 February 2021.

Mie Andersen gave the talk ‘Machine-learned adsorption energies for catalysis modeling’ at the Department of Energy Conversion and Storage: Atomic Scale Materials Modelling, Technical University of Denmark, online, 23 March 2021.


Sandra Eckert gave the invited talk ‘The External Dimension of the EU Green Deal’ a webinar with Policymakers The EU Green Deal and Circular Economy: the Way Ahead in EU Israel Relations, The Open University of Israel, online, 20 April 2021.

Iza Romanowska gave the speed lecture ‘Archaeology to the rescue! What can we learn from the past’ at the Festival of Research, Aarhus University, online, 28 April 2021.


Ruben Pauwels gave the presentation ‘Scatter-to-primary ratio in dental cone-beam computed tomography: effect of field of view and beam energy’ and the e-poster ‘Attitude of Brazilian dentists and dental students regarding artificial intelligence in oral radiology: a multi-center survey’ at the 23rd International Congress of DentalMaxilloFacial Radiology, Gwanju, South Korea, hybrid, 28 April -1 May 2021.
Jeffrey Kerby was co-chair of the scientific meeting ‘Coupled modelling in the polar regions & Facilitating remote sensing applications across the terrestrial Arctic’ at the European Geophysical Union, General Assembly, 29-30 April 2021.

Mie Andersen gave the talk ‘Active sites in solid and liquid surface catalysis’ at the 14th European Conference on Surface Crystallography and Dynamics, online, 5 May 2021.


Helen Van Noorden gave the invited seminar ‘A Rollercoaster Ride into the Future? Re-evaluating the Sibylline Oracles’, jointly hosted by the Dept. of English and Film and the Centre for Classical Reception at Exeter University, 13 May 2021.

Lau Møller Andersen gave the talk ‘The cerebellar clock – predicting and timing somatosensory touch’ at the Swedish National Facility for Magnetoencephalography, Karolinska Institute, Sweden, 21 May 2021.

Lisa Maria Wu gave two talks ‘Systematic light exposure and cognition in autologous stem cell transplant survivors’ and ‘East and west hospital room orientation and symptom burden in stem cell transplant patients: An investigation of two transplant units’ at The International Psycho Oncology Society Congress, Kyoto, Japan, online, 26-29 May 2021.

Lau Møller Andersen gave the invited talk ‘Cerebellar MEG – investigating the timing capabilities of the cerebellum’ at Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel, Germany, 28 May 2021.

Sylvie Tesson co-organized a cross-disciplinary event with the artistic group Between Music entitled ‘Between Music Kunstnerisk Algelaboratorium’ for the science and art festival Krydsfelt at Naturkraft, Ringkøbing, Denmark, 28 May 2021.

Christos Tsirogiannis is co-organizer with artist Maeve Brennan of the exhibition The Goods, a travelling exhibition displayed in the UK, Italy and the US, from May 2021 to February 2025.

Helen Van Noorden gave the talk ‘Homer and Virgil opened my books’: the Sibylline Oracles and the non-Jewish canon’ in the international conference Intertext and Allusion in Jewish-Greek Literature, the Divinity Faculty, University of Cambridge, UK, online, June 2021.

Mie Andersen gave the talk ‘Active site representation in computational catalyst screening’ at the session Data-driven Catalyst Discovery, SUNCAT Center for Interface Science and Catalysis, Stanford University, USA, online, 9 June 2021.

Sandra Eckert gave the co-talk ‘The EU Regulatory State in a Turbulent Age. Implications of Crises Responses for the Core of Integration’ at the European Consortium of Political Science (ECPR), online, 10-12 June 2021.

Mie Andersen gave the talk ‘Structure-activity relationships of catalytic materials with machine learning’ at the Annual Meeting of the Danish Physical Society, Denmark, 21 June 2021.

Kei Hiruta gave the presentation ‘Hannah Arendt’s Theory of Freedom: What it is and Why It Matters’ at Modern Liberty Specialist Group meeting, Political Studies Association of the United Kingdom, online, 23 June 2021.

Tijen Tunali gave the presentation ‘Utopias and Dystopias of Neoliberal Urbanism: Gentrification and Urban Aesthetics’ at The Conference of the Council for European Studies, online, 25 June 2021.

Sandra Eckert gave the co-talk ‘The EU Regulatory State in a Turbulent Age. Implications of Crises Responses for the Core of Integration’ at the Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economic Studies (SASE) 33rd Annual Meeting, Network L: Regulation and Governance, online, 2-5 July 2021.


Sandra Eckert gave the talk ‘Political struggles in the EU’s transition towards a Circular Economy. The Case of Plastics’ at the International Political Science Association (IPSA) World Congress 2021, online, 10-14 July 2021.

**AWARDS, APPOINTMENTS AND GRANTS**

Rasmus O. Bak is co-recipient of a DKK 2.5 million grant from Karen Elise Jensen’s Foundation for the 3-year project ‘Gene editing to treat acute myeloid leukemia’. Awarded on: 1 September 2020.

Micah G. Allen received an ERC Starting grant of DKK 11 million for the project ‘CANNABODIES: Modelling the influence of Cannabinoids on the Embodied Mind,’ that will address foundational questions about how cannabinoids influence our minds and bodies to improve future therapeutic use of the compounds. Awarded on: 3 September 2020.

Lisa Wu is recipient of a DKK 400,000 grant from The Danish Cancer Society, Kræftens Bekæmpelse, for the one year project ‘Engaging Parents in Neuropsychological Rehabilitation for Childhood Cancer Survivors: The “I’m aware: Parents And Children Together” (ImPACT) Program’. Awarded: November 2020.

Joanna Kalucka is recipient of a DKK 350,000 grant from the Carlsberg Foundation for the project ‘Framework to generate blood vessel organoid: a model system to address human vascular biology’. Awarded on: 3 December 2020.

Rasmus O. Bak is recipient of a DKK 5 million grant from the Carlsberg Foundation for the project ‘Elucidating genetic programs in hematopoietic stem cells’. Awarded on: 3 December 2020.

Christian Damsgaard is recipient of a Lundbeck Experiment Grant of DKK 1,998,986 for the project ‘Oxygen delivery to neural tissue without blood vessels’. Awarded on: 11 December 2020.

Mark Johnson is partner of the EU Horizon 2020 research project ‘SATURN - Solutions AT Underwater Radiated Noise’, which will examine how noise from shipping affects the marine environment and identify solutions to make ships quieter. Granted EUR 9 million, corresponding to DKK 67 million, for a 4-year-period. Awarded on: 12 December 2020.

Niels Christian Hansen is co-recipient of a DKK 97,050 grant from the Novo Nordisk Foundation for the SysMus21 conference to be held at AIAS. Awarded on: 15 December 2020.

Jeffrey Kerby is co-recipient of a National Geographic Society grant of USD 25,000 as the lead of a National Geographic Society collaboration with researchers in Scotland, a 3D visualization artist in Sweden, an Inuvialuit park ranger, and a community outreach specialist in Arctic Canada to transform existing drone and environmental data into 3D Virtual Reality Content for school engagement and general outreach. Awarded: December 2020.
Mie Andersen received a grant of DKK 8 million from the Villum Young Investigator Programme for the project ‘Machine learning-guided design of materials for low-temperature catalysis’. Awarded on: 22 January 2021.

Lucia Angelino was awarded a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Individual Fellowship by the EU for the project entitled ‘The We in Times of Physical Distancing. From face-to-face interactions to enduring we-identities’ (acronym: Enduring We). Awarded on: 8 February 2021.

Kei Hiruta was awarded a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Individual Fellowship by the EU for the project ‘Failing Politically: Masao Maruyama and Comparative Political Theory’. Awarded: February 2021.

Niels Chr. Hansen received an IMC seed funding grant of DKK 29,921 from the Interacting Minds Centre for the project ‘Coping through crisis with coronamusic: positive affective bias in online musicking during lockdown’. Awarded on: February 2021.

Joanna Kalucka was awarded a grant of DKK 140,000 for the project ‘Activation of tumor vascular STING signaling to enhance immunotherapy’ by the foundation Riisfort Fonden. Awarded on: 3 May 2021.

Fredrik Christiansen was awarded a grant of USD 385,823 for the project ‘Developing a Bioenergetic Model for right whales to assess Population Consequences of Exposure to Multiple Stressors’ by the ONR Marine Mammals & Biological Oceanography Program. Awarded: May 2021.

Joanna Kalucka received a grant of DKK 2.7 million for the project ‘Targeting tumor endothelial cell metabolism to enhance STING pathway for anti-tumor immunity’ from the Danish Cancer Society, Kræftens Bekæmpelse, for 2022-2024. Awarded: May 2021.

Lisa Maria Wu was appointed Topic Editor of a special journal issue of Frontiers in Neuroscience entitled ‘Sleep and Circadian rhythms in cancer patients and relationship with quality of life’, May 2021.

IN THE MEDIA


Rasmus O. Bak gave an interview to Videnskab.dk commenting on the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for the article ‘Fantastisk: To kvinders udvikling af gen-saksen CRISPR hædres med Nobelprisen i kemi’ on: videnskab.dk, 7 October 2020.

Rasmus O. Bak contributed with expert knowledge on gene editing and CRISPR technology to a Zetland podcast about the 2020 Nobel Prize in Chemistry on: Zetland.dk, 9 October 2020.

Rasmus O. Bak contributed with expert knowledge on gene editing and CRISPR technology to the Radio4 podcast series Techtopia for the podcast ‘Den Mirakulese Gensaks’ about the 2020 Nobel Prize in Chemistry on: radio4.dk, 18 October 2020.

Rasmus O. Bak gave an interview to Dagens Medicin for the article ‘Forskere vil bruge CRISPR til at gøre CAR-T-cellebehandling til hyldevare’, on: dagensmedicin.dk, 2 November 2020.

Jeffrey Kerby contributed with his research and photos to the Wired article ‘Beautiful Yet Unnerving Photos of the Arctic Getting Greener’ on: wired.com, 30 November 2020.

Christos Tsirogiannis gave an interview to the Swedish television SVT Hylheter kultur for the article ‘Arkeolog anklagar auktionshus för att sålda stöldgods: ”Brutal verksamhet”’ on: svt.se/kultur, 8 December 2020.

Christos Tsirogiannis gave an interview to the Greek newspaper Kathimerini for the article ‘Repatriation of six antiquities from London: The Department of Antiquities did not inform the foreign donor as it should’ on: kathimerini.gr, 15 December 2020.

Christian Damsgaard gave a Danish interview to Weekendavisen for the article ‘Hovedryk’, published in no. 51, 18 December 2020.

Lisa M. Wu contributed with an interview on her research knowledge of circadian rhythms to the science podcast on DR1 Radio Supertanker ‘Find rytmen i livet’ (‘Find the rhythm in life’), on: dr.dk/radio/p1/supertanker, 5 January 2021.

Fredrik Christiansen and his research was mentioned in the Science Daily news article ‘A large number of gray whales are starving and dying in the eastern North Pacific’ on: sciencedaily.com, 22 January 2021.

Fredrik Christiansen and his research was mentioned in the news article ‘Gray whales are dying in alarming numbers’ on: Earth.com, 22 January 2021.

Fredrik Christiansen and his research was mentioned in the CBS News news article ‘Gray whales are starving and dying off at an alarming rate along the Pacific Coast’ on: cbsnews.com, 25 January 2021.

Fredrik Christiansen gave an interview to Gizmodo on his research on gray whales for the news article ‘Gray Whales Off Baja California Are Dying En Masse, and Scientists Don’t Know Why’ on: gizmodo.com, 26 January 2021.

Fredrik Christiansen and his research was mentioned in the Forbes news article ‘West Coast Whale Population Drops 25%, Starvation May Be To Blame’, on: forbes.com, 27 January 2021.

Fredrik Christiansen and his research was mentioned in the Oceanographic news article ‘Starvation contributing to Eastern North Pacific grey whale deaths, study suggests’ on: oceanographicmagazine.com/news, 27 January 2021.

Fredrik Christiansen and his research was mentioned in the Danish Berlingske news article ‘Knap 400 døde gråhvaler ud for Nordamerika foruriserer forskeren’ on: berlingske.dk/international, 27 January 2021.

Fredrik Christiansen and his research was mentioned in the Danish Kristeligt Dagblad news article ‘Knap 400 døde gråhvaler ud for Nordamerika foruriserer forskere’ on: kristeligt-dagblad.dk, 27 January 2021.

Fredrik Christiansen and his research was mentioned in the Danish Jyllands-Posten news article ‘Massedød blandt gråhvaler bekymrer forskere’ on: jyllands-posten.dk, 27 January 2021.

Fredrik Christiansen and his research was mentioned in the Danish DR Nyheder news article ‘384 døde gråhvaler ud for Mexicans kyst foruriserer forskere’ on: dr.dk, 27 January 2021.

Fredrik Christiansen and his research was mentioned in the Swedish Omni news article ‘Forskare oroa: Hundratals gråvalar svälter och dör’ on: omni.se, 27 January 2021.

Niels Chr. Hansen and his research on the role of music during the COVID-19 pandemic was covered by Forbes Magazine in the article ‘Coronomusic Gives People A Sense Of Belonging, According To Research’ on: forbes.com, 27 February 2021.


Niels Chr. Hansen gave an interview for the programme ‘Påstand mod påstand’ on Danish Radio DR P3 about having tunes stuck in your head and how to get rid of them on: dr.dk/radio/p3/pastand-mod-pastand, 14 April 2021.

Christian Damsgaard gave an interview to Dr. Doolittle for the article ‘Experimental Biology 2021: Q&A with Dr. Christian Damsgaard’ on: lifelinesblog.com, 28 April 2021.

Christos Tsirogiannis gave an interview for the Dutch newspaper NRC for the article ‘Leids museum geeft vaas terug aan Italië’ on: nrc.nl/nieuws, 9 June 2021.

Niels Chr. Hansen gave an interview to the Dutch newspaper NRC about his research studies on music habits during corona for the article ‘Muziek helpt om de eenzaamheid tijdens corona te bestrijden, blijkt uit onderzoek’ on: nrc.nl/nieuws, 5 August 2021.
Danish artist Bjørn Nørgaard in front of his sculpture Ars, Scientia, Justitia donated to AIAS and Aarhus University by the New Carlsberg Foundation, May 2021.

By: Hreinn Gudlaugsson.
EVENTS AT AIAS
In this section, you can find a selection of the events at AIAS organized by the AIAS fellows and by Aarhus University faculty or external collaborators in the year of 2020-2021. As the corona pandemic has pervaded most of the academic year of 2020-2021, the main meeting place of AIAS has been the AIAS virtual meeting ground. The online format has enabled fellows to extend the weekly interdisciplinary discussions between and across disciplines even further by inviting former fellows and international researchers.
EVENTS AT AIAS


AIAS at BIOCHANGE Seminar, AU: ‘Towards addressing complexity in the Greening of the Arctic’ by AIAS Fellow Jeffrey Kerby, 16 September 2020.

AIAS Symposium: Public Diplomacy: From Cold War to COVID, six talks on the topic of public diplomacy from multiple disciplines. Co-organized by AIAS Fellow Bogdan C. Iacob and Associate Prof Rósa Magnúsdóttir, History, Aarhus University, 16 September 2020.

AIAS Exhibition and Panel: Drawing Europe Together, a panel discussion on the EU with panelists Catharina Sørensen, Deputy Director of The Think Tank Europe; Thorsten Borning Olesen, Prof of History, Aarhus University, and Jens Blom-Hansen, Prof at the Dept. of Political Science, Aarhus University. The panel concluded with an exhibition of drawings on the EU. Organized and chaired by AIAS Fellow Sandra Eckert, 17 September 2020.

AIAS Fellows’ Seminar: ‘Genome ecology – DNA as a habitat for selfish genes’ by AIAS Fellow Peter R. Andersen, 21 September 2020.

AIAS Virtual Seminar – Dual Talk: ‘Disgust: How the Behavioral Immune System Shapes Politics’ and ‘Implications of pathogen avoidance motivations for politics’ by AIAS Former Fellow, Prof Michael Bang Petersen and Associate Prof Lene Aaree from the Dept. of Political Science, Aarhus University. Chaired and commenting by: AIAS Former Fellow, sociologist Isabel Kusche, Institut für Technikfolgenabschätzung und Systemanalyse (ITAS), Karlsruhe, Germany, 28 September 2020.


AIAS Virtual Seminar: ‘Multiple sclerosis medicine inhibits coronavirus replication’ by invited speaker Christian Kanstrup Holm, Associate Prof at the Dept. of Biomedicine, Aarhus University, 19 October 2020.


Network Meeting BrainHygge: ‘COVID19: How infections can affect our bodies and brain’ by Prof Leif Østergaard, Center for Functionally Integrative Neuroscience, Aarhus University. Organized by AIAS Fellow Micah Allen, 30 October 2020.

Inspiration day: Meeting between Health and Innovation Fund Denmark: talks by Prof Peter Vuust, Center for Music in the Brain and Prof Anders Nykjær, Biomedicine and DANDRITE, Aarhus University. Organized by the Faculty of Health, Aarhus University, 30 October 2020.


AIAS Virtual Seminar: ‘An archaeology of heathlands and disturbance ecologies’ by invited speaker Mette Levshal, Associate Prof at the Dept. of Archaeology, Aarhus University, 16 November 2020.


AIAS Virtual Course: a course for fellows and researchers on the topic ‘Manage yourself in the media’ by Michael Strangholt, journalist and communication consultant at the Danish Centre for Environment and Energy, Aarhus University, 17 November 2020.

AU Health Forum: Educational Forum. Organized by Vice-Dean Lise Wogensen Bach, Faculty of Health, Aarhus University, 19 November 2020.

AIAS Dual Talk: A peer-to-peer breakfast talk on ‘Science communication and networking through social media’ by AIAS Fellow Karen Gram-Skjoldager, History, and AIAS Former Fellow Magnus Kjærgaard, DANDRITE, Aarhus University, 20 November 2020.


AIAS Virtual Seminar: ‘The Material World – An atomic view of new materials for future energy technologies’ by invited speaker Kirsten Marie Ørmsbjerg Jensen, Associate Prof at the Dept. of Chemistry, University of Copenhagen, 30 November 2020.

ERC Workshop: Workshop for ERC Grant Applicants. Organized by the Dean’s Office, Faculty of Arts, Aarhus University, 3 December 2020.


Strategy Seminar: For the Dept. of Bioscience. Organized by the management of the Dept. of Bioscience, Aarhus University, 7- 8 December 2020.

AIAS Funding Seminar: Seminar for AIAS Fellows on the Danish and international funding landscape co-organized by AIAS and the Aarhus University’s Research Support Office, 8 December 2020.

Matchmaking of research environments: Organized by the Dept. of Biology, Aarhus University, 17 December 2020.


AIAS Virtual Seminar: ‘Impacts of the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill on fish in the Gulf of Mexico’ by invited speaker Prof Martin Grosell, University of Miami, USA, 8 February 2021.

AIAS and Between Music Joint Workshop: Under Water Reverberation Workshop, a joint interdisciplinary collaboration between AIAS and the artistic group Between Music, that brought artists, audio specialists and researchers together to discuss water and more specifically underwater sound. Organized by Producer Christina Lidøgaard from Between Music and AIAS Director Søren Rud Keiding, 9 February 2021.

AIAS Research Seminar: Racism and Anti-racism Discussion Group. Co-convened by AIAS Fellows Stefan Bargheer and Kei Hiruta together with Casper Andersen and Mikkel Thorup from the Dept. of Philosophy and the History of Ideas at Aarhus University, 10 February 2021.


AIAS Joint Research Presentations: One-day seminar with short 6-minute research presentations by all the AIAS Fellows, 25 February 2021.

AIAS Virtual Seminar: ‘Peering into the Darwinian microcosm: The extraordinary abilities and striking dangers of B cells’ by invited speaker Associate Prof Søren Egedal Deqan, Dept. of Biomedicine, Aarhus University, 1 March 2021.
AIAS Research Seminar: Racism and Anti-racism Discussion Group. Co-convened by AIAS Fellows Stefan Bargheer and Kei Hiruta together with Casper Andersen and Mikkel Thorup from the Dept. of Philosophy and the History of Ideas at Aarhus University, 3 March 2021.


AIAS Virtual Fellows’ Seminar: ‘Human social complexity: good explanations, bad explanations’ by AIAS Fellow Thomas Leppard, 8 March 2021.


AIAS Virtual Fellows’ Seminar: ‘Consciousness and cognitive access’ by AIAS Fellow Morten Overgaard, 26 April 2021.

AIAS Virtual Conference: Art and the City: Urban Space, Art and Social Change. 3-day conference with more than 30 speakers from across the social sciences and humanities to discuss research within urban space, art, and social change. Organized by AIAS Fellow Tijen Tunali, 28-30 April 2021.

AIAS at the Festival of Research 2021: Contribution of two 30-minute speed-lecture talks by AIAS Fellow Iza Romanowska on ‘Archaeology to the rescue! What can we learn from the past?’ and AIAS Fellow Helen Van Noorden on ‘A roller coaster ride into the future: how to read the ancient Sibylline Oracles’, online, 28 April 2021.
AIAS Virtual Seminar: ‘From Mannerism to Modes of Existence’ by invited speaker Sjoerd van Tuinen, Associate Prof at the Dept. of Philosophy, Erasmus University of Rotterdam, the Netherlands, 3 May 2021.

AIAS Research Seminar: Racism and Anti-racism Discussion Group. Co-convened by AIAS Fellows Stefan Bargheer and Kei Hiruta together with Casper Andersen and Mikkel Thorup from the Dept. of Philosophy and the History of Ideas at Aarhus University, 5 May 2021.


AIAS Dialogue between artist Bjørn Nørgaard and fellows: Dialogue on the topic of ‘Critical, Creative and Independent Thinking in and between Arts, Science and Justice’ between Danish artist Bjørn Nørgaard and the AIAS fellows before the unveiling of Nørgaard’s sculpture Ars, Scientia, Justitia placed outside AIAS. Talks by Artist Bjørn Nørgaard, AIAS Director Søren Keiding, and AIAS Fellows Helen Van Norden, Niels Christian Hansen, Morten Storm Overgaard and AIAS Associate Fellow Klaus Mølmer, 10 May 2021.

Conference: The Ethics of Sharing, international 2-day conference organized by the Center for the Study of Ethics and Community, Dept. of Anthropology, Aarhus University, 11-12 May 2021.

AIAS Virtual Seminar: ‘Principles of music perception’ by invited speaker Samuel Mehr, Associate Prof at the Dept. of Psychology, Harvard University, USA, 17 May 2021.

Workshop: Passive Acoustic Monitoring, a 3-day workshop organized by Prof Peter Teegjørg Madsen, Dept. of Biology, Aarhus University, 18-20 May 2021.


AIAS Virtual Seminar: ‘Transmissible cancers: when cancer cells become infectious agents’ by invited speaker Elizabeth Murchison, Prof of Comparative Oncology and Genetics, the Dept. of Veterinary Medicine, University of Cambridge, UK, 7 June 2021.


LOGSEM summer seminar: For faculty and staff at the Dept. of Computer Science, Aarhus University, 17 June 2021.

Workshop: a 1-day workshop in the Inflammation Network, Faculty of Health, Aarhus University, 18 June 2021.

AIAS Sandbjerg Retreat: 2-day offsite academic and social seminar for all AIAS Fellows and staff with talks by Provost, Prof David Dreyer Lassen from University of Copenhagen; Associate Prof Kristian Hvidtfeldt Nielsen, Aarhus University; AIAS Former Fellow, Prof Anja Bechmann, Aarhus University; and AIAS Fellow Jeffrey Kerby, 24-25 June 2021.

Seminar: For the University Management. Organized by the University Management team at Aarhus University, 18 August 2021.

Introduction Day: For international full degree students at AU. Organized by the International Career Service, Aarhus University, 25 August 2021.

AIAS Summer Gathering: Academic and social gathering for all AIAS Fellows, Former Fellows, AIAS Associates and staff with talks by Prof Tobias Wang, Zoophysiology, Prof Daniel Otzen, iNano and AIAS Fellow Katarzyna Jazdzewska, AIAS, 26 August 2021.


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**BOOKING OF AIAS’ FACILITIES?**

AIAS and its facilities are open for booking to all members of staff from all faculties, departments and centres at Aarhus University, and by requests from external collaborators.

Know more about the opportunities available at AIAS, by visiting: aias.au.dk/opportunities-at-aias/synergies-with-aarhus-university or by sending a booking request to: booking@aias.au.dk
ORGANISATION, STAFF AND FUNDING
AIAS ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

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AIAS DIRECTOR SØREN KEIDING APPOINTED PRESIDENT FOR NETIAS

From September 2021, AIAS Director Søren Keiding will take over the presidency of the Network of European Institutes for Advanced Study (NetIAS) after Nadia Al-Bagdadi from Central European University IAS, Budapest. The network aims at stimulating dialogue on IAS practices and possible forms of cooperation, and members share the objective of creating international and multidisciplinary learning communities. NetIAS was created in 2004, and now comprises 25 member institutes, from all over Europe.

AIAS became a member of NetIAS in 2015, and has since actively contributed to the network, e.g. by hosting the annual ‘NetIAS Business Meeting and EURIAS Conference’, in 2019, in Aarhus. Among its initiatives, NetIAS has hosted an EU-funded EURIAS Fellowship programme that AIAS took part in by hosting four EURIAS Fellows from 2017-2019. A new initiative ‘Constructive Advanced Thinking’ (CAT) is currently running that seeks to bring talented early career scholars together on a common topic to tackle societal challenges. This year, AIAS has joined the CAT initiative, and in the spring of 2022 will be hosting a group that works on light.
FUNDING

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