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INTRODUCTION

AMIS is an interdisciplinary centre for migration research based at the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Copenhagen. Since its establishment in 2013 as a strategic research priority, the research center has entered its consolidation phase with a strengthened research focus on qualitative and ethnographic approaches to the study of moving populations and mobility practices as well as irregularized and forced migration.

The primary aims of AMIS include:

- promoting excellent research within social sciences and humanities approaches to migration
- stimulating and facilitating cooperation among researchers at the Faculty of Humanities engaging in the study of migration
- providing a forum in which research projects and papers can be developed, discussed, and improved
- stimulating national and international research cooperation on migration, and hosting talks, conferences, roundtables, and book-launches
- addressing issues of migration for which there is significant societal interest
- further developing the master's degree programme in advanced migration studies.

CENTRE FOR ADVANCED MIGRATION

STUDIES - AMIS

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Highlights 2023

- As part of the SAXO Research Evaluation in May 2023, AMIS reached the following positive conclusion from the international assessment committee: "*[AMIS] demonstrates the ability to combine high quality research with public interest and relevance. [T]he ten years of AMIS have demonstrated the importance of this centre, which combines engagement with one of the crucial issues of the moment with a critical stance towards the myths which surround the topic.* (Research assessment at the Saxo Institute, 2023: 5, 13).
- In 2023 AMIS completed its mid-term evaluation within the current 5-year agreement between the Saxo Institute and the Center. You can read the conclusions of the [self-assessment report here](#),
- From 2019-2023 AMIS has attracted a total amount of **DKK 8.514.711** external research funding.
- AMIS organized and hosted the 10th year anniversary seminar on Oct 13, 2023. We were happy to welcome associate dean for research and impact, Dorthe Gert Simonsen, and head of the SAXO Institute, Casper Sylvest. A very successful and festive day with great presentations on AMIS research, AMIS students and visiting scholars' projects, AMIS alumni experiences, and not least an inspiring talk by prof. Nando Sigona, University of Birmingham.
- AMIS introduced the AMIS Thesis Award to promote excellent work from our international Master of Arts in *Advanced Migration Studies*.
- AMIS hosted the 10th AMIS-MIM Annual Graduate Conference, co-organised with MIM Malmö University, presenting the world premiere screening of AMIS Associate Professor Lotte Pelckmans documentary 'Ganbanaaxun Fedde: a transnational anti-slavery network' on diasporic transnational activism.
- AMIS students organized the AMIS Student Conference (May 2, 2023) on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity: A Conference on Queer perspectives on Migration.

AMIS people

During 2023, the AMIS staff group consisted of 14 people: 2 PhD students, 3 postdocs, 1 associate prof. (temp), 1 teaching assistant professor. Permanent staff: 1 part-time associate professor, 1 director, 1 coordinator. A tenure-track

assistant prof. is in the process of being recruited. Plus 4 visiting fellows and external lecturers.

- Postdoc Ditte Shapiro and postdoc Rikke Egaa Jørgensen were transferred from Center for Social Work at University College Absalon to AMIS as part of the research project 'Boundary work'.
- Teaching assistant professor Marlene Paulin Kristensen was affiliated with AMIS as part of her pilot project on the German-Danish border.
- External lecturers Michael Ulfstjerne and Tilde Siglev were recruited for teaching the modules 2 and 3 of the AMIS-program.

AMIS staff meetings are held every Wednesday throughout the year, including internal lectures and brown bag presentations by team members, guest researchers and affiliated researchers from the Faculty of Humanities and UCPH.

Together with TEACH AMIS co-organizes a workshop for teachers approx. each term concerning various themes such as inclusion, the international classroom and code of conduct.

AMIS Research

AMIS attracts and hosts a range of excellent research projects funded by private as well as public foundations such as the Danish Research Council, the Velux Foundations and Global Challenge Research Fund (UK).

As per Dec 2023 a total of 5 externally funded research projects are hosted by AMIS:

- 'Where to build, when to live'? Practical Challenges with Housing Ukrainian Refugees in Danish Municipalities (PI Zachary Whyte, funded by the UCPH Crown Princess Mary's Center).
- Restarting the conversation on European borders: the case of the Danish-German borders (funded by Dansk Folkeoplysnings Samråd, Co-PI Marlene Paulin Kristensen)
- BOUNDARY WORK – new interfaces between the state, civil society and refugees in a self-reliance and return context (PI Marie Sandberg, VELUX HUMpraxis).
- Convening the Global Integration of Refugees Through Sport Sector". (Zachary Whyte, PI of Work Package 2, Erasmus+)

- **PROTRACTED RURAL DISPLACEMENTS: Forced Internal Migration and Slavery Mobilisations in Mali and its Diaspora (Co-PI Lotte Pelckmans, Global Challenge Research Fund, UK)**

Affiliated projects:

- **RESTORE: Refugees' stories and stories about refugees: Crafting new narratives of the Danish welfare state, (PI AMIS Steering group member, Trine Øland (MEF).**

Publications and public dissemination

AMIS staff publishes a wide range of research publications in internationally renowned, peer reviewed journals and book series, please see below.

For an overview of alle AMIS publications, please see:
<https://amis.ku.dk/publications/>.

Guest scholars and international networks

AMIS attracts excellent visiting researchers and guest PhD students. Each year the center receives several applications from international postdocs and PhD students as well as tenured staff.

In 2023 we welcomed:

- Ivan Meitus Chair and Professor of Law, **Kif Augustine-Adams**, joined AMIS us from Brigham Young University Law School in the United States, during Spring term 2023.
- **Magdalena Bogucewicz**, a doctoral candidate enrolled at the Faculty of Political Science and Journalism situated within Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, visited AMIS during Fall term 2023.
- **Nina Carlsson** was a visiting researcher at AMIS from August to December 2023. Her postdoctoral project (funded by the Swedish Research Council 2023-2025) investigates the implications of language and civic knowledge testing in Denmark, Finland, and Sweden.

AMIS continues its connections with several international research networks:

- **IMISCOE**, the state-of-the-art international network for migration research, represented by Marie Sandberg as a member of the board of directors

- NMR -Nordic Migration Research, the largest research network for Nordic migration scholars, represented in the board by AMIS associate professor Zachary Whyte as NMR chair.
- EuMIGS, Erasmus+, represented by Marie Sandberg.

Master of Arts in Advanced Migration Studies

The Master of Arts in Advanced Migration Studies is an intrinsic part of the Centre's activities, and a continued strengthening of the integration between research and education is a leitmotif of AMIS enhancing research-based education. AMIS alumni network *amisan* (established 2019) cooperates with AMIS staff on e.g AMIS Intro Day.

Academic Interns at AMIS

AMIS places great value in integrating teaching with research. Each term we have several 'forskerføl' connected to the ongoing research projects at the centre.

- Dosol Nissi Lee is a master's student at the Centre for Advanced Migration Studies (AMIS) at the University of Copenhagen, Denmark. As an academic intern at AMIS, Nissi supports Lotte Pelckmans' research projects on slavery and witchcraft in West Africa within the framework of the action research program, Slavery and Forced Migration in Western Mali (SlaFMig), and she also co-reviews manuscripts for the Nordic Journal of African Studies (ISSN 1459-9465).

Conclusion

As the research assessment testifies, AMIS is a vibrant research center with an impressive level of activity and engagement among our colleagues and students. AMIS has established itself as a strongly profiled center for migration research at the humanities at UCPH with a very high application rate for externally funded research applications and a solid publication rate.



Marie Sandberg, Associate professor PhD, Director

Copenhagen, 5 February 2024

Amin Younes Aoussar

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Ditte Shapiro

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Katrine Syppli Kohl

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Lotte Pelckmans

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Marie Sandberg

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Michael Ulfstjerne

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Zachary Whyte

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