



## INTRODUCTION

22 MARCH 2022

AMIS is an interdisciplinary centre for migration research based at the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Copenhagen. Since its establishment 2013 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.

CENTRE FOR ADVANCED MIGRATION

STUDIES - AMIS

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

SAXO INSTITUTE

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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.

## Highlights 2021

- From 2019-2021 AMIS has attracted a total amount of DKK 7.716.532 external research funding. In 2021 the external funding amounted to DKK 446.715, which testifies that the funding years will likely fluctuate from year to year.
- AMIS researchers have published 31 titles including research articles, book chapters, and edited volumes (please see overview below).
- AMIS organized the online seminar on Danish Externalisation Policies

gathering the scholars Ahlam Chemlali, Martin Lemberg-Pedersen, Zachary Whyte and Nikolas F. Tan for a research-based discussion of the Danish Social Democratic government's legislative proposal to export Danish asylum processing and refugee residence permits abroad. The hybrid seminar attracted more than 90 audiences including embassies, policy-makers, researchers, and journalists. The AMIS Seminar Report "Danish desires to export asylum responsibility to camps outside Europe" can be accessed here: [https://amis.ku.dk/publications/amis-reports-and-working-papers/2021/KU\\_Externalization\\_Report\\_19.3.2021\\_PUBLISHED.pdf](https://amis.ku.dk/publications/amis-reports-and-working-papers/2021/KU_Externalization_Report_19.3.2021_PUBLISHED.pdf).

- AMIS hosted the co-organised (with MIM Malmö University) event [8th AMIS-MIM Masters conference on Migration](#) on *Invisibility and migration research*, with the keynote speaker Jesper Bjarnesen, from Nordic Africa Institute at the University of Uppsala.
- AMIS developed a new Curriculum for the Master of Arts programme in Advanced Migration Studies with the aim of strengthening the program's focus on qualitative and ethnographic approaches to the study of moving populations.
- A promotion video presenting AMIS Research has been published in collaboration with MOOT productions, [www.amis.ku.dk](http://www.amis.ku.dk).

### **AMIS organization**

Since 2019 Associate professor Marie Sandberg (SAXO) is Head of centre, supported by centre coordinator Maria Frantzoulis and the AMIS steering group: representing each of the departments of the Faculty of Humanities: Margit Warburg (ToRS), Anders Michelsen (IKK), Martha Sif Karrebæk (NORS), Trine Øland (MEF), Georg Wink (EnGeRom). Due to her retirement Margit Warburg will be replaced by Andreas Bandak (ToRs) starting from 2022 onwards.

Margit Warburg's contribution to AMIS has been invaluable and we regret her stepping back. We are very happy to welcome Andreas Bandak in her place.

During E2021 Associate Prof. Simon Turner was acting director of AMIS while Marie Sandberg was on research leave as visiting Associate Professor at the Research Excellence initiative: Center for Migration Studies, University of British Columbia, Canada.

### **AMIS people**

During the year of 2021 the AMIS staff group consisted of 11 members including 2 visiting postdocs, 1 guest PhD student, 1 external lecturer.

- Associate prof. Zachary Whyte was recruited after an open call for a part-time Associate Professorship, starting from 1.1. 2022.
- Postdoc Katrine Syppli Kohl was employed as a postdoc 24 months in the “Boundary work”-project led by Marie Sandberg, starting from September 1<sup>st</sup> 2021. Two student assistants, Benno Brudzniki and Maya Dyval have been recruited to the project as well.
- Associate prof. Martin Lemberg Pedersen’s H2020 ADMIGOV project was hosted at AMIS from Nov 1<sup>st</sup> 2020- 31<sup>st</sup> of June 2021.
- Line Steen Bygballe is writing her PhD at Copenhagen Centre for Health Research in the Humanities (CoRe) and is also be associated with AMIS. Co-supervisor is Marie Sandberg.

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.

2021 has been devoted to be focusing on AMIS research which was also the main theme for the yearly AMIS Internal Seminar, held in June 2021 together with AMIS staff and advisory group.

AMIS organized an external funding workshop, which will be a recurring event along with SAXO research support and HUM research support meetings.

## AMIS Research

Over the past years AMIS has attracted and hosted a range of excellent research projects funded by private as well as public foundations such as the Danish Research Council, the Velux Foundations and H2020.

Between 2019-2020 the centre has attracted a total amount of **7.716.532 DKK** external research funding including international postdoc bench fees (see attachment 2) covering the following grantors: VELUX Foundations (HUMpraxis), DFF (FSE Forskningsophold i udlandet), DFF (Sapere Aude, subproject), Vetenskapsrådet (International Postdoc, bench fee), Global Challenge Research Fund (UK), Swiss National Science Foundation: Early Postdoc Mobility (bench fee). As per Feb 2022 a total of 4 externally funded research projects are based at and/or hosted by AMIS:

- BOUNDARY WORK – New Interfaces between State and Civil Society: Volunteers and Refugees in a Self-Support and Repatriation Context (PI Marie Sandberg, VELUX HUMpraxis)
- EVERYDAY HUMANITARIANISM (Participating researcher, Simon Turner).
- PROTRACTED RURAL DISPLACEMENTS: Forced Internal Migration and Slavery Mobilisations in Mali and its Diaspora (Co-PI Lotte Pelckmans, Global Challenge Research Fund, UK)
- ARCHIVING THE FUTURE: Re-Collections of Syria in War and Peace (Participating researcher Nina Grønlykke Mollerup, DFF Sapere Aude)

Affiliated projects:

- INTERPRETING: Sociolinguistic Perspectives on Challenges in Interpreting Encounters in the Danish Public Sector (PI AMIS Steering group member Martha Sif Karrebæk, NoRS)
- RESTORE: Refugees' stories and stories about refugees: Crafting new narratives of the Danish welfare state, (PI AMIS Steering group member, Trine Øland (MEF).

In 2021 AMIS staff and affiliates applied for an amount of DKK **22.942.540** external research funding, which includes applied funding for ERC.

From 2019-2021 the total grant amount applied for was **56.423.778** DKK.

These figures bear witness to a very high and still rising level of research application activity among AMIS staff and affiliated colleagues.

The centre is in dialogue with HUM research support on future H2020 applications and it is a continued goal to attract MC scholars including MC PhD networks to the centre and to increase the number of PhD students.

The Covid-19 situation has affected several of the research projects at the Centre, especially those committing to fieldwork investigations through 2021. Especially our younger scholars have been facing challenges working from home and missing out on the everyday working environment at AMIS. Throughout the year we have maintained contact and collegial support during weekly online meetings and AMIS events organized online.

### **Publications and public dissemination**

The AMIS group presents itself as a very active research environment with a high publication rate.

During 2021 AMIS staff, including visiting research staff, has published a total of 31 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/>.

### **AMIS events 2021**

- *AMIS Seminar on Danish Externalisation Policies, Feb 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021*  
This AMIS Seminar gathered the scholars Ahlam Chemlali, Martin Lemberg-Pedersen, Zachary Whyte and Nikolas Feith Tan for a research-based discussion of the legislative proposal to export Danish asylum processing and refugee residence permits abroad. The hybrid seminar attracted more 90 audiences including embassies, policymakers, researchers, and journalists. The seminar was published in the AMIS Seminar Report:

[https://amis.ku.dk/publications/amis-reports-and-working-papers/2021/KU\\_Externalization\\_Report\\_19.3.2021\\_PUBLISHED.pdf](https://amis.ku.dk/publications/amis-reports-and-working-papers/2021/KU_Externalization_Report_19.3.2021_PUBLISHED.pdf)

- *IMISCOE conference, June 2021*: AMIS organized and took part in a panel on *Materiality, embodiment and affect: exploring relations between migration and precarious life*, which is Workshop Session #113 | SC Reflexive Migration Studies.
- *Art & Migration with Cinemateket, Sept 6<sup>th</sup> 2021*: AMIS co-hosted this screening “Chauka, Please Tell Us the Time” facilitated by PhD fellow Cecilie Odgaard Jakobsen and post.doc Annika Lindberg (now with Göteborg University) and followed by a discussion and Q&A with author and co-creator of the movie Behrouz Boochani and the movie’s director and artist Arash Kamali Sarvestani.
- *AMIS Book launch, Nov 12th*. ‘Invisibility in African Displacements: From Structural Marginalization to Strategies of Avoidance’ edited by Jesper Bjarnesen and Simon Turner. Apart from the two editors and a number of contributors there were also presentations by the two discussants: Professor Laura Hammond from SOAS and postdoc Kudakwashe Vanyoro from the University of Witwatersrand.
- *8<sup>th</sup> AMIS-MIM student conference, Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> 2021*: AMIS hosted the yearly AMIS-MIM student conference. The theme of the conference was Invisibility and migration research, and the keynote speaker was Jesper Bjarnesen, from Nordic Africa Institute at the University of Uppsala. The conference had presentations by students and young scholars from AMIS and MIM and took place physically UCPH SC while being streamed to our colleagues in Sweden.
- AMIS has started an informal seminar series with Global Refugee Studies at AAU, where we present work in progress and get to know each other’s research environments.
- UCPH Migration research platform: A cross-faculty initiative, contact person is AMIS Associate Professor, Simon Turner.

### **Guest scholars and international networks**

AMIS attracts a flow of excellent visiting researchers and guest PhD students, and each year the center receives several applications from international postdocs and PhD students as well as tenured staff.

- Visiting postdocs Annika Lindberg (Vetenskapsrådet, 2020-2021), Albert Mora, University of Valencia (Fall 2011), Martin Joorman (2021-2022), Jacob Lind (Vetenskapsrådet, Fall 2021).
- Peter Eriksson, Malmö University, was a guest PhD researcher.

- Ditte Shapiro, Associate Professor, Center for Social Work at University College Absalon was a guest researcher at AMIS in September and October 2021, as part of the research project 'Boundary work – refugees and the state-civil society nexus in a hyper-precarious self-reliance and return regime in Denmark'.
- Martin Joormann completed his PhD in Sociology of Law with his thesis Legitimized Refugees (2019, Lund University). From August 2021 to July 2023, Martin will be a Visiting postdoc AMIS. He is currently conducting research for his VR International Postdoc, which is based at Lund's Sociology of Law Department. This postdoc project is a collective case study of Danish, German and Swedish appeal instances that decide on the review of rejected asylum claims. The study's point of departure is to explore the varying extents to which these appeals are politicized in Denmark, Germany 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 vice-chair.
- EuMIGS, Erasmus+, represented by associate professor Simon Turner.
- From 2020 and onwards associate professor Simon Turner is co-editor of *Journal of Refugee Studies*.

### **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) is very active contributing to a close cooperation between AMIS staff, students, and alumni.

- An AMIS Welcome Pack for new students has been prepared in cooperation with *amisan* strengthening an 'AMIS narrative' depicting the journey from A-Z in the Master programme.

### **Academic Interns at AMIS, Autumn Semester 2021**

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

- Othilia Pedersen is a third semester MA student with AMIS and is currently working as an intern for the research project on Slavery and Forced Migration in Mali.
- Roosa Möttönen is a third semester MA student with AMIS and is currently working as a research intern on the Archiving the Future: Re-Collections of Syria in War and Peace project hosted by Nina Grønlykke Møllerup
- Simona Stejskalová is a third semester MA student with AMIS and is currently working as a research intern for the Slavery and Forced Migration (SlaFMig) project hosted by Lotte Pelckmans.
- Sooyeon Kim (Lucie) is a third semester MA student with AMIS and is currently working as a research intern for the project "Archiving the Future: the Recollections of Syria in War and Peace" hosted by Nina Grønlykke Møllerup.
- Sophia Stille is a third semester MA student in Advanced Migration Studies at AMIS. In the following semester, she will be one of the three new research interns on the protracted rural displacements (SlaFMig) project hosted by Lotte Pelckmans

### Activities plan 2022 (a selection)

- Hosting the Nordic Migration Research Conference, August 17-19, 2022 (organizer Zachary Whyte)
- Joint seminars with GRS (Simon Turner)
- UCPH platform for migration research - a cross-faculty platform for migration research at UCPH has been launched, organized in cooperation with cross-faculty partners by Associate prof. Simon Turner.

### Conclusion

AMIS has consolidated itself as a dynamic research environment with a high record of attracting excellent externally funded research projects contributing to the international field of migration studies. With the new AMIS curriculum 2022 and the promotion video on AMIS research 2021, the research profile as a center with a strong profile within qualitative and ethnographic migration research has been strengthened.

In sum, 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, 20 March 2022





## 2021

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