Dear AMIS Newsletter subscribers,

Slowly but surely things are returning to normal at the centre, as we gradually move out of our home offices and back to campus. All teaching is on campus and AMIS meetings are held on campus with online visitors from Sweden and elsewhere. Seminars and events are still affected by international travel restrictions. On the other hand, we have also learned that we can invite speakers from far away without them having to fly halfway across the planet – while most participants can mingle, have drinks and network in real life. This was the case with the successful screening of the film, Chauka, Please Tell Us the Time at Cinemateket, followed by a debate with the filmmakers who joined us on ZOOM.

AMIS is constantly evolving, as people leave, and new people join for shorter or longer periods of time. This gives the place a sense of constant renewal and energy. Marie Sandberg is on research leave in Vancouver this semester, working on her new project Boundary work. Meanwhile Ditte Shapiro and
Katrine Syppli Kohl have joined AMIS as part of the Boundary work team. Both have been associated with AMIS earlier, and we are happy to see them back again. Zachary Whyte is also an old face at the centre. Now we are happy to announce that he has got a permanent position as Associate Lecturer at AMIS. Needless to say, we are very grateful to have him employed permanently, as he has been a great asset at AMIS both in relation to teaching and research. Line Steen Bygballe is writing her PhD at Copenhagen Centre for Health Research in the Humanities (CoRe) and will also be associated with AMIS.

We also have guest researchers this semester: some come to the office almost every day while others are so far restricted to joining online. Albert Mora also visited the centre years ago and is back to do more fieldwork in Denmark. Martin Joormann is based at Lund University and will be a visiting scholar at AMIS for two years.

Research projects also come and go. The CAMP project is coming to an end. The same is the Remote Relocations project, and we are sad to say goodbye to Martin Ledstrup. Meanwhile, new research projects are emerging, and AMIS colleagues are constantly applying for research funding nationally and at EU level.
Doing research during the pandemic

Research projects at the centre have been severely challenged by the lockdown, as most of us depend on fieldwork and have been forced to find alternative ways of doing fieldwork or postpone our research.

The CAMP project was not severely affected, as most of the fieldwork had come to an end by spring 2020. However, we had to cancel the final, international conference.

The Everyday Humanitarianism in Tanzania project has been severely challenged, as more than half the researchers are based in Tanzania and travel between the two countries has not been viable, making joint fieldwork impossible. While keeping in touch with colleagues has been possible, doing fieldwork in remote areas of Tanzania cannot be done online. Simon expects to start fieldwork in February 2022 – almost two years delayed.

Lotte Pelckmans’ SlafMig project had relied on fieldwork in Mali and had to radically rethink ways of engaging with the field. She concludes that overall the restrictions of COVID did not prevent her from making contact and building new relationships with inspiring men and women who are engaged in descent-based slavery activism. She believes that ‘hybrid fieldwork’, combining online and offline interactions, will become more common in my future research. Her reflections are expanded in this link.

In the ‘Archiving the Future’ the researchers were fortunate that they could turn the situation into one they could benefit from. While the planned fieldwork in Lebanon, Turkey, Germany and more of course had to be put on hold, they turned their attention to the many impressive Syrian documentaries that are coming out these days. Watching the documentaries and having online conversations with documentarists, producers and photographers served to complement the (mainly online) fieldwork they were able to carry out about image archives and Syrian futures. They also made use of the Lockdown to host conversations with key scholars in the field, which the project also benefited greatly from. The project will continue much of this, once travel restrictions ease.
New People at AMIS

Katrine Syppli Kohl

From 1. September Katrine Syppli Kohl will be joining AMIS as our new postdoc in the Boundary work project.

With Katrine's solid research experience and her specialized knowledge in qualitative migration studies and governmental strategies to manage refugees and asylum seekers, we are more than thrilled about this new cooperation.

Katrine holds a Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Copenhagen.

After six years at VIVE - the Danish Centre for Social Science Research, Katrine will be joining AMIS as a postdoctoral researcher on Marie Sandberg’s Boundary Work project in September 2021. Katrine is an experienced researcher in the field of qualitative migration studies. Her research interests include encampment and other governmental strategies to manage refugees and asylum seekers, as well as the microphysics of everyday face-to-face encounters between vulnerable individuals and bureaucrats in and beyond the welfare state.

Link: Katrine Syppli Kohl - People (ku.dk)
Ditte Shapiro

Ditte Shapiro is a guest researcher at AMIS in September and October 2021, while she is associate professor in Psychology at Center for Social Work at University College Absalon in Roskilde, Denmark.

She has a M.Sc. in Psychology from Copenhagen University and a Ph.D. from Roskilde University specializing in the social processes of refugees rebuilding everyday life under hyper-precarious conditions in Denmark.

Currently Ditte is 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’ funded by THE VELUX FOUNDATIONS proceeding from April 2021 to March 2024.

Beyond doing research, Ditte is co-coordinating the cooperation between the four partners of the project; Danish Red Cross, DRC - Danish Refugee Counsel, Center for Social Work at University College Absalon and AMIS at Copenhagen University. Director of AMIS Marie Sandberg leads the project while Katrine Syppli Kohl holds a postdoc in the project.

The aim of the research project is to reduce the social vulnerability of refugees by producing new insight and collaborations between refugees, civil society actors and municipal social workers. Through collaborative ethnographic fieldwork, the project investigates the hyper-precarious everyday conditions for refugees in the regime of self-reliance and return in Denmark. Furthermore, it creates new knowledge on changing forms of boundary work among municipal social workers, civil society and refugees, develop social innovative tools for enhancing refugees’ rights-based knowledge and agency, and strengthen the research-practice collaboration in order to boost the relevance of research-based social innovation in and for social work with refugees.
From August 2021 until 2024, Line Steen Bygballe will be connected to AMIS as a PhD student in the project EMOVE (Enabling the Matching of Volunteers).

Line holds a Master of Arts in Applied Cultural Analysis & European Ethnology.

Her research focuses on volunteering and social movements in civil society in relation to social and health issues among minority groups and marginalised people.

The PhD project is part of a large collaborative research and development project between Copenhagen Centre for Health Research in the Humanities (CoRe), Centre for Advanced Migration Studies (AMIS), Techno-Anthropology (AAU) and the socio-economic company Elderlearn. The aim of the EMOVE project is to develop an IT tool that makes it easier for NGOs to match the right volunteers with the target group of the organisation or to specific tasks. The goal is to create an IT-system that can give the volunteers as well as the organisation more time for their main tasks and for the human contact, which is key in many volunteer activities. The IT-system is directed towards and developed with organisations, who work with vulnerable groups in society, such as the Danish Alzheimer's Association and 'Foreningen Nydansker'. It requires a broad knowledge about civil society and the practices of volunteering to develop a system that works and is used as intended. Thus, the PhD project will ensure that the social and human aspects are taken into account in all of the development process. Through ethnographic methods, Line will research how volunteer practices take place in NGOs in both Denmark and Germany in a time, where many 'softer' welfare tasks are outsourced to civil society. Focusing on NGOs that collaborate with vulnerable groups of society, the
aim is to explore the potential of incorporating new technology in NGOs to enable a more diverse group of people to participate in voluntary activities and civil communities.

Link: Danish article about the EMOVE project.

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Albert Mora Castro

Albert Mora Castro holds a PhD in Sociology, has one degree in Sociology and another one in Social Work, all of them coursed at the University of Valencia.

He has worked in several non-governmental organizations and some public administrations, such as Doctors of the World in the Valencian Community (where he was the coordinator of the Center for Health and Social care for Immigrant People) or the CeMigra Foundation (where he was head of the Intercultural Citizenship School).

He has also worked as practitioner trainer in the field of migration, cultural diversity management, interculturalism, and citizenship participation.

Currently, he teaches sociology, methods and techniques of social research, and cooperation development at the Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology of the University of Valencia (Spain). He is member of the Human Rights Institute of the University of Valencia and has been researcher at different projects funded by the Spanish Government.

He has been visiting scholar at the Andean Program of Human Rights (Andean University Simón Bolívar of Ecuador, 2010), the Centre for Advanced Migration Studies (University of Copenhagen, 2017) and the Research Unit on Citizenship and Integration (Aarhus University, 2018).
From September to December 2021 Albert will be a Visiting Scholar at AMIS.

Link: Profile (uv.es)

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**Martin Joormann**


Martin serves as editor for several international journals, and 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. From August 2021 to July 2023, Martin will be a Visiting Scholar at AMIS.

Link: Profile at Lund University
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. Her contribution includes the collection of biographies of anti-slavery activists and participation in the creation of a documentary series, as well as researching literature and performing administrative tasks.

Othilia graduated from a Bachelor in Business Administration and Service Management in artistic and cultural industries from Copenhagen Business School.

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 Mollerup. Roosa will be working on the role of personal archives in shaping the perceptions, memories and the imagined futures of Syria, as well as how they might have changed over the years. As a part of her research, she will be conducting interviews with older generation Syrians in Finland. Roosa holds a BA degree in International Studies from Leiden University, The Netherlands.
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. Simona is working on the ethics of visual representation and the role of religion in the anti-slavery movement in Mali and the Soninké diaspora in France. Simona is involved in the Special Issue "E-motions: Intimate Mobilities of Girls and Women in Post-Slavery Africa" for the Journal of Migration History. She also assists with a documentary movie about female participation in the West African anti-slavery movements in the diaspora in France.

Simona earned her bachelor's in Philosophy from Charles University in Prague.

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 Mollerup.

Lucie is working on the images and data archiving of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Syria. She's focusing on how the visual documentations change over time in both historical and geographical contexts.

Lucie earned her B.A. in International Studies and Counselling Psychology in Seoul, South Korea, respectively in 2016 and 2020. She studied at the University of Oslo in Norway as a year-long exchange programme in 2014, focusing on her academic interest in migration.
**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.

Sophia will be working on a report around the topics of mobilization and activism of diaspora groups, as well as the ethics around online and visual fieldwork, and will help with gathering and editing visual fieldwork.

Sophia gained her Bachelor’s degree in International Relations and International Organisation from the University of Groningen in the Netherlands. She has a big interest in human rights and migration policies and has gained experience through volunteering and several internships.

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**AMIS Reads**

**Overcoming Hate Through Dialogue**

AMIS visiting scholar, Albert Mora Castro, recommends:

*Overcoming Hate Through Dialogue*

*Confronting Prejudice, Racism, and Bigotry with Conversation-and Coffee.*


Link: [View the book at Mango Publishing.](#)

How can we deal with the increasing polarization that is deeply harming our democracies? Is it possible to build bridges between people that belong to different groups that have been represented as enemies? Are only the “others” who demonize those that have different values or views or we also do the same, even when we do not realize about that? And, finally, is dialogue an effective tool to promote encounters and democracy when it involves fundamentalist people that do not believe in pluralism or in democracy itself?

These questions are the main ones that this book tries to answer from the experience of someone that has been for ten years having coffee with people that have sent her hate
Through the encounters that the author has carried out with different kind of people, many of them extremists, it is possible to reflect about the way the hatred is built, its roots and how dialogue can be especially useful to strengthen human bonds among people with different ethnic, religious or political backgrounds. As the author points out, dialogue requires courage, patient and trust, and has to be strongly promoted in our current times in order to preserve democracy.

Reading this book gives us hope for the future and reminds us that we all are responsible for protecting pluralism and equality in our daily lives and that we can always be, to some extent, bridge builders in the different communities that we take part of.

**Events**

**AMIS/Cinemateket Event**

AMIS co-hosted an event on Art & Migration with Cinemateket on September 6th 2021.

It was a stimulating and insightful evening facilitated by PhD fellow Cecilie Odgaard Jakobsen and post.doc Annika Lindberg (now with Göteborg University) of a screening of “Chauka, Please Tell Us the Time” 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. The documentary is shot on a smart phone from inside the detention camp on Manus Island, Papa New Guinea, where Behrouz was incarcerated for several years, and focuses on everyday life under these difficult conditions.

Thanks to Cinemateket for the support, to Arash and Behrouz for enthusiastic participation and to the great audience, many of whom included students from AMIS, for wonderful and engaged questions.
Special Issue Workshop in Gilleleje

On September 27th and 28th, a workshop to discuss advancements on the Special Issue “E-Motive histories of female displacements” took place in Gilleleje, Denmark.

Close to the refreshing sounds of the Danish Sea, the contributors Lotte Pelckmans, Marie Rodet, Ann McDougall, Francesca Declich and Clare Oxby had productive discussions, presentations and writing sessions to advance the Special Issue. Robin Chapdelaine and Ibrahim El Hadj were able to join some of the sessions remotely.

The workshop started with all participants presenting their draft papers and receiving peer feedback, which often developed into fruitful discussions about writing styles, the use of terminology and specific context related aspects. Ann McDougall kindly took over the task of presenting the papers of contributors who could not participate this time, so that all authors received extensive feedback.

On Tuesday, a more general discussion about the Special Issue followed. Ann McDougall, as general discussant, led the debate on terminology, positionality and methodology. Due to the multiplicity of context-specific case studies, this Special Issue will be a rich exploration of motion, emotion and female displacement. The discussions helped to advance the ideas of all contributors and clarified common guidelines. These could be incorporated during writing sessions throughout the rest of the workshop. All in all, the
workshop was a success and offered interesting discussions, advancements in the writing process and fruitful in-person conversations.

**Upcoming Events**

AMIS-MIM: On 2nd December, AMIS will be organising the yearly **AMIS-MIM student conference**. The theme of the conference is Invisibility and migration research, and the keynote speaker is Jesper Bjarnesen, from Nordic Africa Institute at the University of Uppsala. Link: Read more about the conference.


The **AMIS Calendar** will be updated.

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**Centre for Advanced Migration Studies**

AMIS is an interdisciplinary centre for migration research based at the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Copenhagen. This newsletter will keep you updated on news and events from the centre a few times a year.

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