



## INTRODUCTION

7 MARCH 2023

**CENTRE FOR ADVANCED MIGRATION  
STUDIES - AMIS**

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.

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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.

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### **AMIS Center Strategy**

As part of the establishment of the 2020 AMIS Center Agreement with the Saxo Institute, AMIS developed a Center Strategy. With the aim of further consolidating AMIS' profile as an interdisciplinary center for excellent migration research within the humanities, the center's strategy of 2020 focused on 1) external funding, 2) research/publications 3) research-based education, 4) outreach and impact, 5) internationalization (see [www.amis.ku.dk](http://www.amis.ku.dk)).

### 1) External funding

After 3 years of application activity, AMIS is well on its way of successfully achieving the objectives concerning the attraction of external funding, reaching a total sum of DKK 8.221.315 funding as per 31.12.2022. So far, the success rate is mainly to be found within funding bodies like DFF, VELUX, and the Global Challenge Research Fund (UK) (see Appendix B). The total number of applied funding (DKK 57.726.010) testifies a very high level of project application activity among AMIS researchers, also applying for EU funding and including one staff member to become part of the COST network <https://www.womenonthemove.eu/> (Pelckmans).

### 2) Research/publications

AMIS has a very solid publication rate with the vast majority published in high-ranked international peer-reviewed journals such as *Ethnos*, *Journal of Anthropology*, *Incarceration*, *Nordic Journal of Migration Studies*, *Slavery & Abolition*, and *Journal of Borderlands Studies*, or book series such as Palgrave, or Rowman & Littlefield's Challenging Migration Series. Among milestones are the publication of results from the finalized CAMP-project (DFF 2017-2020), published by Simon Turner and Zachary Whyte in a special issue of *Incarceration*, two edited volumes by The DIGINAUTS project (VELUX 2018-2020) by Sandberg et al 2021 (Palgrave MacMillan) and Bak Jørgensen et al 2022 (Rowman & Littlefield) respectively, and the Helping Hands Network (DFF 2017-2020) by Sandberg and Andersen 2020 (Europe Trouble special issue of the Nordic Journal of Migration Research, of which the latter received the NJMR Best Article Award 2020-2022, <https://journal-njmr.org/articles/10.33134/njmr.388>).

See the full overview of AMIS Research on <https://amis.ku.dk/research/>

### 3) Research-based education

In 2021 AMIS revised the curriculum for the Master of Arts programme in *Advanced Migration Studies* with the aim of creating a stronger alignment between the practice of teaching and the academic objectives of the programme. At a regular basis AMIS staff are supervising research interns connected to ongoing research projects at the center thus enhancing the integration between research and education. Especially the SlafMig project led by Lotte Pelckmans has been successful in recruiting and supervising research interns. The center organizes a range of extracurricular activities such as the AMIS-MIM Masters' Conference in collaboration with Malmö University, AMIS Seminars, and Culture Club.

### 4) Outreach and impact

In terms of societal impact, it has been a goal to enhance research-practice collaboration at the center. This has been achieved through e.g. the

Boundary Work project, which is a collaborative project between the Red Cross, DRC Danish Refugee Council, University College Absalon and AMIS, UCPH, and funded by the HUMpraxis program of the VELUX FOUNDATION (2021-2024, led by Sandberg). Several public seminars have been organized and hosted by the center e.g. on the *Danish Externalisation Policies* (2021) and on the *Mobilisation of the Ukrainian Diaspora in Denmark* after the Russian invasion of Ukraine (2022), of which one so far has reached publication in the newly launched AMIS working paper series. Further, AMIS has been invited to become a call-on advisory board member of Amnesty International Denmark. AMIS researchers contribute with op-eds, blog posts and interviews in public media on a frequent basis, for instance Zachary Whyte wrote the most-read blog post (2022) of *Border Criminologies* hosted by Oxford University and Lotte Pelckmans co-authored two op-eds in *the Conversation* (2021). Two researchers, Katrine Kohl and Marie Sandberg, have been appointed responsible editors for the sections on *Refugees* and *Borders & Migration* respectively, at Den Store Danske (Lex.dk), and Zachary Whyte has been consulted by the Nordic Council for their report on “Implementation of temporary protection for refugees from Ukraine: A systematic review of the Nordic countries” (2022). Securing outreach to broader audiences, Lotte Pelckmans has produced several documentary movies for screening of research outcomes from the SlafMig project, such as “Moving and mobilizing: the role of women in (online) anti-slavery protest” (2022).

##### 5) **Internationalization**

AMIS is very attractive to international scholars, which is reflected in the frequent applications from scholars applying for visiting research stays. Since 2019 AMIS has had approx. 10 visiting postdocs and guest PhD researchers, from Sweden, Norway, Switzerland, Spain, Georgia, New Zealand, and more. The high number of visiting scholars contribute making AMIS a vibrant environment for international migration researchers. A milestone has been AMIS hosting the Nordic Migration Conference 2022 attracting more than 250 international migration scholars from 28 countries to UCPH (organized by NMR Vice-Chair, Zachary Whyte). With the aim of further strengthening the collaboration on international migration research both across the faculties of UCPH and among international networks, AMIS has co-initiated and organized the establishment of the UCPH Migration Research Platform (The University of Copenhagen Platform for Migration and Refugee Research), a cross-faculty initiative open to researchers based at UCPH from all disciplines (<https://migration.ku.dk>).

In sum, AMIS has so far achieved the goals of the center strategy 2020 by a continued effort to 1) maintain and nurture AMIS as a creative space for developing outstanding research projects by 2) securing a vibrant and stimulating research

environment, 3) further developing the Master of Arts programme while deepening its student-researcher collaboration, 4) supporting AMIS' societal engagement, and 5) strengthening AMIS' international positioning.

### **Future activities and goals of AMIS**

In 2023, AMIS will celebrate its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary marking the first intake of students to the Master of Arts programme in 2014. We will mark this event by a three-pier strategy:

- Inviting former affiliates and international visiting scholars for an open seminar
- Showcasing AMIS research along with one international keynote (at the same seminar)
- Celebrating AMIS students and alumni, launching a new MA thesis award

Future goals of AMIS are:

- Increasing the number of PhD students and attracting MC-scholars, of which two applications were pursued during the period, looking into Horizon Europe and Carlsberg Accelerate.
- Initiate and conduct a Dimmitendundersøgelse in cooperation with amisan alumni network
- Furthering the AMIS Working Paper Series
- Further developing the UCPH Migration Research Platform
- Further strengthening practice-research collaboration and outreach activities at the center.

### **Conclusion**

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, 7 March 2023

## AMIS Publications 2020-2022

AMIS researchers marked in bold. The list includes AMIS visiting scholars' work published with relevance for their stay at AMIS.

### 2022

Giansanti, E., Lindberg, A., and **Joormann, M.** (2022). The status of homelessness: Access to housing for asylum-seeking migrants as an instrument of migration control in Italy and Sweden. *Critical Social Policy*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/02610183221078437>

Becker, F, Nyanto, A. **Pelckmans, L.** *et al* (Accepted/In press). Methodological, ethical, and practical challenges in researching the aftermath of slavery in mainland East Africa. *Slavery & Abolition*.

**Kohl, K. S.** (2022). The Stalemate: motivational interviewing at a carceral junction. *Incarceration - An international journal of imprisonment, detention and coercive confinement*, 3(1). <https://doi.org/10.1177/26326663221084588>

**Mollerup, N. G., & Sandberg, M.** (2022). 'Fast trusting' – Practices of trust during irregularised journeys to and through Europe. In V. Galis, M. Bak Jørgensen, & M. Sandberg (Eds.), *The migration mobile: border dissidence, sociotechnical resistance and the construction of irregularised migrants* (pp. 143-162). Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Challenging Migration Series No. 11 [https://rowman.com/webdocs/oapdf\\_migrationmobile.pdf](https://rowman.com/webdocs/oapdf_migrationmobile.pdf)

**Mollerup, N. G.** (2022). The Vertiginous: Temporalities and Affects of Social Vertigo: Grounding. *Anthropological Theory Commons*. <https://www.at-commons.com/2022/06/03/grounding/>

**Mollerup, N. G.** (Accepted/In press). Review of Migrant Dreams: Egyptian Workers In The Gulf States by Samuli Schielke, Cairo, University of Cairo Press, 2020, 154 pp., £16,95 (paperback), ISBN 9789774169564. *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, 28(2).

**Pelckmans, L., & Gaibazzi, P.** (2022). Recommendations on the Issue of Descent-Based Slavery in West Africa. In *Point Sud*

**Pelckmans, L., & Lecocq, B.** (Accepted/In press). Post-slavery. In *Oxford Research Encyclopedia for African History*.

**Pelckmans, L.** (2022). Researching the Aftermath of Slavery in Mainland East Africa: Methodological, Ethical, and Practical Challenges. *Slavery and Abolition*. <https://doi.org/https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/0144039X.2022.2121888>

**Sandberg, M., Bak Jørgensen, M., & Galis, V.** (2022). *The migration mobile: border dissidence, sociotechnical resistance and the construction of irregularised migrants*. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Challenging Migration Series Vol. 11 [https://rowman.com/webdocs/oapdf\\_migrationmobile.pdf](https://rowman.com/webdocs/oapdf_migrationmobile.pdf)

**Sandberg, M.** (2022). From Gatekeepers to Caretakers. The Often-Overlooked Role of Editors' Care Work in Peer-Reviewed Publishing: This essay is part of the series PoLAR Online Emergent Conversation on Peer Review as Intellectual

Accompaniment. *Political and Legal Anthropological Review*, 45(1). <https://polarjournal.org/2022/06/13/from-gatekeepers-to-caretakers-the-often-overlooked-role-of-editors-care-work-in-peer-reviewed-publishing/>

Vammen, I. M. S., & Kohl, K. S. (2022). Affective borderwork: Governance of Unwanted Migration to Europe through Emotions. *Journal of Borderlands Studies*.

Whyte, Z., & Ulfstjerne, M. A. (2022, May 4). Eksperter: Midlertidige boliger til flygtninge kan være dårligt nyt for både kommuner og integrationen. <https://www.altinget.dk/by/artikel/eksperter-midlertidige-boliger-til-flygtninge-kan-vaere-daarligt-nyt-for-baade-kommuner-og-integrationen?toke=8052cf2e01a44386ab7183c7acea83b5>

Whyte, Z. (2022). Automation, Biocrats, and Imaginaries in Biometric Border Worlds: A Commentary. *Ethnos. Journal of Anthropology*, 87(2), 338-346. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00141844.2020.1736595>

Whyte, Z. (2022). Hoping For Zero: Danish Externalization Plans to Rwanda and a Politics of Deterrence. <https://blogs.law.ox.ac.uk/research-subject-groups/centre-criminology/centreborder-criminologies/blog/2022/06/hoping-zero>

Whyte, Z., & Turner, S. (2022). Introduction: Refugee camps as carceral junctions. *Incarceration - An international journal of imprisonment, detention and coercive confinement*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/26326663221084591>

## 2021

Anders Baggesgaard, M. & Pelckmans, L. 2021: Introduction, *Esclavages & Post-esclavages*. Vol. 4. Paris: Centre national de la recherche scientifique, <http://journals.openedition.org/slaveries/4619>

Andersen, D. & Sandberg, Marie, 13 okt. 2021: “[How to Hatch the Wings of a Mockingbird: A Comment on the EU’s New Migration and Asylum Pact and the Risk of Destroying Civil Society Engagement in Refugee Relief Work Internally to the EU Memberstates](#)” *Journal of Borderlands Studies*.

Bendixsen, S. & Sandberg, Marie, 12 Jul. 2021: “[The temporality of humanitarianism. Provincializing everyday volunteer practices at European borders](#)” *Intersections East European Journal of Society and Politics*. 7, 2, s. 13-31 18 s., 1. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17356/ieejsp.v7i2.734>.

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Giansanti, E, **Lindberg**, A & Joormann, M 2021 (accepted for publication), 'The Status of Homelessness: Access to housing for asylum-seeking migrants as an instrument of migration control in Italy and Sweden', *Critical Social Policy*.

Kalir, B., M. **Lemberg-Pedersen**, A. Oomkens, J. Geschke, M. González Beilfuss, J.J. Vallbé, O. Joel Halpern and W. Wendelien Barkema (2021) [EU exit regimes in practice: case studies from the Netherlands, Spain, Germany and Denmark](#), ADMIGOV Deliverable 2.2, Amsterdam: University of Amsterdam.

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**Kohl**, K. S., & Vammen, I. M. S. 2021. Europa spiller på følelserne i kampen mod irregulær migration: Kan migranter og flygtninge skræmmes eller udskammes til at blive væk eller tage hjem? <https://jyllands-posten.dk/debat/international/ECE13445950/europa-spiller-paa-foelelserne-i-kampen-mod-irregulaer-migration/>

**Kohl**, K. S. 2021. Making a familial care worker: the gendered exclusion of asylum-seeking women in Denmark. *Gender, Place and Culture*, 28(10), 757-778. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0966369X.2020.1786018>

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