ANTHROPOLOGY’S 70TH ANNIVERSARY
1945 - 2015
ANTHROPOLOGY’S
70TH ANNIVERSARY
13 June 2015

CSS, Chr. Hansen Auditorium (building 34), Øster Farimagsgade 5, 1353 KBH K

09:30 Registration + coffee and croissants
10:00 Welcome
Head of Department, Associate Professor Helle Samuelsen, UCPH
Associate Professor Bjarke Oxlund, UCPH
10:15 Transformations of Engagement
Professor Kirsten Hastrup, UCPH
10:30 A small drop of complexity: Anthropology in the public sphere
Professor Thomas Hylland-Eriksen, University of Oslo
11:30 BREAK
12:00 The Hardness of Facts and the Ethics of Engagement
Professor Veena Das, Johns Hopkins University
13:00 LUNCH
14:00 Engagement and Disengagement
Professor Michael Jackson, Harvard University
15:00 Utopia – Associate Professor Cecilie Rubow and Associate Professor Anders Blok, UCPH, with students Ester Fritsch & Trine Bøgkjær
15:30 BREAK
16:00 Feral Biologies
Professor Anna Tsing, University of California Santa Cruz & Aarhus University
17:00 Emergent Engagements
Professor Andreas Roepstorff, Aarhus University
Cand.scient.anth. Kirsten Lauritsen, Specialist in user insights at Novo Nordisk
Cand.scient.anth. Mikkel Brok-Kristensen, Partner at Red Associates
18:00 Ceremonial activities
18:15 Drinks
19:00 Dinner party (building 35)

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE
Assistant Professor Lotte Buch Segal
Professor Morten Axel Pedersen
Professor Kirsten Hastrup
Associate Professor Bjarke Oxlund (chair)

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT
Stud.scient.anth. Karen-Kathrine Vedel Sørensen
Stud.scient.anth. Mona Schaldemose
Research secretary Vicki Antosz
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Thomas Hylland Eriksen is professor of social anthropology at the University of Oslo. Born in Oslo, he has done field work in Trinidad and Mauritius. His fields of research include identity, nationalism, globalisation and identity politics. Eriksen finished his dr. polit.-degree in 1991, and was made professor in 1995, at the age of 33. In the years 1993-2001 he was editor of the journal *Samtiden*.

A considerable portion of Eriksen's work has focused on popularizing social anthropology and conveying basic cultural relativism as well as criticism of Norwegian nationalism in the Norwegian public debate. He has written the basic textbook used in the introductory courses in social anthropology at most Scandinavian universities. The book, "Small Places -- Large Issues" in English, is also used in introductory courses in many other countries, and has been widely translated, as has his other major textbook, "Ethnicity and Nationalism: Anthropological Perspectives". Eriksen is a frequent contributor of newspaper pieces in Scandinavia.

Between 2004 and 2010, Eriksen directed an interdisciplinary research programme, Cultural Complexity in the New Norway (CULCOM), at the University of Oslo. In a programmatic statement, he said that a main goal was to "redraw the map of Norway" to make it fit the new transnational, complex and globalised realities. A book which sums up the empirical results and theoretical perspectives resulting from CULCOM is "Samfunn" ("Society", 2010).

One quote from Eriksen made in the context of his CULCOM involvement has become a focal point in the 1,500-page manifesto of Anders Behring Breivik, the perpetrator of the 2011 Norway attacks, as well as in Breivik's defence speech during his 2012 trial.

Thomas Hylland Eriksen has also been a frequently interviewed commentator of the trial of Anders Behring Breivik, where he has also been called as a defence witness.

In 2011, Professor Eriksen was awarded an Advanced Grant from the European Research Council. Under the heading "OVERHEATING", he now directs research on three major crises of globalisation—economy/finance, environment/climate and identity/culture. This project is both comparative and interdisciplinary. Starting in late 2012, it will be completed in 2016.

He is a member of the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters.
Veena Das is Krieger-Eisenhower Professor of Anthropology at the Johns Hopkins University. She also serves on the Executive Board of the Institute of Socio-Economic Research on Development and Democracy in India. She studied at the Indraprastha College for Women and Delhi School of Economics at the University of Delhi and taught there from 1967 to 2000. She has published extensively as an ethnographer of India and thus is an established figure within Indian anthropology. Beyond India, her research has broad appeal within the anthropology of violence, suffering, and the State.

Das completed her Ph.D. in 1970 at the University of Delhi under the supervision of M.N. Srinivas. She was Professor of Anthropology at the New School for Social Research from 1997-2000 before moving to the Department of Anthropology at Johns Hopkins University. Her first book *Structure and Cognition: Aspects of Hindu Caste and Ritual* (Oxford University Press, Delhi, 1977) brought the textual practices of 13th to 17th century in relation to self representation of caste groups in focus. Her identification of the structure of Hindu thought in terms of the tripartite division between priesthood, kinship and renunciation proved to be an extremely important structuralist interpretation of the important poles within which innovations and claims to new status by caste groups took place.

Veena Das's most recent book is *Affliction: Health, Disease, Poverty* (Fordham University Press 2014). Affliction is a book in which Das revisits her lifelong engagement with violence and affliction in the context of poverty and poverty related disease. How she thinks about such problems and the problems these pose to a discipline like anthropology is also addressed in the collaborative works of *The Ground Between: Anthropologists Engaging Philosophy* (with Arthur Kleinman, Brighupati Singh and Michael Jackson, University of California Press 2014) as well as *Wording the World: Veena Das and the Scenes of Inheritance* (edited by Roma Chatterji, Fordham University Press 2014). One of her most renowned books is *Life and Words: Violence and the Descent into the Ordinary*, California University Press, 2006. As the title implies, Das sees violence not as an interruption of ordinary life but as something that is implicated in the ordinary. Life and Words is heavily influenced by Wittgenstein and Stanley Cavell, but it also deals with particular moments – namely the Partition of India in 1947 and the assassination of Indira Gandhi 1984.

Since the eighties she became engrossed in the study of violence and social suffering. Her edited book, *Mirrors of Violence: Communities, Riots and Survivors in South Asia* published by Oxford University Press in 1990 was one of the first to bring issues of violence within anthropology of South Asia. A trilogy on these subjects that she edited with Arthur Kleinman and others in the late nineties and early twenties gave a new direction to these fields. The volumes are titled *Social Suffering: Violence and Subjectivity*; and *Remaking a World.*

She received the Anders Retzius Gold Medal from the Swedish Society for Anthropology and Geography in 1995, and an honorary doctorate from the University of Chicago in 2000. She is a foreign honorary member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a fellow of the Third World Academy of Sciences. In 2007, Das delivered the Lewis Henry Morgan Lecture at the University of Rochester, considered by many to be the most important annual lecture series in the field of Anthropology.
Michael D. Jackson is a New Zealand poet and anthropologist who has taught in anthropology departments at Massey University, the Australian National University, Indiana University Bloomington, and the University of Copenhagen. He is currently distinguished professor of world religions at Harvard Divinity School.

Jackson is the founder of existential anthropology, a non-traditional sub-field of anthropology using ethnographic methods and drawing on traditions of phenomenology, existentialism, and critical theory, as well as American pragmatism, in exploring the human condition from the perspectives of both lifeworlds and worldviews, histories and biographies, collective representations and individual realities.

The struggle for being involves a struggle to reconcile shared and singular experiences, acting and being acted upon, being for others and being for oneself. But rather than polarize subject and object, Jackson emphasizes the intersubjective negotiations at the heart of all relationships - whether between persons, persons and things, persons and language - and shows that being-in-the-world consists of endless dilemmas and constant oscillations in consciousness that admit of only temporary, imagined, narrative or ritualized resolutions. Insofar as anthropological understanding is attained through conversations and events in which the ethnographer's prejudices, ontological assumptions, and emotional dispositions are at play, the ethnographer cannot pretend to be an impartial observer, producing objective knowledge. Jackson's published work fully discloses the contexts in which understandings are negotiated, arrived at, or, in some instances, unattainable.

Jackson's recent books have explored diverse topics such as well-being in one of the world's poorest societies (Life Within Limits), the relation between religious experience and limit situations (The Palm at the End of the Mind), the interplay between egocentric and sociocentric modes of being (Between One and One Another), and writing as a technology for creating connections that transcend the limits of ordinary communication (The Other Shore).

He has conducted fieldwork among the Kuranko of Sierra Leone from 1969, among the Warlpiri of Australia’s Northern Territory between 1989 and 1991, and among the Kuku Yalangi of Cape York Peninsula in 1993 and 1994.
Anna Lowenhaupt Tsing is professor of anthropology at University of California Santa Cruz. Furthermore, she is one of six international scholars to win a $5 million Niels Bohr Professorship from the Danish National Research Foundation. The professorships are for five years and were established to bring senior international scholars to Denmark to host research programs “characterized by novelty, creativity, and excellence.”

Under this program Tsing has established a transdisciplinary program that will encompass the humanities, natural sciences, social sciences, and the arts in an exploration of what has been called the "Anthropocene." Anthropocene is that geologic epoch defined by human disturbance of the earth’s ecosystems. Tsing’s program is called "Living in the Anthropocene: Discovering the Potential of Unintended Design on Anthropogenic Landscapes." Tsing therefore spends the academic year 2014-2015 at University of Aarhus, Denmark’s second oldest university.

Tsing’s previous research followed the wild mushroom called matsutake from forest to marketplace. The matsutake, a delicacy in Japan, grows in forests, such as in the Pacific Northwest, that have been disturbed by previous human activity. Tsing's recent work rethinks the cultural construction of the political and the politics of culture. Her ethnographic research with the Meratus Dayaks of South Kalimantan, Indonesia, involves several related projects in this direction:

She is interested in the cultural shape of what we might call "resistance" as the Meratus negotiate gender, ethnicity, local leadership, and their relationship to the Indonesian state; she is also concerned with the understandings of place, landscape, and forest resources as these assume a political role within the competition among discourses on the use of tropical rain forests. In addition, she has research interests in feminist theory and gender in the United States. One project has been to trace recently emerging "stories" about proper and criminal forms of mothering as these are put forward in legal cases.

Tsing is an internationally renowned anthropologist and in 2011 was the recipient of the Martin M. Chemers Award for Outstanding Research in the Social Sciences Division. She joined UCSC in 1987.
25 years of PhD education at the Department of Anthropology (1990-2015)

1990

Karsten Pærregaard
Økonomisk og rituel udveksling i Andes: et studie af Tapay i det sydlige Peru.

Ole Bruun
Business and bureaucracy in a Chengdu street: the ethnography of individual business households in contemporary China.

Anne Sørensen
Gender dynamics in contract farming: women's role in smallholder tea production in Kericho District, Kenya.

1991

Peter Hervik
The position of language and cultures in the Yucatecan landscape.

Michael Jacobsen
In the shadow of Mount Digibe: persistency and social change among the Goreku-Kopan people of Dom.

Ann Belinda Steen
Varieties of the refugee experience: studying Sri Lankan Tamils in Denmark and England.

1992

Dorthe von Bülow
Gender dynamics in contract farming: women’s role in smallholder tea production in Kericho District, Kenya.

1993

Helle Ploug Hansen
Kommentarer til “virkeligheden” – om sygepleje til kræftpatienter.

Bo Wagner Sørensen
Vold som levet liv: kultur og kulturofattelse i Grønnland.

1994

Helle Birgitte Johannesen
Komplekse kroppe: alternativ behandling i antropologisk perspektiv.

Birgitte Refslund Sørensen
Relocated lives: experiences of change and continuity in a Sri Lankan settlement scheme.

Harriet Birungi
The domestication of injections: a study of social relations of health care in Busoga, eastern Uganda.
1995

**Steen Bergendorff**
Faingu City: En moderne Mekeo Klan—processer, praksis og repræsentation i Mekeo samfundet.
Anne Reeler
Money and friendship: modes of empowerment in Thai health care.
Rolf Gilberg
Mennesket og Minik.
Christian Kordt Højbjerg
Det skjultes iscenesættelse: essays om ritualer og kulturel viden hos Loma.
Stella Neema
Mothers and midwives: maternity care options in Ankole South Western Uganda.
Anne Vibeke Reeler
Patient, ven eller kunde? Forhandlingspositioner I sundhedspleje.
Marc Schade-Poulsen
Mænd og musik i Algeriet – en analyse af Rai’s sociale betydning.
Ninna Nyberg Sørensen
Forskellige migranterfaringer blandt lokale og transnationale Dominikanere.

1996

**Yvonne Mørck**
Køn, kulturel loyalitet og multi-kulturalisme: perspektiver på etnisk minoritetsungdom.
Margrethe Silberschmidt
Kønsantagonisme og socioøkonomiske ændringer: et studie fra Kisii District, Kenya.
Vibeke Steffen
Erfaring, fællesskab og forandring: Minnesotamodellen og Anonyme Alkoholikere i Danmark.

1997

**Tine Mette Gammeltoft**
Women’s bodies, women’s worries: health and family planning in a Vietnamese rural commune
Sørensen, Pernille
"Money is the true friend", trust, morality and economic practice among the Iganga maize traders in Uganda.

1998

**Anne R. Katahoire**
Education for life: mother’s schooling and children’s survival in eastern Uganda.
Eva Gulløv (Skovgaard-P.)
Børn i fokus - et antropologisk studie af betydningsdannelse blandt børnehavebørn.
Nina Johnsen
Maasai medicine: practicing health and therapy in Ngorongoro Conservation Area, Tanzania.
Pernille Larsen (Hohnen)
A market out of place? remaking economic, social and symbolic boundaries in post-Communist Lithuania.
1999

Abby J.N. Sebina-Zzwina
The paradox of tradition: gender, land and inheritance rights among the Baganda

Bente Wolff
Extending the self: otherness in cosmology and consumption in a Nias tourism area.

Connie Carøe Christensen
Self and social process in women's Islamic activism.

Hanne Overgaard Mogensen
Mothers’ agency — others’ responsibility: striving for children’s health in eastern Uganda.

Helle Samuelsen
The topology of illness transmission: localizing processes among Bissa in Burkina Faso.

Henrik Rønsbo
Indianere og baseball caps - etnicitet og hverdagsliv i en salvadoransk landsby.

Tine Tjørnhøj-Thomsen
Tilblivelseshistorier: barnløshed, slægtskab og forplantningsteknologi i Danmark.

2000

Anne Line Dalsgård
Matters of life and longing - female sterilisation in northeast Brazil.

Cathrine Hasse
Kraftfeltet - kulturelle læreprocesser i det fysiske rum.

Cecilie Rubow
Hverdagens teologi: folkereligiositet i danske verdener.

2001

Gitte Engholm

Hanne Margrethe Veber
Kvinder, mænd og magt i regnskoven: otte essays om den sociale orden hos ashéninka i Gran Pajonal, Perus Amazonas

Lotte Meinert
The quest for a good life: health and education among children in eastern Uganda.

Washington Onyango-Ouma
Children and health communication: learning about health in everyday relationships among the Luo of western Kenya.
2002

Karen Valentin
The paradox of schooling: the possibilities of formal education for squatter families in Kathmandu, Nepal

Peter Fini Henriques
Peace without reconciliation: war, peace and experience among the Iteso of East Uganda.

Tina Gudrun Jensen
In between contradictions: a white invention of an African tradition in southeast Brazil.

2003

Anders Holm Stefansson
Under my own sky? the cultural dynamics of refugee return and (re) integration in post-war Sarajevo.

Henrik Erdman Vigh
Navigating terrains of war: youth and soldiering in Guinea Bissau.

Sally Anderson
Civilizing children: children's sport and civil sociality in Copenhagen, Denmark.

2004

Birthe Lindeskov Nautrup
Gender, society and religion. Gender, society and religion, changing everyday life among the Hadendoes-Beja of the Gash Delta, Eastern Sudan.

Charlotte Baarts
Viden og kunnen - en antropologisk analyse af sikkerhed på en byggeplads

Christian Boehm
Fields, mines and garments: production, social reproduction and changing livelihood pathways in lowland Lesotho.

David Kyaddondo
Rice is a jealous crop - subsistence, markets and morality in a changing economy in eastern Uganda.

Katrine Nørgaard
Tillidens teknologi: den militære ethos og viljen til dannelse.

Mette Nordahl Svendsen
The space in the gap: a study of the social implications of cancer genetic counselling and testing in Denmark.
2005

Karen Perle Cornelie Møhl
Omens and effect: divergent perspectives on Emerillon past, present and future.

Mark Vacher
Urban transit: en antropologisk analyse af gennemrejsendes indflydelse på urban form og fremtræden i den franske havneby Marseille.

Pia Sten Lundberg
Blindhed: antropologisk analyse af de blindes verden fra renæssancen til i dag.

Ruth Jane Prince
Struggling for growth in a time of loss: challenges of relatedness in western Kenya.

Ulf Kåre Jansbøl
Tilfældighed og kontrol: en etnografisk undersøgelse af det danske spillemiljø

2006

Charlotte Bredahl Jacobsen
Paradoksal psykiatri: etnografiske analyser af samspillet mellem plejepersonale og patienter i dansk retspsykiatri.

Erick Otieno Nyambedha

Katrine Schepelern Johansen
Kultur og psykiatri: en antropologi om transkulturel psykiatri på danske hospitaler.

Sofie Danneskiold-Samsøe
The moral economy of suffering: social exchange among Iraqi Refugees in the Danish welfare state.

2007

Christina Bækkelund Jagd
Medborgere eller modborgere? Dansksomalieres kamp for at opbygge en meningsfuld tilværelse i det danske samfund.

Helle Christine Max Martin
Professional formation and survival - dealing with contradictions in Ugandan nursing.

Peter Hansen
Revolving returnees: meanings and practices of transnational return among Somalilanders.

Soori Elisamia Anthon Nnko
Malaria, modernity and the state: ambivalence towards public health interventions in Tanzania.
2008

Dorthe Brogård Kristensen
The shaman or the doctor? patient, culture and power in southern Chile.

Hans Lucht
Darkness before daybreak: existential reciprocity in the lives and livelihoods of migrant West African fishermen.

Jens Kofod
Becoming a nursing home resident: an anthropological analysis of Danish old people in transition from home to nursing home.

Kristin Rande
The quest for legitimacy among nouveaux riches in Lithuania

Marianne Holm Pedersen
Practices of belonging, ritual performances and the making of place and relatedness among Iraqi women in Copenhagen.

Mette Line Ringsted
Den forkerte graviditet: for tidligt moderskab i Tanzania.

Morten Nielsen
In the vicinity of the state: house construction, personhood, and the state in Maputo, Mozambique.

Steffen Jöhncke
Treatment trouble: on the politics of methadone and anthropology.

2009

Mikkel Bunkenborg
Porous persons and empty disorders: producing healthy people in rural North China

Bjarke Oxlund
Love in Limpopo: becoming a man in a South African university campus.

Ann Fenger Benwell
Keeping up appearances: gender and ideal womanhood in postsocialist Mongolia.

Charlotte Siiger
Politik og praksis i hverdagen: en antropologisk undersøgelse af intentioner og pragmatik i det sociale arbejde på boformer for hjemløse.

Herbert Muyinda
Limbs and lives: disability, violent conflict and embodied sociality in Northern Uganda.
2010

Mikkel Rytter Nielsen
Family upheaval: generation, mobility and relatedness among Pakistani migrants in Denmark.

Anja Kublitz
The mutable conflict: a study of how the Palestinian-Israeli conflict is actualized among Palestinians in Denmark.

Birgitte Romme Larsen
Ind i Danmark: skabelse af sted og tilhørsforhold blandt nyankomne flygtningefamilier bosat i mindre danske lokalesamfund.

Catrine Christiansen
Development by churches, development of churches: institutional trajectories in rural Uganda.

Helene Risør
Violent closures and new openings: civil insecurity, citizens and state in El Alto, Bolivia.

Lotte Buch
Uncanny affect: relations, enduring absence and the ordinary in families of detainees in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

Morten Hulvej Rod
Forebyggelsens momenter: en antropologisk analyse af evidens og etik i tiltag rettet mod unges brug af alkohol.

Susanne Bregnbæk
Family, state and quandaries of education: the tension between self-sacrifice and self-actualization among university students in Beijing.

2011

Anja Bornø Jensen
Orchestrating an exceptional death: donor family experiences and organ donation in Denmark.

Maja Hojer Bruun
Social life and moral economies in Danish cooperative housing: community, property and value

Mille Gabriel
Objects on the move: the role of repatriation in postcolonial imaginaries.

Regnar Albæk Kristensen
Postponing death: saints and security in Mexico City.

Stine Krøijer
Figurations of the future: forms and temporality of left radical politics in northern Europe.
2012

Dan Vesalainen Hirslund
Sacrificing youth: Maoist cadres and political activism in post-war Nepal.

Kasper Tang Vangkilde
Branding HUGO BOSS: an anthropology of creativity in fashion.

Mattias Borg Rasmussen
Prisms of water: abandonment and the art of being governed in the Peruvian Andes.

Nathalia Sofie Brichet
Generating common heritage: explorations into the reconstruction of a former Danish plantation in Ghana.

2013

Cecilie Lanken Verma
Guns and tricks: state becoming and political subjectivity in war-torn northern Uganda.

Christian Bønløkke Waltorp Viium
Our life is water: an ethnography of scarcity in contemporary Mauritania.

Jenipher Twebaze
Medicines for life: confidentiality and information control in the lives of clients and providers in Ugandan ART programs.

Julie Rahbæk Møller
Galskabens bureaucrats: en antropologisk analyse af diskrepansen mellem idealer og betingelser i socialforvaltningen Københavns kommun.

Katrine Bendtsen Gottfredsen
Evasive politics: paradoxes of history, nation and everyday communication in the republic of Georgia.

Maya Mynster Christensen
Shadow soldering: mobilisation, militarisation and the politics of global security in Sierra Leone

Sara Cathrine Lei Sparre
A generation in the making: the formation of young Muslim volunteers in Cairo.

Simon Westergaard Lex
Innovation i praksis: omstilling til markedssourcing i Post Danmark.
2014

Astrid Oberborbeck Andersen
Water is life: an ethnography of urban ecology and water politics in Arequipa, Peru

Bodil Hedegaard Ludvigsen
Medborgerskab og tilpasning: ældre mennesker med hjemmepleje: perspektiver på sociale relationer, forebyggelse, medicin og døden.

Gry Skrædderdal Jakobsen
Tastes, foods, bodies, and places in Denmark

Maria-Louise Bønnelykke Robertson
Connecting worlds of water: an ethnography of environmental change on Tarawa, Kiribati

Sine Gammelgaard Plambech
Migration control and anti-trafficking in the lives of Nigerian sex workers migrants after deportation from Europe.

Karina Märcher Dalgas
Au pair trajectories: family relations, self-making and migratory endeavors among Filipinas in Denmark.

Trine Mygind Korsby
Hustlers of desire: transnational pimping and body economies in eastern Romania.

Marianne Bach Mosebo
Enhancing well-being: urban Karimojong youth between security and development in Uganda

Sidsel Stærmose Busch
At blive og være stemmehører: et antropologisk studie af stemmehøring og læring i stemmehørerbevægelsen i Danmark (defense due on 16 June 2015)
Current collaborative projects at the Department of Anthropology


The research project “Changing Disasters” aims to explore this two-way relationship between disaster and society. It is vital to understand how modern disasters are shaped by societies – but it is no less vital to understand how contemporary societies are shaped by disasters. According to recent estimates, 244 million people were victims to natural disasters in 2011. In addition a countless number of people were indirectly affected through a constant flow of information and images of disasters delivered by global media, and by the way institutional actors prepare for, mitigate, and respond to disasters. The aim of “Changing Disasters” is to investigate how the perpetual presence of real or virtual disasters gives shape to contemporary societies. This calls for an ambitious trans-disciplinary approach. As hybrid phenomena disasters cannot be explored without 360 degrees knowledge of the various dimensions of human life.

The project is organized in three thematic clusters that cut across the traditional grid of scientific disciplines: (1) Imaginations (changingdisasters.ku.dk/about/imaginations) addresses the social, political, technical, and cultural aspects of interpreting disasters, (2) Interventions (changingdisasters.ku.dk/about/interventions) investigates the trans-disciplinary and creative aspects of responding to disaster scenarios, and (3) Transformations (changingdisasters.ku.dk/about/transformations) sets out to cover the trans-disciplinary aspects of the technical, institutional and social transformations in societies, initiated by disasters on a short- as well as a long-term basis.

Within this overall frame, the anthropological sub-projects explore issues such as the reconstitution of the political in wake of disasters; uses of social media in risk management; relief and recovery contributions by transnational migrant networks; militarisation of disasters; and disaster memories.

The project is carried out under the auspices of COPE, Copenhagen Center for Disaster Research www.cope.ku.dk.

At the Department of Anthropology the following staff members are involved in “Changing Disasters”:

- PhD-student Kristoffer Albris
- Postdoc Karina Dalgas
- Associate Professor Birgitte Refslund Sørensen, Co-PI of the project


Social Fabric is a major interdisciplinary research project aimed at answering a range of questions regarding the formation and importance of social networks. An integral part of the project is the experiment SensibleDTU, in which 1,000 freshmen at the Technical University of Denmark are given a smart phone that logs their social interactions, thus supplying a more than state-of-the-art empirical data set that forms a basis for the investigation.
Furthermore the experiment in itself will serve as a research object, since part of the goal is an examination of big data research, and specifically ethical and methodological questions within in.

Within the overarching framework of the Sensible DTU/Social Fabric research projects, a team of sociologists and anthropologists from UCPH will conduct a joint subproject, with the overall aim of pushing current boundaries for how to interrelate and cross-fertilize quantitatively and qualitatively based understandings of social networks. This will be done by exploring a several interrelated research questions, themes and methods at the core of current concerns in sociology and anthropology, as well as in the cross-disciplinary fields of computational, digital, and experimental social science.

**Empirically**, we seek to explain quantitative patterns of observed social practice, e.g. in terms of friendship formation and educational performance, by applying and further developing existing theories of social network patterns and effects. At the same time, we seek to enrich and challenge such quantitative and computational approaches by deploying ethnographic field work to the study of how friendship (and other social relations) emerge, and gradually develop and transform, among university student cohorts.

Based partly on these empirical questions and findings, we furthermore seek first answers to a number of profound methodological questions, of relevance to the future of the social sciences in an age of ‘big data’. Does the rise of computational social science, for instance, lead to a reconfiguration of the increasingly obsolete split between quantitative and qualitative research methods and data – and, if so, with what consequence for explanatory ambitions and models in sociology, anthropology, and beyond? What kinds of social scientific experiments does the Sensible DTU framework allow for, and how might such methodological innovations enrich existing scientific experimental designs?

Finally, we wish to include the Sensible DTU/Social Fabric research projects and the researchers partaking in them into our ambit of research by posing a variety of political and epistemological questions – influenced by Science and Technology Studies (STS) and related fields – concerning the rise of ‘big data’. What ethical, political and institutional challenges and opportunities does the rise of large-scale digital trace databases pose to the social sciences and society writ large? What may be learned about emerging dynamics of cross-disciplinary ‘big data’ research collaboration from the Social Fabric experiment itself?

At the Department of Anthropology the following staff members are involved in Social Fabric:

- PhD-student Mette My Madsen
- Professor Morten Axel Pedersen

**LIFESTAT (2013-2017)**

The LIFESTAT project, which is an acronym for the full project title “Living with statins – High cholesterol values in the blood – a social, medical, and personal perspective”, investigates the use of cholesterol lowering medicine in Denmark from three different disciplinary approaches
The impetus for the study is the fact that 640,000 Danes take statins in order to maintain good health and to avoid cardiovascular disease by counteracting high blood levels of cholesterol. Almost 40% of these individuals are in primary prevention, being treated pharmacologically for this risk factor alone. The potential benefit of treatment with statins should be considered in light of evidence that statin-use has serious and prevalent unintended side-effects, including skeletal muscle cell death, muscle pain (myalgia), and lower exercise tolerance which in turn prohibit healthy habits. Based on studies of several groups of citizens, who use cholesterol lowering statins, the project will examine:

- How the use of statins influence people’s everyday practice and perception of self and body.
- How information about risk and treatment of high levels of cholesterol is disseminated.
- What is the impact of statin use on muscle metabolism and function?

The anthropological research interest is primarily exercised in the investigation of practices and identity. This overall aim of the LIFESTAT project is to shed light on the complicated intertwining of medical knowledge with the promotion of healthy living with or without medication and choice of life style as a moral as well as a medical imperative.

At the Department of Anthropology the following staff members are involved in LIFESTAT:

- PhD-student Sofie Rosenlund Lau
- Postdoc Birgitte Bruun
- Associate Professor Bjarke Oxlund, Co-PI of the project

**CoNeXT (2013-2017)**

CoNeXT is a University of Copenhagen interfaculty collaborative project, involving more than 30 senior researchers from five faculties, with a wide range of research questions and methods. The acronym is derived from *(Co)penhagen University Ne(utron and) X-(ray) T(echniques).*

Across disciplinary differences, all CoNeXT scientists share the same overall framework: We are all engaged in researching the potentialities of some of the largest science and technology infrastructure projects built today (and popularly described as "super-microscopes"); A new X-ray synchrotron light facility (MAXIV operational from 2016) and a world leading neutron facility (ESS operational from ca. 2019), which are under construction near Lund, Sweden, in the Oresound region.

Whereas scientists from HUM, SCIENCE and HEALTH collaborate to unravel structural details of hard and soft matter, exploiting diffraction and solution scattering techniques offered by the instruments, researchers from LAW and SOC study legal and organizational factors connected to the initiary phases of the large synchrotron research facilities.

The Social Science team of CoNeXT consists of anthropologists, who collaboratively conduct a comparative, transnational and multi-sited ethnographic study. We follow policy makers, our colleagues (the other scientists), administrators and industrial partners involved with organizing and
using the “super-microscopes” of the Oresound Region. We document and anthropologically analyze scientific-commercial collaborations and governance networks, and also conduct minor, comparative studies with other, similar nano-facilities elsewhere in and beyond Europe.

Our project is theoretically situated in the field of BOA - Business and Organizational Anthropology, drawing on the anthropology of innovation and design, anthropology of governance and critical management studies.

The project is supported for the period 2013-2017 by the UCPH2016 programme of Excellence. The overall aim of CoNeXT is to ensure that UCPH will be ready to use the full potential of the new neutron and X-ray sources of the Oresound Region, and can act as a portal for Danish and North European Industries with potential for use of the unique research infrastructures.

At the Department of Anthropology the following staff members are involved in CoNeXT:
- Postdoc Torbjörn Friberg
- Postdoc Simon Westergaard Lex
- Associate Professor Karen Lisa Salamon, Co-PI and member of the CoNeXT Project Management Team
- Students at Master level participate in the CoNeXT Anthropology Team as Research Assistants (2014: 3 students, 2015: 4 students).

Center for Healthy Aging Health: Community dimensions of aging (2009-2018)

The Center for Healthy Aging is an interdisciplinary research center, which looks at aging and aging processes from cells to society. The number of older citizens in Denmark is increasing, and we have therefore identified the need to conduct research on how communities influence the aging process. The interdisciplinary team of researchers who comprise theme one of the much larger Center for Healthy Aging is therefore collaborating in partnership with three Danish municipalities to investigate how various public, private, and political actors can best develop and implement social and health-promotion services to improve the life quality of the elderly.

As social scientists we are also interested in exploring how historical and social changes have affected the relationships between people and between generations. The research takes an interdisciplinary approach, drawing upon methods and theories from the humanities, social sciences, and health sciences. By conducting collaborative projects in three partner municipalities, the researchers will shed light on how local actors may contribute to healthy aging for all citizens through an improved cooperation between municipal agencies, health professionals, businesses, associations and the citizens themselves. Long-term fieldwork is therefore conducted in three different municipalities; namely those of Copenhagen, Ishøj, and Vordingborg.

These municipalities were chosen to represent “urban”, “suburban”, and “provincial” areas, and each has different demographics, geographical profiles, resources, and social challenges. Taking a starting point in health initiatives that already exist and/or are being planned, the results of Theme 1’s research expect to build upon this foundation and, through active
participation, propose innovative new ways to deliver preventive health messages and health services that more effectively reach the aging population.

The research also aims to help develop better private–public cooperation regarding health and aging, including new ways for citizens to actively participate in shaping policies and health services for the elderly.

At the Department of Anthropology the following staff members are involved in Center for Healthy Aging:

- PhD student Loa KT Christensen
- Postdoc Henrik Hvenegaard Mikkelsen
- Guest researcher Bodil Ludvigsen
- Professor Susan R. Whyte
- Associate Professor Bjarke Oxlund

The Center for Healthy Aging is funded by Nordeafonden.

**PAVE 'The Impact of Violence on Reproductive Health in Tanzania and Vietnam'**

Across the world, violence against women is a pernicious problem with far-reaching consequences for women’s health. This project focuses on a culturally ingrained yet relatively invisible form of violence: that which occurs within intimate relationships. A growing body of evidence suggests that intimate partner violence lies behind some of the most intractable reproductive health problems of our times, yet little is known about the socio-somatic pathways by which violence affects women’s health.

This project aims to produce new knowledge about the consequences for women’s sexual and reproductive health of violence exercised by an intimate partner and to provide suggestions for how gender-based violence can be addressed at the primary health care level in low- and middle-income countries. The research is carried out in Tanzania and Vietnam, two countries where reported rates of intimate partner violence are high despite explicit government commitment to enhance gender equality.

The project assumes that in order to analyze and address persistent global health problems such as those associated with gender-based violence, interdisciplinary and comparative approaches are needed. Since most existing studies on the associations between violence and sexual/reproductive health have been conducted as cross-sectional surveys, there is a lack of knowledge about the social processes through which violence is ingrained in human bodies and in the minutiae of daily living. In response to this situation, this project combines the power of epidemiology to analyze distributions of ill health across populations with the capacity of ethnography to document how health and life problems are experienced, interpreted, and acted upon by human beings. This interdisciplinary approach aims to enable the researchers to document the magnitude of the sexual/reproductive health problems associated with gender-
based violence while also reflecting critically on the more general socio-cultural, ethical, existential, and political issues which partner violence engages.

Starting from field research conducted in Tanzania and Vietnam, the project takes a comparative approach to the analysis of gender-based violence. Since gender is a fundamental social and cognitive category in all societies, intimate partner violence is often intertwined with basic and naturalized tenets of social life. Its association with the normal and taken-for-granted often renders this form of violence relatively invisible socially and therefore more difficult to assess and address. In this context, a comparative perspective is important. By comparing and contrasting research findings from two socially and culturally different settings, this project aims to render invisible forms of violence socially visible through analyses that de-naturalize the gendered social structures in which partner violence is embedded.

This project is a research partnership between the University of Copenhagen, the University of Southern Denmark, Kilimanjaro Christian Medical College, and Hanoi Medical University. The project is funded by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

At the Department of Anthropology the following staff members are involved in PAVE:

- PhD student: Geoffrey Sigalla
- PhD student: Nguyen Hoang Thanh
- PhD student: Jane Rogathi
- PhD student: Tran Tho Nhi
- Professor Tine Gammeltoft, PI


This research project illuminates ‘invisible lives’ through a comparative qualitative study of undocumented and irregular migration into the European Union. The project gathers a group of regional specialists in order to undertake an investigation of the full process of migration – moving from country of origin, to intermediary points en route, to lives within the EU. It focuses on the way irregular and undocumented migrants navigate a world that works against them, and in whose shadow they hide and reside. In doing so, it allows us to illuminate the many factors that underlie undocumented migration; the social and political positions and processes that shape it, and, not least, the networks that such migrants make use of, develop, and are caught up in. The project, thus, sheds light on new empirical ground as it grants a clear and coherent view from within view to one of the more opaque dimensions of contemporary migration and social life. It is theoretically novel as it illuminates the relation between agents and institutions, figures and formations, via a focus on the structural, social and experiential dimensions of social invisibility: And it is methodologically unique as its research design and methodological setup is attuned to researching illicit formations and vulnerable subjects, adding to our knowledge of how to do qualitative research in difficult circumstance.

The programme is co-financed by The University of Copenhagen, and academically connected to Oxford University, Harvard University and the University of Melbourne. It gathers some of the world’s leading scholars and institutions focussing on undocumented and irregular migrants,
and uses the knowledge and relations gained to globally connect and strengthen the Danish research environment on migration and marginality.

At the Department of Anthropology the following staff members are involved in Invisible Lives:

- PhD student Anja Simonsen
- PhD student Line Richter
- Senior Researcher Hans Lucht (DIIS)
- Professor Henrik Vigh, PI

The new rural population: The significance and impact of asylum centers for communities

(2015)

Asylum centers located in remote areas is one of the few population shifts to rural areas in Denmark. These shifts consist partly in the asylum seekers themselves, partly by the jobs that are derived from the location of reception centers in rural communities. In an historic context, characterized by large population movements from rural to urban areas, these newcomers have important implications for local communities, businesses and municipal economies. At the same time the establishment of asylum centers is often the cause of deep concerns in local communities and may result in conflicts between citizens and authorities. This research project will therefore examine local reactions and interactions with asylum centers in rural areas.

Methodically we will make use of ethnographic fieldwork, mostly through participant observation, qualitative interviews and focus groups with stakeholders in three different areas: Langeland (where Langeland municipality has run detention centers since 2011), Jelling (where the Danish Red Cross has run an asylum center since the 1990s), and a yet unnamed, temporary center. It is the aim of the project to collect and disseminate practical experience and knowledge about the relationship between communities and asylum centers in rural areas, so that both the authorities and local players base their approaches and reactions as stable and factual a basis as possible. In this way the project seeks to contribute to the local solutions to local conflicts. Asylum Centres in rural communities are often presented as static and secluded from the rest of society. This research might challenge this assumption, while it simultaneously helps to understand how local communities in rural areas dynamically both challenged and strengthened through the changes that come with having proximity to an asylum center.

The New Rural Population project is conducted by a research group consisting of:

- External Associate Professor Birgitte Romme Larsen
- External Associate Professor Zachary Whyte
- Professor Karen Fog Olwig, PI
“Fragile futures: Rural lives in times of conflicts” explores the relationship between state and citizens in the West African country Burkina Faso. It is a joint project between the University of Copenhagen (Department for Anthropology) and the University of Ouagadougou (Department for Sociology) funded by Danida. We are currently 12 Burkinabe and Danish researchers as well as a number of Master students involved in the project.

The West African region receives increased international attention due to its fragile security situation. Conflicts in neighbouring countries now also threaten the peace and stability in Burkina Faso. Recently, security issues have emerged in the northern part of the country where the Al Quida organisation AQMI operates, the political unrest in the Ivory Coast has forced migrant workers to return jobless to Burkina Faso and conflicts between farmers and cattle herders over water resources are becoming more frequent. The overall aim of this project is to identify key potentials for the strengthening of the relationship between the civil society and the state in order to prevent future conflicts.

The hypothesis of the project is that a perception of the state as a set of institutions providing services for the population and a sense of belonging to the state, are particularly important in poor countries with vulnerable populations in order to avoid conflicts to emerge. This project looks at the relationship between the civil society and the state from the village perspective. Anthropological and sociological fieldwork in two contrasting villages will investigate local imaginaries of the state and how the villagers use and relate to the local representations of the state (health system, water provision and conflict management). Core elements for a future conflict prevention strategy will be identified through this project.

Fragile Futures involves the following staff members:

- PhD student Lise Rosendal Østergaard
- Associate Professor Helle Samuelsen, PI

As well as three Burkinabé PhD fellows and two Burkinabé post docs.

**Soldier and Society: Anthropological Perspectives (2012-2015)**

Soldier and Society explores how Denmark’s recent engagements in international military operations affect social and cultural imageries of the Danish soldier, and how, consequently, the Danish civilian is re-imagined too.

Underlying specific renderings of ‘the soldier’ is a fundamental distinction and opposition between the civilian and the military. While the civil-military distinction is typically treated as an aspect of political or social organisation, we employ the terms ‘civilian’ and ‘military’ as cultural or folk notions that designate particular qualities, values and norms. The terms can be used to describe, categorise and valorise such things as individuals, bodily posture, emotions, social
situations, activities, institutions, national identity or artefacts. From this perspective ‘civilian’ and ‘military’ appear as dynamic and flexible terms that are given meaning and value in particular contexts.

Soldier and Society consists of three individual sub-projects that explore the revival and transformation of ‘the soldier’ from three distinct, but closely related perspectives. One project investigates processes of becoming, from the initial transformation of a civilian into a soldier, to subsequent transformations of soldier subjectivities following deployment. A second project explores how ex-soldiers translate war experiences and military skills into useful assets in a civilian context and develop new professional identities and trajectories. The third project examines how war experiences are transformed into public culture and national narratives about who ‘we’ are. Taken together, the sub-projects provide more comprehensive ethnographic and theoretical understandings of ‘the soldier’ as a crucial figure in contemporary Danish society, and offer new theoretical perspectives on civil-military relations.

Soldier & Society includes:

- PhD student Thomas Randrup Pedersen
- Associate Professor Birgitte Refslund Sørensen, PI
- Associate Professor Mads Daugbjerg (Aarhus University)


*Religious Citizens* explores how religious citizens associated with Lutheran Protestantism in Denmark, Catholicism in Spain, and Sunni Islam in Turkey, draw on – and are shaped by – both these religious traditions and the traditions of secular citizenship particular to each setting.

Taking seriously the multiplicity already encoded in the term religious citizen, the project analyzes the concerns and commitments that religious citizens formulate in relation to their own lives and in relation to wider society and the state within the intertwined trajectories of distinct religious traditions and national civic traditions. Our starting hypothesis is that it is useful to keep an open mind about the ways in which the commitment to *certain* religious traditions structures the practitioners’ imaginary of the secular. In studying adherents of religious traditions that have dominant positions in society and close relations to the state, the project asks what can be learned about Danish, Spanish, and Turkish secularity by approaching the state and its regimes of citizenship not as external to religious traditions but as co-constitutive of them.

With three case studies in Denmark, Spain, and Turkey, and a broadly comparative sub-project exploring the convergences and distinctions of secularism across Europe, the project seeks a better understanding of everyday religious life and its intertwinement with diverse formations of the secular by consciously disregarding the conventional division between “religious” and “secular” domains.
The Religious Citizens’ project is undertaken by:

- PhD student Astrid Grue
- PhD student Ida Hartmann
- Associate Professor Heiko Henkel, PI

**THE NOW PROJECT: Living Resources and Human Societies around the North Water in the Thule Area, NW Greenland**

The NOW project is an interdisciplinary research project integrated by archaeologists, biologists and anthropologists, funded by the Velux Foundations and the Carlsberg Foundation.

The project aims at uncovering the dynamic relations between the living resources and the hunting societies of the Thule area in a long-term perspective by integrating archaeological, biological, and anthropological perspectives. The regional focus is on the North Water (NOW) situated in northernmost Baffin Bay, being a so-called high Arctic oasis – a polynya – making life possible in an otherwise deep-frozen world.

While constituting an oasis of open water, NOW is circumscribed by the sea-ice during a substantial part of the year. Life by the polynya is premised as much by the presence of the ice and the ice edge, as by the open water. During the last decades the extent and volume of the sea ice in the Arctic Ocean have declined drastically in a seemingly irreversible process. This has profound impacts on animal populations and on the communities facing severe instabilities in their resource base.

This project responds to the urgent need to understand the dynamic relationships between the important marine game and bird populations and the human subsistence strategies in the polynya area. The project combines biological, archaeological, and anthropological perspectives on these issues in both a contemporary and a long-term perspective. Concomitantly, it contributes to fundamental research on the dynamics of High Arctic ecology and subsistence, and will eventually facilitate informed decision-making in times of drastic political, environmental, and social changes.

Overall, the NOW project is led by Professor Kirsten Hastrup and therefore hosted by the Department of Anthropology, where the following staff members are involved:

- Postdoc Astrid O. Andersen
- Postdoc Janne Flora
- Professor Kirsten Hastrup, PI

Optimal distortion is a collaborative research programme funded by the Danish Council for Independent Research. It is hosted by the Department of Anthropology at the University of Copenhagen in collaboration with two other universities. The project’s overall objective is to make an anthropological investigation of the paradoxical connection between human intentions and cultural practices. It is based on a comparative analysis of seven different ethnographic case studies, with a view to generate novel insights into the seemingly paradoxical social and cultural processes through which successful outcomes emerge as a result of an “optimal distortion” of what motivated them.

One of the biggest challenges for social theory today is the disjunctive relationship between causes and their effects, including the unresolved question of the unintended consequences of human actions. While anthropologists and sociologists have come a long way in terms of understanding the nature of agency as a dynamic compromise between individual intentions and social and cultural constraints, little progress has happened when it comes to understanding what happens in slipstream of acts, that is, what the effects of agency are.

The aim of this DFF Sapere Aude research program is to investigate what is going on inside this black box between causes and their effects in human lives, and hence also to conceptualize and theorize in a new way the disjunctive relationship between intentions and their unintended consequences. In fact, and this is our guiding hypothesis, many actions turn out to be successful because their consequences are decoupled from what motivated them in particular ways and degrees. While such “optimal distortions” may seem random, they are, we claim, amenable to empirical investigation via ethnographic fieldwork and anthropological comparison. The program is accordingly designed as a cross-case study of seven different ethnographic fields, which each offer unique gateways into creative processes in which outcomes emerge as the paradoxical effect of an optimal distortion of what motivated them.

The following people are involved with the OPTIMAL DISTORTION project:

- PhD student Lise Røjskjær Pedersen
- PhD student Sandra Lori Petersen
- Assistant Professor Nina Vohnsen (Aarhus University)
- Associate Professor Morten Nielsen (Aarhus University)
- Nigel Rapport (University of St Andrews)
- Professor Henrik Vigh
- Professor Morten Axel Pedersen, PI
**The Practice of Anthropology: People and Ideas in Action (2015-2018)**

The humanities and social sciences are being pushed to justify their relevance. Yet there is an increasing demand for them to respond to a wide range of scientific questions and societal problems. This also counts for anthropologists. But what do anthropologists actually do in the various kinds of collaborations they become part of? What is the impact of anthropology? How does collaboration with other professionals affect anthropology in return?

The project moves beyond the increasingly obsolete distinction between knowledge and its application - between theoretical and applied anthropology - by changing focus from anthropology as research to anthropology as a social practice inside and outside academia.

We study practices and tacit competences of anthropologists in four professional arenas:

- Health care
- Science and technology research
- Business
- Management

The project, which is funded by The Danish Council for Independent Research includes:

- Postdoc (to be announced)
- PhD student (to be announced)
- Professor Morten Axel Pedersen
- Associate Professor Hanne O. Mogensen, PI


The aim of this collaborative research project is an anthropological study of the encounter between Middle Eastern survivors of violence and the Scandinavian welfare states. Focus is placed on how stories of violence are narrated and received in the actual encounter between a survivor of violence and a representative of the Nordic welfare state.

The underlying assumption of the project is that the expectations and affective responses to testimonies of suffering and violent pasts determine access and provisions of welfare for survivors of violence now residing in the Nordic countries. Secondly the project hopes to enhance our knowledge on similarities and differences across Scandinavia in terms of how potentially new citizens are included or excluded.

Through comparative ethnographic fieldwork among Middle Eastern survivors of violence and representatives of the Nordic welfare states respectively, we shed new light on the expectations, emotions and forms of care that circulate between the Nordic states and its subpopulations.

The project, which is funded by NORDCORP, involves the following researchers:
• Project Manager and PI assistant professor Lotte Buch Segal, Department of Anthropology, University of Copenhagen
• Project Partner Senior Researcher Nerina Weiss, FAFO Norway
• Project Partner assistant professor Anja Kubitz, Department of Culture and Global Studies, Aalborg University
• Project Partner post doc Nina Gren, Centre for Middle Eastern Studies, Lund

The Vitality of Disease - Quality of Life in the Making (2015-2020)

More people than ever before are living with their diseases. A new project entitled ‘The Vitality of Disease - Quality of Life in the Making’, or VITAL for short, will examine how the improvement of the lives – the quality of life – of those living with disease has emerged alongside the reduction of morbidity and mortality rates as a crucial healthcare objective in recent decades. The project, which is global in scope, will consist of four projects, each dealing with the ways in which quality of life is negotiated and practiced in four specific life course-related situations: around reproduction, family life in which children have chronic diseases, lifestyle diseases among adults and degenerative diseases of the ageing.

The VITAL project will consist of four ethnographies each of which will empirically investigate the making of quality of life:

Genetic counselling – an ethnography of how families with a known genetic disease negotiate their reproductive futures through genetic counselling. The study will focus on the ways in which information and knowledge about the future quality of life of a potential child as well as his/her family come to be invoked and negotiated by prospective parents and genetic counsellors.

Learning to live with disease – an ethnography of how patients and families living with a chronic disease are guided to live the best possible lives with their disease as a means to improve their health and wellbeing. The study will focus on the concrete practices that are recommended and taught through patient training programmes and patient schools.

Clinical trials – the development of rating scales and indices to measure health-related quality of life has become a crucial component of medical research today. Since treatments are not only used to lengthen life, researchers must be able to measure improvements in the way a chronic disease patient experiences or lives with a disease. This study will examine how notions of ‘improved living’ circulate among lifestyle disease researchers and clinical trial participants.

Patient associations – many of those living with disease go on to found disease advocacy organisations which provide support and advice to patients and their carers. This ethnographic study will examine how advocacy groups that have formed around the dementias contribute to the generation of knowledge about the challenges of daily life with dementia and the quality of life of patients and carers.

The VITAL project, which is funded by the European Research Council, will involve:

While the use of pharmaceuticals in low-income societies has attracted considerable research, less attention has been given to the special challenges of medicine for children. The project ‘Quality medicine use for children in Uganda’ had two aims: to contribute to improving medicine use for children through multi-disciplinary research; and to build capacity by research training of Ugandan scholars. Studies in the project examine four key dimensions of good medicinal treatment: coherence of policies relevant to children’s medicine use; accurate diagnostic procedures; availability and adequate use of appropriate medicines; and effective communication of perceptions and knowledge. These dimensions are explored through case studies of contrasting medication scenarios: respiratory diseases, epilepsy, HIV/AIDS and schistosomiasis. Read more at: http://childmed.ku.dk/

Research training for Ugandans includes 4 PhD students, 4 Masters’ students and 2 Postdoctoral fellows. The project is undertaken in collaboration with stakeholders at the Uganda Ministry of Health, Mulago National Referral Hospital, Jinja Regional Referral Hospital, and the Makerere University College of Health Sciences. In Uganda, the project is anchored at Child Health and Development Centre, directed by Anne Katahoire who holds a PhD from our department.

On the Danish side, the Department of Anthropology collaborates with a social pharmacist, a biologist, and a paediatrician at the Faculty of Health Sciences at Copenhagen University.

Participants at the Department of Anthropology include:
Guest PhD student Phoebe Kajubi
Three kandidat students (now finished): Stine Bagger, Tina Becker, Anne Sofie Thorsdale
Professor Susan Reynolds Whyte


This project examines problems of health and health care posed by civil war, long-term internment in camps, and the gradual resettlement of displaced people in their rural homes. The project follows on from an earlier collaboration with Gulu University entitled: Changing Human Security. It continues repeated collection of data on about 20,000 people in one sub-county, one of the few such Demographic and Health Surveillance Sites in a post-conflict setting. The anthropological component focuses on changing family patterns and also includes studies of mental health (stress, depression, PTSD and human security) and the management of chronic disease such as hypertension and diabetes. By nesting qualitative studies in quantitative ones, it illuminates the link between health and social situation.
In Uganda, the project partners with Awach sub-county of Gulu District and the Faculty of Health Sciences at Gulu University. Two PhDs and one Post-Doc are affiliated there. In Denmark it is anchored at the University of Southern Denmark’s Faculty of Health Sciences, which hosts one PhD and one Post-Doc.

Participants at the Department of Anthropology include:
Kandidat student Hannah Thoustrup
Professor Susan Reynolds Whyte

BSU 2 - Engaging with universities in the global South

Building Stronger Universities, Phase II: Gulu University. Danida supported research development programme, 2015-16.

The Building Stronger Universities programme was started by Danida in 2012. Conceived as a long-term collaboration, the programme links Danish universities with universities in the global South, in order to promote and support research capacity development. Phase II of BSU, which began in 2014, continues the process - though with significant modifications. The key change is that ‘ownership’ of the programme has shifted to the Southern universities. Our cooperation in BSU II began with Danish responses to an agenda formulated by Gulu University; the programme itself has been further developed during an extensive Inception Phase where Gulu voices and goals have been crucial.

BSU II in Gulu focuses on improving graduate research training in social sciences through pilot courses, pedagogic innovation, support for e-learning and library development and the development of more effective research administration. At Gulu, where the university motto is ‘For Community Transformation,’ collaboration will also aim to promote effective outreach capacity and the up-take of research by communities and development initiatives.

Project partners: UCPH (Anthropology is lead institute), Institutes from AU, AAU, SDU, RUC also participate

Duration: 2015-16

Staff at Anthropology

Associate Professor emeritus Michael Whyte and Professor Susan Reynolds Whyte are BSU II coordinators

Participants include Michael Whyte and Susan Reynolds Whyte, Associate Professor Inger Sjørslev and Research Administrator Astrid Cermak
After decades of war and dislocation, people in Northern Uganda returned home in 2007/8. But the transition to peace as been marred by a pervasive legacy of mistrust in institutions of governance, linked to camp experiences and conflict. This is particularly evident in relation to land: in one sub-county, 30% of families report that they are currently in a land conflict. Sensitivities about land are further inflamed by fears of alienation linked to the new oil industry and large-scale commercial agriculture. Mistrust is exacerbated through interweaving land disputes and other conflicts that challenge both new and ‘old’ governance institutions. Mitigating these conflicts and building trust is crucial to preserving the fragile stability achieved after the civil war.

TrustLand, as this research project has come to be called, examines links between land, trust/mistrust and governance with emphasis on gender and generation. We explore how differently positioned people manage, mitigate and engage conflicts in a setting of co-existing formal and parallel legal authorities. We compare the bases of trust in clans, customary leadership, NGOs, religious organizations and government agencies.

Funded by FFU, TrustLand is a four-year, collaborative project based at AU and linking UCPH and Gulu University. The project is built up around four PhD case studies carried out by Ugandan academics, supplemented by more time-limited research by Danish and Ugandan scholars working with Acholi, Langi and Ik peoples of northern Uganda. TrustLand, examines communities and land from four perspectives: gender and reconstruction, youth and generational relationships, formal and informal conflict resolution and the role of tradition and (neo)customary leadership.

Participants at the Department of Anthropology include:
Associate Professor emeritus Michael Whyte
Associate Professor Hanne Mogensen
Associate Professor Quentin Gausset
Professor Susan Reynolds Whyte