

HISTAC NEWSLETTER #1

February 2025

/Lisbet Tarp

Status of leadership of HISTAC:

- Karen-Margrethe Simonsen resigned the position 1st of September 2024
- Simona Zetterberg-Nielsen and Lisbet Tarp have run the programme from 1st of September to 15th of November 2024
- Lisbet is solo programme leader while Simona is on maternity leave from 15th of November 2024 until Summer 2025

Communication strategy

The HISTAC research programme consists of approximately 44 primary members and 40 secondary members. The members cover a wide range of disciplines and represent broadly the career ladder from junior to senior. The number and diversity of the programme members at different locations call for a communication strategy outlining how and when we communicate.

Please see the attached file.

Outcome of focus group evaluation 19th of December 2024

During a working day at Comwell Aarhus, we discussed several aspects of HISTAC in order to set a course for 2025. Members reflected on a list of evaluation questions sketched out for a future evaluation in the programme.

Suggestions made by members:

- Newsletter once every semester
- Continuing the shut-up-and-write sessions at Kasernen and Nobelparken, once per month/alternating locations
- Developing the working/writing sessions: 1) “bring your external partner to a working day” (4th of June?), 2) working day with a writing consultant 3) working day at a conference centre
- Create awareness of the possibility for junior researchers to apply for and organize events
- Discussing pros/cons of retreats versus day events
- Discussion of the role of external collaborators who want to join and participate in the network and its activities
- A wish for common seminars close to Aarhus (a tendency towards a wish for one-day events rather than two-day events)

OBS: If you have any feedback or comments on events (future as past), please feel free to write to the programme leaders: Lisbet Tarp and Simona Zetterberg-Nielsen.

ACTIVITIES 2025

Sponsored activities organized by members:

- Writing sessions at Nobelparken or Kasernen (see the Outlook invitations) (organizers: Ea Lindhardt, Rune Clark, Sara Duborg Døssing and Marcus Lee Nadal) (every month: 27/1, 26/2, 27/3, 24/4, 27/5, 4/6, and 19/6)
- Guest lecture by [Jack Halberstam](#), department of English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University (organizer: Karen-Margrethe Simonsen) (date: [Jack Halberstam: The Aesthetics of Collapse](#))
- The seminar “Ludic Animation: The Animist Ontology of Play” (organizer: Laura Skinnebach) (date: March/April)

Activities organized by program leaders:

- **4th of June** (Outlook invitation): **Working day at Hejmdal conference center** at campus Aarhus. AUFF has granted us a day in the conference center.

The working day will facilitate a structure around:

- o You are working in silence with your own tasks
 - o Bring a sparring partner from your AU-external network? Working individually and networking in the breaks (concept to be developed)
Juniors: Invite your external co-supervisor to have a supervision meeting in one of the great meeting rooms and share lunch with us (concept to be developed)
 - o Breaks where we talk, get to know each other stretch our legs and eat together
 - o A few activities together (pitches about our research, walk-and-talk, a song, a game or whatever you can come up with of ideas...)
- **Relevance workshop II** with our research consultant Helle Breth Knudsen. Presentations and exercises where we discuss and work with examples of applications for funding (in the making) (Proposed time: Spring/summer 2025)
 - **Seminar on relevance in historical research III** (the concept of relevance in research as such/what is relevance to society/ what is relevance in our research fields...) (this seminar is in the making) (Proposed time: E25)
 - Workshops on skills when working with historical materials and methods (in the making)

Ideas in the making for activities organized by members:

- A seminar on the biography (Ane Hejlskov Larsen)
- A seminar dedicated to the issue of how to develop research questions in relation to large amounts of data of cultural heritage when using digital technology (text and images) (Ea Lindhardt, Rune Clark and Maria Nørby Pedersen)
- Online Brown bag with PhD fellow Hans Fabricius-Rahbek (RUC/Frederiksborg slot) (Lisbet Tarp)
- Online Brown bag on the rehanging of the permanent collection with senior curator Michèle Seehafer (Statens Museum for Kunst) (Centre for Museology)
- Writing session with writing consultant (no owners yet)

- Course in using the programme Orange (making distribution maps of images using AI) (Rune Clark)
- Workshop on racist/postcolonial image use (organizing group Frederikke Buhl, Rune Clark og Gry Lind Merrild Hansen)
- ...?

NOTE: Junior members who would like to apply for money to organize a seminar/workshop/excursion or the like relevant to their field of study are very welcome to contact the programme leaders for advice on planning and organizing events.

NOTE: Upcoming deadline for applications for HISTAC-funding: **2nd of May 2025** (see and use attached form)

Remember that members can apply for funding continually but with a longer processing time.

Activities sponsored partly or fully by HISTAC E24:

For a comprehensive list, see the website: [Events](#)

External courses:

Member of The Attingham Trust, Kasper Tipsmark (direktør for Danmarks Herregårdsmuseum, Gammel Estrup), shares the invitation to participate in course at the Royal Collection Studies, UK. They have relevant courses for historical studies:

<https://www.attinghamtrust.org/courses/royal-collection-studies/>

An overview of all courses in 2025: <https://www.attinghamtrust.org/>

New equipment bought for common use:

- Time timers (60 minutes and 120 minutes) used for writing sessions
- Movable bluetooth-connected loudspeaker with microphone for hybrid meetings

Time timers:

The time timers can be used during meetings or writing sessions. There is one timer in Nobel (Ea Lindhardt, room 1485-439) and two at Kasernen (60 minutes and 120 minutes) (Lisbet Tarp 1580-247).



Please write to Ea Lindhardt or Lisbet Tarp if you want to borrow it.

The loudspeakers:

Both loudspeakers are located at Lisbet's office (1580-247). When Simona returns from maternity leave this summer, one loudspeaker will also sit in her office in Nobelparken.

The loudspeakers can also be borrowed for meetings that are not held on campus. They are small and easy to carry and use.



Please write to Lisbet Tarp if you want to borrow it.

DESCRIPTION OF HISTAC FOR NEWCOMERS

The research programme "Historical Studies of Arts and Culture (HISTAC)" explores the historical aspects of aesthetical and historical practices such as art, literature, theatre, music, museology, cultural heritage and more.

The aim of the programme is to investigate, develop and make visible historical and historiographical research with special attention to the interdisciplinary, inter-aesthetical and comparative perspectives. The programme is open to all researchers and projects related to the historical studies of arts and culture from antiquity till today.

With the historical focus we wish to create academic synergy between different studies of the arts and of culture, of historiographical questions, and the material- and intellectual history, the history of art institutions, political history etc. The programme is especially interested in consolidating and developing outreach in relation to historical studies.

Everyone is welcome to join the programme (subscribe by contacting Helle Breth Knudsen and Cc: Pia Gjermandsen). The members' ideas and initiatives are supported in this research structure, where the content and formats are chosen by those motivated for engaging in activities and organizing.

Feel free to contact the programme leaders with ideas continuously!

Programme leaders: Simona Zetterberg-Nielsen (maternity leave until Summer 2025) and Lisbet Tarp