



CENTRE FOR BIOSOCIAL INQUIRIES

Aarhus University

## **INSPIRING BIOSOCIAL INQUIRIES**

*Opening seminar for Centre for Biosocial Inquiries*

7 October 2020, 09:30-16:30

### **The seminar will be on Zoom**

Venue: room 301, Moesgaard Museum, 8270 Højbjerg, Denmark

*Registration required – see below*

In recent decades, academia has grappled with questions that challenge the borders traditionally drawn between the humanities and biology. Fundamental assumptions are no longer stable in the face of global changes, including climate change and reduction of biodiversity. Scientific and technological projects such as the mapping of the human genome and human microbiome, as well as new regimes of big data require novel onto-epistemological and philosophical reflections regarding what it means to be human, what an organism is, and how we can understand the social.

Rethinking and further pushing the concept of 'the biosocial', inspired by important academic interventions made by scholars such as Anna Tsing, Donna Haraway, Margaret Lock and Tim Ingold, is at the core of the new *Centre for Biosocial Inquiry* (BIOSINQ) at Aarhus University. The Centre will explore what it may mean to academic research within the humanities to dissolve disciplinary boundaries between the biological and the social, based on the assumption that all biological life practices some form of sociality, however in very different ways and with different degrees of complexity, no matter how we understand this concept.

We envision an academically generous 'open access' forum for interdisciplinary debate, where different researchers and research projects can meet and exchange ideas for mutual inspiration. The opening seminar is designed to kick-start this engagement.

The seminar ends with a reception (if possible) and book launch of the edited volume "[Biosocial Worlds. Anthropology of health environments beyond determinism](#)", edited by Jens Seeberg, Andreas Roepstorff, and Lotte Meinert, UCL Press. The E-book version will be open access and has contributions by Margaret Lock, Jörg Niewöhner, Mette N. Svendsen, A. David Napier, Allan Young, Julie Livingston, Susan Reynolds Whyte, Adriana Petryna and the editors, with an Afterword by Anna Tsing.

**Registration (online deadline 5 Oct):** <https://events.au.dk/inspiringbiosocialinquiries/conference.html>

## PROGRAMME

- 09:30-09:45** **Welcome / Jens Seeberg**, Anthropology, AU
- 09:45-10:00** **Heather Swanson**, Anthropology, AU: *Beyond Research: Expanding spaces for biosocial scholarship*
- 10:00-10:15** **Mette Vaarst**, Animal Science, AU: *Biosocial Bordering*
- 10:15-10:30** **Janne Flora**, Anthropology, AU: *Sustaining Narwhals in Ittoqqortoormiit, Northeast Greenland*
- 10:30-10:50** **Discussion** (Chair: Andreas Roepstorff)
- 10:50-11:00** **BREAK**
- 11:00-11:15** **Anne Kveim Lie**, Community Medicine and Global Health, UiO: *Antimicrobial resistance: a biosocial history*
- 11:15-11:30** **Niels Brimnes**, History & Global Studies, AU: *A catastrophe foretold? – Approaches to drug resistant tuberculosis in India and beyond 1955-1992*
- 11:30-12:00** **Discussion** (Chair: Thomas Schwarz-Wentzer)
- 12:00-12:45** **LUNCH BREAK**
- 12:45-13:00** **Thomas Vorup-Jensen**, Biomedicine, AU: *Drug repurposing in fighting antimicrobial resistance: overlooked opportunities or the last stance?*
- 13:00-13:15** **Andreas Roepstorff**, Interacting Minds Centre, AU: *Biosocial COVID-19 and ethnographic HOPE*
- 13:15-13:30** **Jörg Niewöhner**, Europäische Ethnologie Humboldt Universität, Berlin: *Anthropogenic Biologies*
- 13:30-13:45** **Ayo Wahlberg**, Anthropology, UCPH: *From multi-species to bio-ethnography – do biosocial inquiries call for new methods?*
- 13:45-14:00** **Discussion** (Chair: Janne Flora)
- 14:00-14:15** **BREAK**
- 14:15-14:30** **David Napier**, Anthropology, UCL: *Biosocial selves and others*
- 14:30-14:45** **Lotte Meinert**, Anthropology, AU: *Biosocial temporalities*
- 14:45-15:00** **Thomas Schwarz-Wentzer**, Philosophy and Hist. of Ideas, AU: *What is the 'Social' in 'Biosociality'?*
- 15:00-15:20** **Discussion** (Chair: Niels Brimnes)
- 15:20-15:30** **Jens Seeberg**, Anthropology, AU: *Biosocial Reflections*
- 15:30-15:45** **BREAK**
- 15:45-16:30** **Book launch**  
**[BIOSOCIAL WORLDS - Anthropology of health environments beyond determinism](#)**  
**Anna Volkman – David Napier – Jens Seeberg – Andreas Roepstorff – Lotte Meinert**

Website (under construction): <https://projects.au.dk/biosinq/>