

# CENTRE FOR PRIVACY STUDIES UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN

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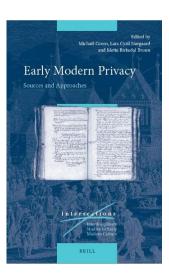
The Centre for Privacy Studies (PRIVACY) was established in 2017, and is dedicated to interdisciplinary research into historical notions of privacy and the private. PRIVACY brings together researchers from church history, history of architecture, history of political ideas, history of law and social history, and reaches out to scholars working on current privacy issues. In our research, we are establishing brand-new collaborative methods suited to the integration of diverse scholarly fields and approaches. 2021 was dedicated to broadcasting our research to a wider scholarly audience and to honouring our aspiration to bring studies of early modern Europe into new scholarly configurations.

# REPORT 2021

#### PRIVACY PUBLISHED

In 2021, we published the first two volumes of studies from PRIVACY . *Privacy and the Private in Early Modern Dutch Contexts* is a theme issue of *The Low Countries Journal of Social and Economic History* edited by Natália da Silva Perez. It illuminates dimensions of early modern Dutch privacy which are put in perspective by Dr Perez's introduction on privacy as a valid analytical lens to use when studying social history.

The volume *Early Modern Privacy: Sources and Approaches* is edited by Michaël Green, Lars Cyril Nørgaard and Mette Birkedal Bruun, and published by Brill. It contains nineteen chapters written by scholars from a wide array of fields, ranging from eminent and established luminaries to up-and-coming scholars with fresh approaches, as well as an introduction to PRIVACY's work method by Bruun. Both volumes are available through open access and herald a host of collective publications to appear over the coming years.



## PRIVACY IN EUROPE AND BEYOND

PRIVACY's research programme centres on nine European cases. In 2021 we supported this research with seminars on individual cases and related topics as well as our grand online conference and master-class *Early Modern Notions of Privacy and the Private*. However, we also took our knowledge of early modern European notions of privacy into new cultural contexts. Natacha Klein Käfer leads our initiative on privacy in Latin America in collaboration with historians from the Universidade Federal de Santa Maria, Brazil, and in 2021 this cooperation gave rise to the conference *Privacy in Global Perspectives: Approaches and History*. This broader view on privacy was further augmented by the project *PRIVACY BLACK & WHITE*, a data-driven project on slavery in the Caribbean, funded by the University of Copenhagen and conducted in collaboration with colleagues from history and computer science. Finally, Marie Skłodowska-Curie fellow Nuno Grancho, who arrived at the Centre in 2021, adds an Indian perspective to our research.

# PRIVACY IN PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

PRIVACY is dedicated to historical research, but we aim to show that research into the past can be a resource when dealing with the present. In 2021 we continued to strengthen this dimension of our mission, encouraged by the lively energy of PRIVACY's corona-related offshoot project STAY HOME. We launched the *Privacy Studies Journal* with a magnificent inaugural conference that involved experts on privacy past and present, from Roman culture to Artificial Intelligence, as well as authorities on privacy from the UN and the EU. Driven by the same urge, but on a more local scale, Bruun brought PRIVACY's work method into her collaboration with Nete Schwennesen (PI, anthropology) and Katherine Ó Cathaoir (law) on Danish nursing homes as private homes, work places and public institutions. While somewhat separated from the daily work at PRIVACY, such endeavours inspire us to challenge our deep and specialized historical research with the question "and so what?"

## Organization

PRIVACY staff by 31 December 2021

Professors (assistant-full): 10 Administrator: 1
Postdocs: 13 Scientific assistant: 1
PhD-students:4 Student helper: 1

PRIVACY is housed at the Faculty of Theology, University of Copenhagen (TEO) and the MA-programme *Spatial Design* at the Royal Danish Academy: Architecture, Design, Conservation (RDA) directed by core scholar Prof. Peter Thule Kristensen. 4 professors, 12 postdocs and 3 PhD-students are employed at TEO; 2 professors, 1 postdoc and 1 PhD-student are employed at RDA. All scholars are located at the Centre. Centre administrator Maj Riis Poulsen coordinates with the administrative offices at TEO and RDA to general satisfaction. Senior expertise in church history and architectural history is available on a daily basis (Bruun and Kristensen). PRIVACY fields that are not directly covered by senior Centre staff receive input and quality control through lectures, seminars and master-classes with international experts as well as through collaboration with our four international core scholars who are highly respected experts. Teaching is important for our integration in the host institutions, and for the young scholars' careers. In 2021, PRIVACY scholars taught and supervised at the Faculty of Law, University of Copenhagen (UCPH), TEO and RDA as well as at the PRIVACY summer school. Three scholars were engaged in *Universitetspædagogikum*, and Bruun conducted one-day courses at Akademiet for Talentfulde Unge (The Academy for Talented Youth, a national extra-curricular programme for high school students).

We have weekly staff-meetings, two annual staff seminars, and research seminars on a regular basis. PRI-VACY's collaborative research programme breaks new ground daily. This effort requires an environment of mutual trust and support, and demands that each scholar engages in the academic community with courage, collegial magnanimity and respect for differences pertaining to fields and scholarly temper. We tend to think that all researchers work in the same way, but this is far from true; staff-meetings and seminars are important venues for cultivating our scholarly agility and vigour.

#### Research integrity

The Danish Code of Conduct forms part of the employee guide that all new staff members receive. We have developed process plans for collaborative formats in order to ensure the highest standard with regard to research ethics, collaborative fairness, and transparency in the work processes. We have had no cases of scholarly misconduct, but clashes of temperament are inevitable in a programme based on collaboration. We are, however, becoming better and better at dealing with such clashes.

## Recruitment and gender strategy

The PRIVACY research team by 31 December 2021

Women: 13 Men: 17

Danish: 10 Brazilian: 2 German: 2 Polish: 1 Swiss: 1

Swedish: 4 British: 2 American: 1 Portuguese:1

Belgian: 2 French: 2 Israeli: 1 Spanish: 1

The PRIVACY research team is composed with a keen eye to diversity regarding disciplines, gender, nationalities, scholarly tempers, and experiences, as well as technical and cognitive skills. Besides the four scholars already present at the Centre with external funding, two Marie Skłodowska-Curie fellows from Portugal and Spain, respectively, joined us in 2021. These six scholars are fully integrated in the community team; they participate in staff activities and engage in research collaboration with PRIVACY colleagues. Their presence is a source of inspiration for all parties, and broadens the Centre's research horizon.

### Research plan

According to the research plan, PRIVACY is now in the 'Amplification Phase' which is dedicated to

- Strengthening the relationship with international research communities
- Publication
- Systematization of our interdisciplinary method
- Systematization of the past-present dimension

The pandemic upset our plans for archival trips as well as hosting and attending seminars and conferences. Like other scholars, however, we have learnt to adapt to new digital formats for meetings and collaboration, and several scholars have redirected their research focus to digitized material. Some of these new practices we shall keep: online seminars are a valuable supplement to seminars with physical presence since they enable us to reach a broader range of speakers and audiences, and padlet has proved useful for staff-brainstorms of various kinds. Two aspects of this adaptation were particularly painful, however, and could not be remedied by digital solutions. Firstly, as a research team that has made collaborative research its norm, it has been hard to go without the daily formal and informal collegial face-to-face exchanges. Secondly, for PRIVACY scholars with children, the on-and-off access to institutional work space has hampered scholarly concentration and curbed work time.

Nonetheless, thanks to the perseverance of the PRIVACY scholars, their ability to adopt new digital formats and ingenuity when it comes to investing their expertise into new scholarly domains, we have made significant progress in the four areas identified as principal to this phase. Much of this progress happened according to plan, while some stemmed from PRIVACY scholars seizing opportunities for collaborations and new scholarly ventures with grit and acumen.

#### Relationship to the international research communities

In 2021 we engaged in an intense and successful effort to broaden PRIVACY's international reach and reputation. We continued to host ambitious international seminars with leading scholars and to liaise with strong research institutions and societies. Much of this collaboration comes with the invitation for other scholars to engage with PRIVACY's work methods and approaches. They do so at conferences and seminars aimed to produce collective volumes and through special journal issues which involve scholars from PRIVACY and beyond. Such collaborations offer a chance to expand the collaborative ethos of the Centre and to create a comprehensive scholarly community dedicated to our novel research perspective. Each PRIVACY seminar opens with a substantial introduction to the Centre's research programme and work methods by the Director or another PRIVACY scholar, which means that guest speakers are invited not only to present their own research, but also to consider that research in the light of our focus and approach.

For example, in 2021, we had four PRIVACY sessions at the principal conference on the early modern period, the *Renaissance Society of America Annual Meeting*. These sessions were attended by 50% scholars from PRIVACY and 50% scholars from other institutions who had responded to a call for proposals. Well ahead of the conference, the Centre director had Zoom meetings with the external scholars, introducing them to the PRIVACY work method and discussing how their research could interact with ours. This is a hands-on and

personal way of broadcasting our research, testing our approach in new research constellations, and broadening our scholarly community. Co-organizing conferences with other scholarly institutions has proved another fruitful way of introducing our research focus and work method to new scholarly audiences. The 2021 conference in the Society for Early Modern French Studies was dedicated to the topic "public/private" with a keynote lecture by Bruun.

The digital conference *Early Modern Notions of Privacy and the Private in June combined profiled lectures by leading international experts and a master-class for young researchers.* Each lecture was chaired by a PRI-VACY postdoc or PhD-student who were in dialogue with 'their' speaker beforehand. This enhanced the cohesion of the conference and benefited the young scholars' networking. The lectures were recorded and published on our homepage, thus benefitting a much larger scholarly community.

Thanks to a dedicated effort by postdoc Natacha Klein Käfer, PRIVACY has a vibrant collaboration with colleagues from the Universidade Federal de Santa Maria, Brazil. This cooperation has its own homepage and seminar series, and in 2021 it gave rise to the three-day conference *Privacy in Global Perspectives: Approaches and History*, conducted in English and Portuguese, with a keynote lecture by Bruun and presentations by European and Latin American scholars. In 2021, our Latin American perspective was strengthened by *Privacy Black & White*, a data-driven project on slavery in the Caribbean, funded by the strategic Data+programme of the University of Copenhagen. Bruun is co-PI, but Käfer and Perez are the principal PRIVACY scholars on the project, which is conducted in collaboration with an ERC Consolidator project from the SAXO institute (history) and a Sapere Aude project from Computer Science. *Privacy Black & White* broadens the geographical range of our research, adds new digital humanities tools to our portfolio and gives the involved scholars new skills for their CVs. Finally, Marie Skłodowska-Curie fellow Nuno Grancho arrived at the Centre in 2021, adding an Indian perspective to our research, and also strengthening the post-colonial perspective through the seminars and lectures that he organizes.

#### **Publications**

PRIVACY scholars publish individual as well as co-authored articles and chapters, but the Centre also publishes special issues and collected volumes which give a more nuanced and comprehensive presentation of individual topics related to early modern privacy, such as Privacy at Sea. Most of these publications are in the editorial pipeline. Publishing takes a long time in our fields. The editorial process with back-and-forth between editors and authors is extensive, the peer-review process takes several months, and most volumes still appear in printed versions, often with a year-long production period. In 2021, however, our first two collected volumes finally appeared. Privacy and the Private in Early Modern Dutch Contexts is a theme issue of The Low Countries Journal of Social and Economic History, edited by Natália da Silva Perez. The issue illuminates dimensions of early modern Dutch privacy in four articles, and this fairly specialized focus is presented against a much wider backdrop charted in the introduction, written by Perez, which presents the Centre and demonstrates how privacy is a potent analytical lens for studies of social history. The volume is rooted in seminars hosted by the Centre. The volume Early Modern Privacy: Sources and Approaches is edited by Michaël Green, Lars Cyril Nørgaard and Mette Birkedal Bruun and published by the leading international publisher Brill. It is based on our inaugural conference and contains nineteen chapters written by authors who come from a wide array of fields, and range from eminent and established luminaries to up-and-coming scholars with fresh approaches. The volume has a 50-page introduction to PRIVACY's work method authored by Bruun. Both volumes are available through open access and herald a host of collective publications that will appear over the coming years (cf overview belowd).

### Systematization of our interdisciplinary method

A key focus of the Centre is the development and honing of an interdisciplinary research method suited to our collaborative ambition. In the case-teams, as well as in editorial and authorial partnerships, the cultivation of shared angles and perspectives and as the manner in which we negotiate boundaries between fields,

is supported by the double PRIVACY methodology. This methodology consists of, on one hand, analyzing words which come from the Latin *privatus* in a terminological pursuit; on the other hand, we trace instances of privacy by way of the so-called heuristic zones, a work tool which helps scholars from different fields to identify thresholds and boundaries which potentially mark a sense of privacy in their shared material. The heuristic zones have proved helpful not only in our research, but also to the work of other scholars. The zones are published in Bruun's introductory chapter in *Early Modern Privacy: Sources and Approaches* (fig. 1).

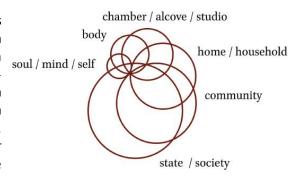


Fig. 1: The heuristic zones

The interdisciplinary method of the Centre is tested and honed at our weekly staff-meetings, the bulk of which in 2021 have been dedicated to presentations and discussions of publication drafts. In order to secure the right balance of interdisciplinary capacity and disciplinary strength in each scholar, the director conducts career conversations with every PRIVACY scholar twice a year. The aim is for the director to keep track of the Centre's prolific research portfolio, and to make sure that each scholar has optimal conditions to pursue scholarly activities in a way that benefits the research programme as well as their careers.

## Systematization of the past-present dimension

PRIVACY is dedicated to historical research, but it is our ambition to show that such research may shed light on current privacy concerns. We do so in many different ways. Five initiatives from 2021 stand out particularly with regards to this:

- 1. The summer school Privacy Challenged in Past, Present and Future was conducted in August under the summer course programme of IARU (International Alliance of Research Universities). Due to corona, we transformed the summer school to an online format with a rich array of digital auxiliaries (recorded lectures, Zoom class-room, discussions on Slack). Each day had a theme which we addressed from a historical and a contemporary privacy perspective: architecture, health and confidentiality, surveillance, rights and freedom, the self, politics, art and literature. Eight PRIVACY scholars introduced the historical perspective and five teachers from Philosophy and Public Health (UCPH) and Technology Studies (the IT University) shed light on contemporary privacy issues. PRIVACY summer school student Alexander Møller Sørensen, a BA-student from IT and Cognition, UCPH, received the International Association of Privacy Professionals Westin Scholar Book Award on the basis of his summer school exam essay.
- 2. In January, Bruun spoke at two sessions at the Computer, Privacy Data Protection conference (online) which led to an invitation to organize an all-day workshop on privacy past and present at the 2022 conference. In 2021 we prepared the sessions (once again through online meetings conducted by Bruun) with external speakers who work on contemporary border regulation, health data and architecture.
- 3. We launched the OA peer-reviewed **Privacy Studies Journal** at a two-day digital conference in April. The conference had an impressive and varied list of prominent speakers (order of the programme):

Name	Institution	Field	
Mette Birkedal Bruun	PRIVACY	Professor of Church History	
David Vincent	Open Univ.	Professor Emeritus of History	
Wojciech Wiewiórowski	EU	Professor, European Data Protection Supervisor	
Joe Cannataci	UN / Univ. of Groningen	UN Special rapporteur, the right to privacy, Chair of European Information Policy & Technology Law	
Nele De Raedt	Université Catholique de Louvain	Assoc. professor, History, Theory & Criticism of Architecture	

Amy Russell	Brown Univ.	Professor of Classics and Ancient History	
Béla Kapossy	Univ. of Lausanne	Professor of Modern History, Dean, Collège des Humanités	
Frank Pasquale	Brooklyn Law School	Professor of Law	
Kristina Milnor	Barnard College, Columbia Univ.	Professor of Classics	
Anita Allen	Univ. of Pennsylvania	H. R. Silverman Professor of Law, Professor of Philosophy	
Momoyo Kaijima	ETH Zurich, Atelier Bow-wow, Tokyo	Professor of Architectural Behaviorology	
Lena Cowen Orlin	Georgetown Univ.	Professor of English	
Simone Fischer-Hübner	Karlstad Univ.	Professor of Computer Science	
Valerie Steeves	Univ. of Ottawa	Professor of Criminology	
Sonia Livingstone	London School of Economics and Political Science	Professor of Social Psychology	
Paul De Hert	Vrije Universiteit Brussels	Professor, Head of Dept, Interdisciplinary Legal Studies	

Recorded lectures from this conference are available on the journal homepage. The editorial board reflects the global and multidisciplinary ambition of the journal, the first issue of which will appear in 2022; it comprises scholars working with architecture, classics, computer science, ethics, history and law from the US, Japan, Hong Kong, Great Britain, Germany and Switzerland.

- 4. We continued the research project STAY HOME: The home during the corona crisis and after. Launched in 2020, the project is funded by the Carlsberg Foundation, directed by Bruun and conducted by an interdisciplinary team from TEO, RDA, the SAXO Institute and the IT University of Copenhagen. It documents experiences with multifunctional homes, digital homes, and domestic violence during corona in an ongoing exchange with historical research into the home and its social, spatial, technological and existential implications conducted at PRIVACY. Outreach is a key component of STAY HOME, whose editor maintains a highly active homepage, a blog and multiple social media accounts. In 2021, scholars from STAY HOME contributed to the ambitious catalogue for Asmund Havsteen-Mikkelsen's exhibition *Privacy (Wilding)* at the Kastrupgaard Museum.
- 5. In 2021 Bruun became co-PI of the project *DOCURA: Danish nursing home: between care, treatment and digital documentation*, funded by the UCPH. Her main contribution is a modulated version of the heuristic zones of PRIVACY (fig. 2), attuned to the complex character of nursing homes functioning at once as private homes, work places and public institutions. This applicability of our basic work tool demonstrates the wider relevance of PRIVACY's historical research.

#### **Epilogue**

The PRIVACY research community has become a dynamic, ambitious and fertile environment where scholars enhance and learn from each other. The lockdowns made us aware of how much we miss when that community is disrupted: the energy, the constant exchange of insights, expertise and experiences, and the joint efforts to advance our research. Digital meetings can compensate to a degree, but only to a degree.

Now, in 2022, the members of the nine case-teams are busy, conducting their research, organizing workshops in relation to the individual cases, and publishing their results – alone, with PRIVACY-colleagues and with leading experts on each of the nine sites, and with a view to the conclusion of the first period. We adhere to the research programme that was defined in the initial application, while reaching deeper and wider

for each case than envisioned then. In addition to this, it is vital that PRIVACY stays open to individual initiatives and new ideas. Such efforts lead to unexpected branchings such as *Privacy Black & White* or our engagement in the *Computer, Privacy, Data Protection* conference. These extensions come with new research questions, new collaborations and new opportunities for the PRIVACY scholars to hone their competences, expand their horizon and strengthen their CVs. The director is adjusting PRIVACY's course on a regular basis in order to keep the right balance between maintaining a firm grounding in the core research programme and growth in new directions. It is from these new directions that she is currently sampling elements for the second phase of PRIVACY, the early contours of which she presented at the staff-seminar in August 2021.

### **Publication pipeline**

Volume title	Editors	Journal/publisher	Status pr. 31.03.2021
Reason and Orthodoxy: Religious Enlightenment in the long 18 <sup>th</sup> Century	Ljungberg, Sidenvall	Manchester UP	In print
Privacy in the Early Modern Low Countries	Huysman, Green	Brepols	Peer-reviewed and accepted
Baltic Hospitality from the Middle Ages to the Twentieth Century	Nauman, Jezierski, Reimann, Runefelt	Palgrave	Peer-reviewed and accepted
Privacy in Early Modern Correspondence	Nørgaard, Green	Brepols	Peer-reviewed, resubmitted
Privacy at Sea: Practices, Spaces, and Com- munication in Maritime History	Käfer	Palgrave	Submitted for peer-review
Women's Private Practices of Knowledge Production (1500-1850)	Käfer, Perez	Palgrave	Submitted for peer-review
Creation, Control, Communication: A Historical Appraisal of Privacy in Knowledge Production	Perez, Käfer	Special issue KNOW: A Journal on the Formation of Knowledge	Submitted for peer-review
Notions of Privacy at Early Modern European Courts	Neighbors, Nørgaard, Woodacre, Bruun	Amsterdam UP	Submitted for peer-review
Privacy at court (special issue)	Neighbors	Royal Studies Journal	Submitted for peer-review
Tracing Private Conversations in Early Modern Europe. Talking in Everyday Life	Ljungberg, Käfer	Palgrave	Under contract. In editorial review
Digital Methodologies for Research on Early Modern Privacy (1500-1800)	Maekelberg, Perez	Special issue of Current Research in Digital History	In editorial review
Animal Privacy: Historical and Conceptual Approaches (special issue)	Käfer, Mills, Nagai	Privacy Studies Journal	In preparation
Privacy at the Dresden Court	Dresden case-team	Heidelberg University	In preparation
Architect & Polyhistor Lauritz de Thurah and the Creation of the 18 <sup>th</sup> c. Danish State	Kristensen	Strandberg Publishing	In preparation, funded by A.P. Møller, Carlsberg et al.
Handbook of Early Modern Privacy Studies	Käfer, Nauman, Bruun	Negotiation with Oxford UP	In preparation
Early Modern Privacy: Zones and Thresholds	Ljungberg, Nørgaard, Bruun		In preparation

The last two volumes are comprehensive presentations of the principal research results from PRIVACY's first period. In addition to these volumes, a host of individual monographs and articles, as well as co-written articles await publication.