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Greetings from the Director

It is with great joy that I present the first report of the Danish National Research Foundation Centre for Privacy Studies. It covers 2017 and the early months of 2018. These past months our principal goal has been to recruit a team of researchers who have the scholarly skills and collaborative qualities required to launch PRIVACY’s research programme. We have selected ten highly qualified scholars, and the PRIVACY core scholars and I look so much forward to working with this highly committed international group these coming years.

Mette Birkedal Bruun  
Professor, Director of PRIVACY
2017 marked the beginning of an exciting research endeavour. After an intense and highly competitive application process, the Danish National Research Foundation decided to fund the Centre for Privacy Studies (PRIVACY) with a generous grant of DKK 50 million. The Centre is established at the Faculty of Theology, University of Copenhagen (UCPH) in collaboration with the Faculty of Law, UCPH and the School of Architecture at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, Schools of Architecture, Design and Conservations (KADK) and with the important contribution of Senior Lecturer Charlotte Christensen-Nugues, the Division of History of Ideas & Sciences, University of Lund.

Four international core scholars secure PRIVACY’s link to four high-profile international research fields and environments; the field of the History of Political Thought at the University of Cambridge, Legal History at the Université Paris II Panthéon-Assas and History and Theory of Architecture at the ETH, Zurich as well as the Herzog August Bibliothek, Wolfenbüttel.

The Centre is located in a brand-new office wing at the Faculty of Theology. Collaboration is vital for the research programme, and this shared work-space plays an important role in our scholarly everyday life.
PRIVACY was inaugurated on 1 November 2017. The opening was marked by speeches by Dean of the Faculty of Theology, Kirsten Busch Nielsen, Rector of the UCPH, Henrik C. Wegener and Chair of the National Research Foundation, Liselotte Højgaard while Mette Birkedal Bruun presented the research programme.

The aim of PRIVACY is to launch privacy studies as a new interdisciplinary research field. Our research programme builds on a novel interdisciplinary approach to issues of privacy and brings together the fields of Church History, Architectural History, Legal History and the History of Ideas. Our scholarly focus rests with the Early Modern Period (1500–1800), but it is our wider ambition is to mobilize the historical knowledge of privacy as a scholarly resource fit to throw light on current issues.

We claim that an understanding of the factors that shape and are shaped by historical notions of privacy can help to decode the intricacies of present concerns related to the individual’s place in society.

These first years, the principal forum for exploring the dynamic between historical and current issues related to privacy is the Challenge Seminars, the first two of which will be held in the autumn of 2018.

PRIVACY’s research programme centres on a site-based approach. The research team will work on eleven early modern cases. Nine cases consist of particular sites at particular periods; two trace developments across the three centuries in focus. This scholarly framework is more rigorous than what is common in the research fields involved, but it secures a joint focus, thus enabling us to engage in truly integrated interdisciplinary collaboration.

Each of the sites will be trawled for notions of privacy by a group of ca. four scholars from the fields of Church History, Architectural History, Legal History and the History of Ideas. They will pursue aspects pertaining to their individual fields as well as dynamics and interrelations that cut across fields.

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<td>UNITED KINGDOM</td>
<td>Westminster (1558–1603)</td>
<td>Chatsworth (1610–c. 1700)</td>
<td>Glasgow (1728–89)</td>
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<td>GERMANY</td>
<td>Dresden (1541–86)</td>
<td>Helmstedt (1620–81)</td>
<td>Altona (1750–1800)</td>
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<td>FRANCE</td>
<td>La Rochelle (1568–1603)</td>
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PRIVACY’s primary research focus rests with 11 cases. The 11 cases represent chief dimensions of privacy and key historical conditions.
2017 has been characterized by an intense recruitment process. We have been hard at work to secure an international team of researchers who are technically excellent and who have the scholarly vigour and ingenuity required for a feat such as ours. During September and October, we advertised a PhD position and 1-2 postdoc positions in each of PRIVACY’s four core disciplines.

The research team will play a central role in the definition of PRIVACY’s academic ethos and practice, and it has been critical to recruit people who are fit to shoulder this task. In order to guide and inspire potential applicants, we organized a two-day recruitment seminar in October. More than 70 people applied; 44 scholars from 16 countries were selected for what proved to be an intense and vigorous seminar.

The seminar involved a presentation of the research programme and an introduction to the site-based method, instructions regarding the application and a group session led by Professor of Legal History Helle Vogt on a paradigmatic 16th-century source, aimed to offer firsthand experience with the interdisciplinary dynamic that will characterize the Centre.

The participants met this challenge with energy and courage. It was stimulating to see how scholarly drive and curiosity overcame the immediate awkwardness inherent in this meeting between competitors, and delightful to learn that some of the participants stayed in touch afterwards. After the seminar we gathered the gist of the information in a 15-page file, available to all applicants.

By 1 December we received 133 applications, and in the early weeks of February we conducted 35 interviews. This was a severe selection process where scholars were assessed on the basis of scholarly merit and collaborative qualifications and with a view to the overall puzzle of staffing the research groups associated with the eleven cases.

In mid-February, we selected ten brilliant new colleagues from Brazil, Denmark, Germany, Israel, Italy and Sweden: seven postdocs and three PhD students, five men and five women. Our first colleagues arrived 1 March, and by 1 September the team will be complete. We look forward to welcoming each of them in Copenhagen and to begin our joint scholarly endeavour. This group will be supplemented by visiting scholars, with the first two long-term guests arriving in September.

In April 2018 the research team gathered for the first time. Some of the scholars already knew each other from the recruitment seminar; others met for the first time. We spent two exciting and promising days in stimulating discussion and further delineation of our research programme, each scholar contributing his or her perspective, listening to the others and attuning approaches. The programme included distribution of offices in the Centre wing and planning of future activities as well as meetings in the case-teams that are to work on the first four cases: Copenhagen, 17th-cent. Amsterdam, Versailles and Westminster. Finally Professor of Architecture Peter Thule Kristensen led the group in a tour of Copenhagen, pointing out issues related to privacy.

These past months have been seminal. It has been scholarly stimulating and hugely rewarding to collaborate with my core scholar colleagues on the selection of the PRIVACY team, and I am thankful and thrilled at the prospect of leading a team of excellent young scholars in collaboration with brilliant colleagues here and abroad. We look forward to exploring notions of privacy past and present together with our wider network of international collaborators and everybody interested in our scholarly venture.
Even though the pursuit of notion of privacy in the legal sources is new, legal historians often work with the interplay between the private and the public, since, historically seen, a large part of the laws concerned what we today call private law – i.e. regulation of relationships between individuals.

A key term in our understanding of the connection between privacy and law is regulation, since surveillance and policing of the individual – both resident and foreigners – in the towns increased drastically in the sixteenth century onward. An obvious explanation for this development is the religious and political conflicts that tormented Europe in these centuries. Roughly speaking, it seems that the state/the town became more and more apprehensive of its citizens’ thoughts and opinions: also when they were kept in the ‘private’ sphere.

The fear of heretic ideas that could lead to rebellion and social conflicts was an important driver. This marks a new understanding of actions that were previously considered a ‘private’ matter, even if the word not was used, or a matter between the individual and his household, family, neighbour, guild or God.

Legal historians work with regulations that show how the authorities wanted to regulate people’s behaviour, and with legal practice that reveal not only how the laws were interpreted, but also how private norms clashed with and was shaped by public morals.

Also today, the protection of the private life and the protection of the state against individuals who try to undermine the system are highly relevant subjects, and hence, subjects that a wide range of dogmatic scholars at the Faculty of Law work on, both in relation to human right, personal data protection and within the penal law.

At PRIVACY we collaborate with legal scholars who are interested in our historical approach in order to get a better understanding of the modern challenges. For example the historical research at the Centre will offer a valuable supplement to the discussion of human rights, since the idea of basic human rights does not derive from not modern ideas of democracy, personal freedom and the right to privacy, but is in fact a product of the early modern period.
The study of privacy is potentially a huge field within the history of ideas, with a variety of possible approaches. Privacy can be studied as a concept, using methods from conceptual history to explore when and in what contexts words with the root priv- were used, their semantic fields and possible counter-concepts. Another approach is to focus on areas where notions of privacy were of particular significance. In politics, privacy often equaled secrecy; it was both vital to the ruler and a potential threat to civic order. Sermons, political tracts, government propaganda and documents from State papers or related collections all mirror these concerns, and could be used to investigate the political life of places such as, e.g., Westminster or Versailles.

Another area of particular interest for early modern notions of privacy is the new ideology of marriage and how it was expressed and experienced in different political, social and religious contexts. All 16th- and 17th-century cases are interesting in this context, offering a possibility of comparative analyses, and deep work on sources such as legal, moral or religious treatises, household manuals, tracts and pamphlets as well as personal documents such as diaries, memoirs and domestic correspondence.
In architectural history privacy is addressed in many different sources. First of all, it is visible in concrete buildings where walls, doors, windows, ceilings, panelling, floors and pavement define a spatial hierarchy by separating and connecting public, communal and private domains and various situations. In addition, we study the interface between these domains in representations of architecture, e.g. plans, sections and elevations in different scales, often annotated with useful information.

Paintings showing interiors constitute an important source too, together with written descriptions about the use and furnishing found in, e.g., accounting protocols, fire insurance reports, wills and other descriptions of events taking place in particular spaces. Written documents and correspondence in relation to building projects and construction are also important sources.

Finally, it is important to study treatises and descriptions written by architects or architectural theorists such as Augustin Charles d’Aviler’s Cours d’architecture (1691); one of the first treatises to pay specific attention to the appartement de commodité, or treatises by for instance 18th-century French architects, who were among the first to apply systematically the adjective private to space in an architectural context.

At KADK conceptions of privacy feature in teaching, especially in the master programme Spatial Design which involves a two years course for c. 80 architect and design students. As part of the course, the students’ analysis of privacy in a historical context is used to challenge their own design and contemporary perception of privacy.
Early modern religious sources abound in notions of privacy. Terms such as *Privatandacht*, *oraison privée* and private devotion denote forms of religious life that exist next to that of the Church. It can, but need not, take place in private homes; the decisive factor is that it is carried out by private person, i.e., lay people, rather than by clerical professionals.

Manuals describe prayer and devotional exercises best done in private; funeral sermons and other biographical texts and images portray an intense and idealized religious life led in chambers, gardens, grottos and private chapels; treatises and (auto)biographical sources underline the weight of a fertile inner life in profound dedication to God; sermons and visitation reports encourage believers to apply the instruction in their individual lives and households.

Across confessions, privacy is generally described as a privileged religious locus, particularly well-suited to nurture the believer’s relationship with God. Generally private devotion is aligned with orthodoxy and complements the service of the Church.

However, some forms of private devotion are driven by a desire for a more fervent religious life and perhaps involve alternatives to the ecclesiastical hierarchy where lay people may gain authority because of their claim to spiritual insight. Thus privacy is at once the key condition for religious commitment and a grey zone that evades clerical control and thus potentially provides a cover for practices perceived as abuses and heresies.

The Section for Church History, UCPH has a strong tradition for research on early modern religious life, centring partly on the Reformation and its afterlife, partly on the role of images, music and space in devotional discourses. PRIVACY is nourished by and contributes to this ongoing research endeavour, while opening new perspectives by way of its interdisciplinary site-based analysis.
Core Scholars

Mette Birkedal Bruun
Director of PRIVACY, Professor of Church History, University of Copenhagen, DK.

Mette’s research focuses on religious dimensions of the dynamic between withdrawal from the world and engagement with the world.

Cases: Versailles, Helmstedt, Westminster

Charlotte Christensen-Nugues
Senior Lecturer in History of Ideas & Sciences, University of Lund, SE.

Charlotte’s research focuses on marriage and family in medieval and Early Modern legal, religious and political thought.

Cases: Versailles, La Rochelle, Copenhagen

Peter Thule Kristensen
Professor of Spatial Design, The School of Architecture, KADK, DK.

Peter’s field of research lies within History of Architecture and Interior.

Cases: Copenhagen, Amsterdam

Helle Vogt
Professor of Legal History, University of Copenhagen, DK.

Helle’s research focuses on comparative aspects of Nordic law and legal practice in the medieval and Early Modern Age.

Cases: Copenhagen, Amsterdam, Versailles, Helmstedt
Jill Bepler
Head of Department, Herzog August Bibliothek, Wolfenbüttel, DE.
Jill’s research focuses on courtly education as well as dynastic women and their libraries in the 17th century.
Cases: Helmstedt

Annabel Brett
Reader in History of Political Thought, University of Cambridge, UK.
Annabel’s research includes the scholastic, humanist and Protestant natural law traditions, political Aristotelianism, and early-modern understandings of international law.
Cases: Chatsworth

Philippe Cocatre-Zilgien
Professor of Legal History, Université Paris II Panthéon-Assas, FR.
Philippe’s research focuses on Roman Law.
Cases: Versailles

Maarten Delbeke
Professor of History and Theory of Architecture, ETH, Zurich, CH.
Maarten’s research focuses on the history of architectural theory from the Early Modern period up to the present.
Cases: Versailles
Scientific staff

Anna Becker
MPhil and PhD in the History of Political Thought, University of Cambridge.

Anna’s research focuses on notions of the body and embodiment in the history of political thought. Anna is employed at PRIVACY from 1 July 2018.

Cases: Amsterdam, Versailles, Helmstedt, Chatsworth

Rikke Lyngsø Christensen
Mag.art., AU, PhD in Art History, UCPH.

Rikke’s research focuses on the ways in which architectural history is produced and in trying to find alternative ways of doing so. Rikke is employed at PRIVACY from 1 September 2018.

Cases: Copenhagen, Westminster, Altona

Fabio Gigone
MA in Architecture, IUAV, Italy.

Fabio’s research focuses on the relationship between power and architecture in the Early Modern Period. Fabio is employed at PRIVACY from 15 August 2018.

Cases: Versailles, Chatsworth

Michaël Green
MA in General History, University of Haifa, PhD in Religious Studies, University of Groningen.

Michaël’s research focuses on different religious groups within different case studies and involved in-depth analysis of various kinds of primary sources. Michaël is employed at PRIVACY from 1 June 2018.

Cases: Amsterdam, Chatsworth, Altona
Anni Haahr Henriksen
Cand.mag., UCPH. MPhil in Medieval and Renaissance English Literature, University of Cambridge. Anni is employed was PRIVACY 1 April 2018

Anni’s research focuses on the idea of silence as both a private inward space and a possible public threat.

Cases: Westminster, Copenhagen

Pernille Ulla Knudsen
Mag.art., UCPH. PhD in Legal Science, UCPH.

Pernille’s research focuses on how the contrast between private and public manifests itself in legislation and case law. Pernille was employed at PRIVACY 1 April 2018

Cases: Copenhagen, Westminster, Altona

Lars Cyril Nørgaard
Cand.teol., UCPH. PhD in Church History, UCPH.

Lars’ research centres on the paradoxes of religious withdrawal from the world. Lars was employed at PRIVACY 1 March 2018.

Cases: Versailles, Copenhagen

Natália da Silva Perez

Natália’s research focuses on women’s sexuality, fertility and contraception in the early modern period. Natália was employed at PRIVACY 1 May 2018.

Cases: Amsterdam, Versailles, Altona
Fredrik Torisson  
MA in Architecture, University of Lund. PhD in Architecture, University of Lund.

Fredrik's research focuses on architecture, as expressed in buildings, drawings, representations and treatises. Fredrik is employed at PRIVACY from 1 September 2018.

Cases: Amsterdam, Helmstedt, Chatsworth

Bastian Vaucanson  
Cand.theol., UCPH.

Bastian's research focuses on notions – and absence – of privacy in the city of Versailles during the last third of the reign of Louis XIV (1682-1715). Bastian is employed at PRIVACY from 15 August 2018.

Cases: Versailles, Copenhagen

Administrative Staff

Daniel Jans-Pedersen  
Cand.mag., UCPH, Centre Administrator.

Emil Hee Stenstrup  
Stud.soc., UCPH, Student Assistant.
Events at PRIVACY

27–28 October 2017: Recruitment seminar
Seminar for scholars who are considering applying for the Postdoc and PhD-positions at PRIVACY.

1 November 2017: The official opening of Centre for Privacy Studies.

10 November 2017: “Privacy” in a church historical perspective
Inaugural Lecture by professor Mette Birkedal Bruun.

Conferences

PRIVACY Recruitment seminar, the Faculty of Theology, UCPH, October 2017

PRIVACY Core Scholar Seminar, the Faculty of Theology, UCPH, January 2018

Session at the annual meeting of the Society of Architectural Historians (SAH), St Paul, Objective Beauty in Architecture, April 2018

“Strangely Familiar” international lecture series at MA Spatial Design, The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, School of Architecture, March-April 2018

Invited Talks

Peter Thule Kristensen: “Modernity and continuity: Gottlieb Bindesbøll in Danish Architectural History”, Delft Universitet, The Netherlands (Lecture held in Copenhagen), Denmark, 4 March 2017

Peter Thule Kristensen: “Moderator at Copenhagen Architecture Festival”, Copenhagen, Denmark, 1 May 2017

Peter Thule Kristensen: “Gottlieb Bindesbøll and the Romanticism”, Arkitektskolen, Aarhus, Denmark, 5 May 2017

Maarten Delbeke: “The tasks of the digital”, Round table Data | Space | Conflict, Histories in Conflict, Jerusalem, Israel, 13-15 June 2017


Mette Birkedal Bruun: “Fra Munke til Privathed: lange linjer i kirkehistorisk forskning” Carlsberg Foundation Research Prize lecture, The Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and Letters, Copenhagen, Denmark, 14 Sep. 2017

Peter Thule Kristensen: “Art and Presence”, International conference on art, atmosphere, museums and presence, SDU, Odense, Denmark, 15 Sep. 2017

Annabel Brett: “The conditions of law in Jesuit thought”, 8th International IHU Colloquium and 20th UNISINOS Philosophy, UNISINOS, São Leopoldo, Brazil, 26 Sep. 2017

Maarten Delbeke: “I prefer not to, but…”, ETH Zürich, Switzerland, 10 Oct. 2017

Mette Birkedal Bruun: “Begrebet om det private i et kirkehistorisk perspektiv” inaugural lecture, The Faculty of Theology, UCPH, Denmark, 10 Nov. 2017

Mette Birkedal Bruun: “Tilbagetrækning fra Verden fra middelalderen til i dag” Lecture, Annual celebration of the Einar Hansens Foundations, The Royal Danish Society of Sciences and Letters, Copenhagen, Denmark, 21 Nov. 2017

Mette Birkedal Bruun: “Grundforskning i Privathed” Seminar, Humanomics: Mapping the Dynamics of the Humanities, Aalborg University, Denmark, 24 Nov. 2017

Maarten Delbeke: “Bernini architetto in the wake of the Querelle”, Bibliotheca Hertziana, Max Planck Institute, Rome, Italy, 29 Nov. 2017

Mette Birkedal Bruun: “The Private Mystery: The Annunciation as a Figure of Showing and Shrouding in Saint-Cyran, Antoine de Singlin and Ph. de Champaigne” 2017 Lovis Corinth Colloquium, Emory University, Atlanta, USA, 1 Dec. 2017

Maarten Delbeke: “The objective beauty of architecture from 1650 up to the digital age”, Antrittsvorlesung at the ETH Zürich, Switzerland, 4 Dec. 2017

Awards

Mette Birkedal Bruun: Carlsbergfondets Forskningspris

Mette Birkedal Bruun: Einar Hansens Forskningspris

Mette Birkedal Bruun: Professorship in Church History, The Faculty of Theology, UCPH

Helle Vogt: Professorship in Legal History, The Faculty of Law, UCPH

Peter Thule Kristensen: Professorship and directorship of the programme Spatial Design at KADK
Publications by PRIVACY Scholars

**Monographs**


**Edited volumes**

Sigrun Berg, Miriam Tveit & Helle Vogt (eds.), “It’s all about inheritance” – On gender, Sami and other important categories in Lars Ivar Hansen’s research”, Speculum Boreale, nr. 17 (Tromsø, University of Tromsø, 2017)

**Articles in journals**


**Chapters in books**


