

Highlights

Centre for Privacy Studies (PRIVACY) is dedicated to site-based interdisciplinary research on historical notions of privacy and the private. The Centre brings together researchers from Church History, History of Architecture, History of Ideas, Legal History and Social History.

PRIVACY launches a new research format. We work collaboratively and interdisciplinary within academic disciplines that are largely geared towards solo research, and we are building an entire scholarly programme from scratch. We have gathered a new research team, and we are establishing new collaborative work-forms as well as formats for the communication of collaborative methods and results. 2018 saw the first phases of this ambitious endeavour.

The highpoint of the year was the recruitment of the first postdocs and PhD students for the research team. We received 173 applications and conducted 35 interviews, ultimately selecting ten scholars from Brazil, Denmark, Germany, Israel, Italy and Sweden. In our selection we assessed technical skills required for historical research such as languages (we have sources in Danish, Dutch, English, French, German, Ancient Greek, Latin, Portuguese and Spanish), paleographical and archival experience as well as scholarly merits. However, we also looked for scholars who would be ready to shoulder the huge task of working collaboratively and interdisciplinarily in fields where solitary research is the general norm, and research education works towards this end. Interdisciplinary collaboration in our fields requires courage, intellectual agility and an academic generosity that enables us to share ideas, insights and results, while making the most of disciplinary differences and interdisciplinary dynamics.

The first PRIVACY scholars arrived in April, and by September the team was settled at the Centre, ready to start the first four case-teams: Amsterdam (17th cent.), Copenhagen (1500-1800), Versailles (1682-1715) and Westminster (1558-1603). The last months of 2018 saw the creation of a series of collaborative research formats fit to foster insights essential to historical privacy studies. **Case-team meetings** are the key arena for the unearthing and analysis of notions of privacy and the private as well as for our work on joint conference presentations and publications. **Learning Together Seminars** for the entire group spark interdisciplinary awareness and ingenuity. At these seminars, we take turn presenting source material inherent to our field; everybody works together on the source, bringing our respective knowledge and methods to the joint work and thus engendering new insights. At the **Challenge Seminars** we bridge the gap between past and present. The Challenge Seminar is a public and experimental forum where PRIVACY's research team exchange research insights with scholars who work on current privacy issues. We launched this novel and highly promising format with two seminars in 2018 on private economy and biomedical legislation respectively.

Exchanges between notions of privacy past and present were also at the heart of a course at the MA programme Spatial Design at the School of Architecture (KADK). 70 architecture and design students worked with *Privacy in temporary accommodation* with a point of departure in the Amsterdam and Copenhagen cases. Knowledge about early modern privacy incites the students' ability to engage in critical reflections on privacy and site-specificity in relation to contemporary design. The course involved a study trip to Amsterdam with visits to historical sites and lectures by PRIVACY scholars. It resulted in 16 spatial models in scale 1:10, investigating aspects of privacy. The models were exhibited at KADK and BLOX, and a selection is presented at PRIVACY's inaugural conference at the Royal Danish Academy of Science and Letters in April 2019.

Illustrations



Illustration 1: Learning Together Seminar on plans of Versailles

Caption: The Learning Together Seminars are central in PRIVACY's interdisciplinary collaboration. For example, the architectural group invited us to plot ceremonial and private routes within the castle of Versailles. This exercise elicited exchanges regarding the ways in which notions of privacy are affected by issues related to space, access, movement, hierarchy and ornament.



Illustration 2: *Privacy in temporary accommodation* at the KADK

Caption: Students pondering models resulting from the course *Privacy in temporary accommodation* in the MA programme Spatial Design at the School of Architecture. The models were exhibited at the School of Architecture and Blox, Copenhagen.