

HIGHLIGHTS 2020

Centre for Privacy Studies (PRIVACY) is dedicated to interdisciplinary research into historical notions of privacy and the private. The Centre was established in 2017. It brings together researchers from church history, history of architecture, history of political ideas, history of law and social history, reaching out to scholars who work on current privacy issues. We have built our research programme from scratch and are establishing brand-new collaborative research methods. In 2020 we expanded this endeavour significantly – not least in response to the corona crisis.

A UNIQUE AND VIBRANT COMMUNITY OF SCHOLARS

In 2020, Lee Palmer Wandel, Professor of History at the University of Madison-Wisconsin, a world-leading expert on early modern religious culture, visited us for three months. She describes her meeting with PRIVACY thus:

I found there a vibrant community of scholars, who came from different disciplines and who have entered into conversation with one another in ways that enabled us all to grow as scholars. My own work was transformed. [...] Bruun has conceived, enacted, and fostered a research community unique in my experience. [...] They learn from one another, and their work has become richly interdisciplinary as they have learned new ways of posing questions and conceiving of the nexus of person, law, and space that grounds the study of privacy, the focus of the Centre. [...]. I found a home at the Centre and formed conversations that, I hope, will be lifelong. It is a magical place, where learning is asked questions that open it to new directions.

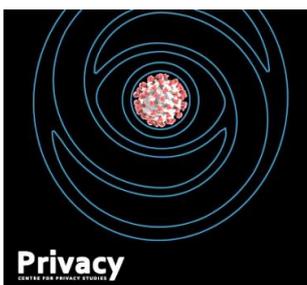


This past year, we have been recognized as a community but also as individuals. Several PRIVACY scholars have achieved international acclaim. For example, Anni Henriksen was selected for a Digital Humanities scholarship from The Renaissance Society of America; Bastian Vaucanson received the Elite Research Travel Grant from the Danish Ministry of Higher Education and Science; Johannes Ljungberg was appointed editor-in-chief of *Nordic Journal for Eighteenth-Century Studies*; Michaël Green was elected fellow of the Royal Historical Society; and Paolo Astorri won the RefoRC Book Award.

PRIVACY GOES MORE GLOBAL

Western Europe is our main research focus, but in 2020 we extended our reach. Natacha Käfer launched the online seminar series *Privacy in Latin America* with colleagues from the Universidade Federal de Santa Maria, Brazil, and further collaboration has been enabled by a network grant from the Danish Ministry of Higher Education and Science. A Challenge Seminar on *Privacy in an African Context* focused on collisions between notions of privacy and ubuntu. Such insights hone our understanding of Western particularities while challenging eurocentricity.

THE PAST, THE PRESENT AND THE PANDEMIC



PRIVACY is dedicated to historical research, but we aim to show that research into the past can be a resource for dealing with current concerns. When corona struck, PRIVACY scholars responded by providing thoughtful analyses on our research blog of past-present perspectives on health, confidentiality and community with privacy as a lens. This incited a more concerted engagement with the past-present perspective and on 1 September 2020 we launched *STAY HOME: The home during the corona crisis – and after*, funded by a 6.1 mio. DKK grant from the Carlsberg Foundation. This project builds on insights from PRIVACY's interdisciplinary research

into zones and thresholds and the way in which they are influenced by societal factors, including health crises. The project is headed by Mette Bruun and involves researchers specializing in architecture, family studies, technology studies and theology as well as seven PRIVACY-scholars, who add a historical perspective on privacy to the research into the effects of corona.