

The Centre for Privacy Studies (PRIVACY) was established in 2017. Dedicated to research into historical notions of privacy and the private, PRIVACY brings together researchers from archaeology, architecture, church history, history of political ideas, history of law and social history, and reaches out to scholars and practitioners working on privacy today. In our research, we are establishing brand-new collaborative methods suited to the integration of diverse scholarly fields. 2023 was dedicated to achieving and launching our four-year extension.

## HIGHLIGHTS 2023

### PRIVACY EXTENDED AND REORGANIZED

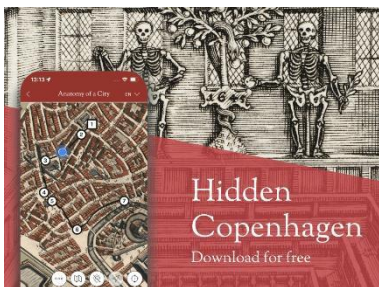
In 2023, PRIVACY received a 33-million DKK grant and a four-year extension from the DNRF. The evaluation leading up to it was based on a 250-page report and application. The report included overviews of individual endeavours of each [PRIVACY scholar](#), insights and publications from the nine PRIVACY [cases](#) and all the [additional projects](#) that we developed in the course of the first period. In the extension period, we gather insights from the in-depth historical studies conducted in the first period in overarching presentations of privacy and the private in the early modern period (1500-1800). To this end, we have reorganized PRIVACY's research programme from a case-based to a theme-based structure. Each theme is led by a postdoctoral PRIVACY-scholar who has thus been promoted to a position of research leadership with more scholarly responsibility. The [themes](#) and their leaders are Beliefs (Lars C. Nørgaard), Health (Natacha Klein Käfer), Home (Natalie P. Koerner), Law (Paolo Astorri) and Urban Space (Johannes Ljungberg).

### PRIVACY IN PAST AND PRESENT

PRIVACY's historical research shows the wealth of factors that influence notions and practices related to privacy. Such insights prompt questions regarding privacy today which we ask in an ongoing exchange with scholars and practitioners. 2023 had several such exchanges. 1) The international conference *Privacy Matters: How Interiors Make and Break our Cities* had keynote lecturers from Harvard, University of Pennsylvania and Cornell. It was conceptualized and hosted by Marie Skłodowska-Curie-fellow Nuno Grancho, funded by the Carlsberg Foundation and held at The Royal Danish Academy, Institute of Architecture and Design in connection with Nuno's project [INDIABRIDGE](#). 2) The Challenge Seminar series featured a thought-provoking seminar with Senior Machine Learning Engineer Mateusz Jurewicz, [Artificial Intelligence and Privacy: Causes for Concern](#), based on PRIVACY's historical methodology. 3) The PRIVACY-based project [STAY HOME: The Home during the Corona Crisis – and after](#) (funded by the Carlsberg Foundation) studies the home in past, present and future. A 2023 highlight was the workshop [Hospitals and Health Care in the Home](#) (in Danish) with scholars in law, anthropology, health management, history, pharmacology, religious studies and technology studies as well as nurses and consultants.



### HIDDEN COPENHAGEN: AN APP AND A RESEARCH ARTICLE



In 2023, we launched the smartphone app [Hidden Copenhagen](#). It is the fruit of a collaboration between PRIVACY and the EU-funded project *Public RENaissance: Urban Cultures of Public Space*, University of Exeter. *Hidden Copenhagen* was developed by a [team](#) of scholars in Copenhagen and Exeter, experts from the Museum of Copenhagen and Copenhagen City Archives as well as the company Calvium in Bristol. The city walk of *Hidden Copenhagen* follows a fictitious medical student in February 1673. He has just witnessed the famous anatomist Niels Steensen dissecting a young woman. Fusing the invented figure with new historical knowledge, the research team created a story of student life, medical history and gender issues. The app combines a 1677 map of Copenhagen with GPS technology; it includes a *Discover More* feature with additional historical context from the *Hidden Cities* homepage ([links here](#)). The historical research that went into the app inspired the research team to write the scholarly article "[From flesh to paper: bodily and material transformation in 17<sup>th</sup> century Copenhagen](#)" published in the high-profile research journal *Urban History*.