



Curriculum Vitae: Casper Andersen (b. 1977)

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My field of research is history of ideas, science, and technology in imperial and global contexts. The focus of my current research is science, knowledge, and decolonization with a specific emphasis on the role of UNESCO. I also publish on the history and politics of nuclear weapons, science diplomacy, heritage, and history of science in Denmark. I supervise within these areas from BA to PhD and postdoctoral level.

My collaborative research projects include project on Heritage and Science Diplomacy, small state internationalism, decolonization and historiography, history of Danish colonial botany. My different research projects are connected by a longstanding interest in the spatial dimensions of modern science and technology.

At the School of Culture and Society at Aarhus University, I teach courses in global intellectual history, methods in the history of ideas, history of science and technology, and I run a cross-faculty elective BA-course on the history, philosophy, and politics of the climate crisis.

I have authored/edited 11 academic books with two manuscripts under review. My first book, *British Engineers and Africa 1876-1914* analyzed the the British engineering profession in the context of imperial expansion in Africa. I have co-edited a five-volume collection on *British Governance and Administration in Africa 1880-1939*. My co-authored book *Minutter i midnat. En global history om kernevåben* (2020) has been published in Danish and in Norwegian with an English version currently under publication. I have published 40+ book chapters and articles in leading journals such as *Technology & Culture*, *Isis*, *Canadian Journal of African Studies*, *History & Anthropology*, *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*, *International Journal for Heritage Studies*

My extensive outreach activities include 100+ public lectures, exhibitions, and regular media appearances. I am the chairperson in the Danish Society for the History of Technology (2021-), member of the Learned Society at Aarhus University (2023-) and was elected to *The Young Academy of the Royal Danish Academy for Sciences and Letters* (2015-2020).



Academic Positions

- 2015- Associate Professor, Department for Philosophy and History of Ideas, Aarhus University
- 2013- Assistant Professor, Department for Culture and Society, Aarhus University (History of Ideas/Centre for Biocultural History).
- 2010-2011 Visiting Research Fellow, History Faculty, St Cross College, University of Oxford.
- 2010-2013 Assistant Professor, Department for Culture and Society, Aarhus University. (History of Ideas)
- 2009-2010: Research Assistant, History of Ideas, Aarhus University.
- 2006-2009: PhD-student, History of Ideas, Aarhus University.

Degrees

- 2009: PhD Awarded: Thesis title: *The Civilisers: British Engineers, Imperialism and Africa*.
Supervisor: Professor Peter C. Kjærgaard, Aarhus University.
Committee: Dr. John Darwin, University of Oxford, Dr. Ben Marsden, University of Aberdeen, Professor Hans-Jørgen Schanz, Aarhus University.
- 2002-2005: Master of Arts (Cand Mag), History of Ideas and Science Studies, Aarhus University.
- 1999-2002: Bachelor of Arts, History of Ideas, Aarhus University

Awarded Grants and Fellowships

- 2023: Publication Support Grant for Minutes to Midnight. A History of Nuclear Weapons, Aarhus Universitetsforskningsfond (AUFF): DKK 75.000
- 2023-2028: Grant to establish J.H.C. Ellehammerprisen for History of Technology and Ideas in the Upper Secondary School (DKK: 300.000)
- 2022: Research Group Meeting, Young Academy 2022, AUFF (DKK 52.200)
- 2021: Publication Support Grant for *Kernevåbnene og dommedagsuret* Aarhus Universitetsforskningsfond (AUFF): DKK 148.000
- 2018: Publication Support Grant for "Global idéhistorie K Aarhus Universitetsforskningsfond (AUFF): DKK 50.000
- 2015: Visiting Scholar, St Cross College, University of Oxford
- 2015: Seed money: University of Cape Town and Aarhus University matchmaking: African Heritage Workshop (organized in collaboration with Professor Nick Shepard University of Cape Town (EUROS: 7.000).
- 2014: Rethink Impact Seed Money, Aarhus University: Project title: *Concrete Heritage Lab – rethinking the Port of Aarhus as Industrial and Post-Industrial Heritage* (With Mads Daugbjerg and Tim Flohr Sørensen) (EUROS: 12.000)
- 2013: Cayx Legat: Visiting Scholar, UNESCO Archives in Paris,
- 2012: Danish Research Council for Culture and Communication (FKK), Individual Post-Doctoral Research Grant (EUROS: 237.000): Project title: *Modernization, Conservation and Sustainable Development. Engineering in UNESCO since 1945.*



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- 2011-2012: Visiting Research Fellow, History Faculty, St Cross College, University of Oxford.
- 2010: Carlsberg Foundation Individual Post-Doctoral Research Grant. (EUROS: 116.000). Project title: *Global interconnections – British engineering networks 1880-1930*.
- 2008-2009: Visiting Academic, St Cross College, University of Oxford.
- 2006-2007: Visiting PhD-student, Department for History and Philosophy of Science, University of Leeds.
- 2005: Oticon fonden and Højgaardfonden:: Research stay, Rhodes House, Oxford

Collaborative Projects, Project Management, and Research leadership

- 2022- Co-I: Field/Work in the Archive. Herbaria as sites of cultural exchange, Museum of Natural history at Copenhagen University (Funded by Augustinus fondens Cultural Heritage program)
- 2022- Co-lead: “Becoming independent. Global history and decolonization” Research Network (funded by grant Trevelyhan foundation)
- 2018-2021: WP-co-lead “WP: Science diplomacy”): Horizon 2020 project *European colonial heritage modalities in colonial cities* (ECHOES) (<http://projectechoes.eu>)
- 2019-2021: WP Leader “WP: technology” in FFU Project Port Efficiency and Public private Capacity in Ghana (PEPP) (Funded by Danida)
- 2018-2021: WP Co-leader Heritage Diplomacy: Horizon 2020 project *European colonial heritage modalities in colonial cities* (ECHOES) (<http://projectechoes.eu>) (Funded by Horizon 2020)
- 2017-: Consortium member: Getting the big picture on small states. Towards a new research agenda for small state studies, 1815-present day (funded by the Dutch research council):
- 2015-2018-: Grant Holder and Member of Steering Committee, *Center for Biocultural History*, *Center for Biocultural History*, Aarhus University Research Foundation (DKK: 4.500.000/EURO: 605.100)
- 2013-2018: WP and Group leader: Natural and Cultural Heritage in the African Continent, Center for Biocultural History

PhD- and postdoc supervision

- PhD. main supervisor for Thomas Erslev (2016-2020), Ludvig Goldschmidt (2018-2022), Tenna Harboe (2019-2023), Rithma Kreie Engelbrecht Larsen (2021-), Niels Josva Balling (2024-)
- PhD co-supervisor for Mads Yding (2017-2020), Melanie Guichon (2019-2023), Valdemar Nielsen Pold (2021-)
- Post-doctoral advisor, Jessica Hartel, Centre for Biocultural History (2016-2017, Trine Keldberg Nielsen, Centre for Biocultural History (2017-18), Nanna Lüders Kaalund, Carlsberg Reintegration (2021-2023)

Assessment committees

- 2023: PhD External Examiner, Kings College London: Viswanathan Venkataraman. *Colonial Infrastructures and the Politics of Engineering: Sanitation Systems in Madras city, 1866-1940*



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- 2020: Chair, PhD Assessment committees, University of Aarhus. Jacob Jensen Dissertation title: *Visions of economy*
- 2019: PhD External Examiner, Kings College London: Angelica Agredo Montealegre *A Global History of the Road: Road construction, maintenance and use in Columbia, Argentina, French West Africa, and the Algerian Sahara, 1930-1970*
- 2017: Chair, PhD Assessment committee, University of Aarhus: Thomas Palmelund Johansen. Dissertation title: *Diffusing useful knowledge. Science, economy and print in the 1830s England*
- 2017: External Member PhD Assessment Committee, University of Copenhagen: Christian Damm Pedersen. Dissertation title: *African decolonisation and the fate of Britishness, 1959-1965*
- 2017: External member of assessment committee: University of Southern Denmark Assistant Professorship in Modern British History

PHD courses organized/taught:

- 2020-: PhD Course: Research ethics and integrity (Regular speaker and discussant)
- 2017: PhD Course: Historians of ideas and the question of modernity with Lynn Thomas (Seattle)
- 2017: PhD Course: Waste Time and Materiality with William Viney (Durham) (co-organized with PhD Student Thomas Erslev)
- 2016: Young Academy: Academic Career Seminar: From PhD to post-doc – career planning, strategies or coincidences?
- 2010: “Research Communication: Three lessons’, at Research Communication Course for PhD-Students, Faculty of Science Aarhus University (11.10.2010)
- 2009: PhD Workshop *Ideas in Context with Christine Macleod (Bristol)*
- 2007: PhD Workshop and Seminar organizer: *Imperialism, Technology, Modernity, Ideas in Context* with Jan-Georg Deutsch (Oxford) and Ben Marsden (Aberdeen)

Offices and awards:

- 2023- Member, Det lærde Selskab [The Learned Society], Aarhus University
- 2021-2025 Member of advisory board for the History of the University of Aalborg research project
- 2021 - Chairperson for the Danish Society for the History of Technology
- 2018- Member External Examiner Board, Centre for African Studies, University of Copenhagen
- 2018- Chairperson of Interdisciplinary Board in the Danish Young Academy, Royal Danish Academy for Sciences and Letters, Copenhagen: <http://www.youngacademy.dk>
- 2019- Reviewer for the US National Science foundation
- 2017- Board member *Danish Society for the history of technology* <http://teknologihistorie.dk>
- 2015- Member of the Young Academy [Det Unge Akademi], Royal Danish Academy for Sciences and Letters, Copenhagen



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- 2012-2016: Member, International Committee for Railway Studies, University of York/University of Exeter.
- 2011-2013: Editor-in-Chief: *The Government and Administration of Africa*, Pickering & Chatto's Britain and Africa Series. With Dr. Andrew Cohen, University of the Free State, S.A.
- 2008- Peer Reviewer for leading journals including *Notes and Records of the Royal Society*, *British journal for the history of Science*, *Annals of Science*, *Configurations*, *Technology & Culture*, *Journal of British Studies*, *Journal of African Studies*, *History of Concepts*, *American Historical Review* etc.
- 2006-2009: Editorial Board, *Slagmark - Tidsskrift for Idehistorie*
- 2004 Winner of Essay Competition, Japanese ministry of foreign affairs)
- 2002- 2004: Editor-in-Chief, *Semikolon - Tidsskrift for Idehistorie*, *Semiotik*, *Filosofi*

Publications

See separate publication list below

Teaching

See separate teaching portfolio below

Selected organized seminar series, conferences, and panel sessions (full list at <https://pure.au.dk/portal/da/persons/ideca%40cas.au.dk/activities/>)

- 2023: Workshop co-organiser: Becoming Independent: Institutions and Epistemologies of Knowledge Production in an age of decolonization, University of Cambridge, (4-6 June)
- 2023 Seminar co organiser: Idéhistorien læser Corona, Aarhus (27.08)
- 2022- Co-convenor: Research Unit for Climate Philosophy and History of Ideas, Aarhus University
- 2022- Seminar co-organiser: Science and Empire – State of the Art and Future Research, Aarhus University, (07.02 February)
- 2021-: Co-organizer: Annual meetings in the Danish Society for the History of Technology, 2021,2022, 2023, 2024
- 2016-2021: Main organizer of the Research Unit and Seminar Series on *History and Philosophy of Science and Technology*
- 2019: Spørgsmålet om Vesten: Lykkeberg og Schanz (28.08)
- 2018: Workshop co-organiser: Size Matters: Images of Small States in the International System (11-12.06)
- 2018: Philosophy, Materiality and Techno-Science. A seminar in honour of Henning Høgh Laursen (21.06)
- 2017 Panel session: Urban technologies and technologies of urbanization. European conference on African studies, Basel (with Nanna Scheidermann (29.06.)
- 2017 Idéhistorie i Aarhus – 50 års jubilæumskonference (04-05.10)



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- 2015: Seminar co-organizer: *Modernity and Modernization in Global Context. TEMP Journal Special Issue Seminar* (with James C. Scott). Aarhus. (09.04)
- 2014: Conference co-organizer: *Concrete Heritage: Industry, Inclusion, Invention*, Aarhus, (13-14.11)
- 2014: Panel session co-organizer: *The Global History of UNESCO*, Forth European Congress on World and Global History, Paris (07.09)
- 2012: Panel session organizer: *Spaces and Geographies of Expertise in Engineering*, Society for the History of Technology, Annual Meeting, Copenhagen, (05.10)
- 2012: Panel session co-organizer: *Decolonisation, professionals and the geographies of expertise*, RGS-IBG Annual International Conference, Edinburgh, (03.07)
- 2012: Panel session co-organizer: *Technology as an agent of Social and Economic Change in Africa: Connecting historical and contemporary debates*, CAS50, Edinburgh, (07.06)
- 2011: Workshop co-organizer: *Global perspectives in Intellectual History*, Oxford, (08-09.12).
- 2011: Seminar co-organizer: *Trust in People and Knowledge*, STM Network, Aarhus, (11.02)
- 2010: Seminar co-organizer: *Literary Engineering: Cultures of reading and writing in the engineering professions*, Aberdeen, (17.03)
- 2009: Conference co-organizer: *Evolution today: World leading Experts debating evolution today*, Aarhus, (12.11)
- 2007: Conference co-organizer: *Telling the past now: Historiographies for the twenty-first century*, Aarhus (22-24.11)

Selected research presentations (full list at <https://pure.au.dk/portal/da/persons/ideca%40cas.au.dk/activities/>)

- 'Science Popularization and cultural diplomacy', Centre for History of Science, Barcelona (25.11.2023)
- 'Discussant: Futures Lecture - Kwame Appiah', Aarhus University. (11.05.2023)
- Research colloquium: A history of nuclear weapons: engaging audiences during a moment of crisis, Center for Science Studies, Aarhus University (11.09.2022)
- 'Cultural heritage and diversity': Workshop on Concepts and measurements of diversity, AIAS Aarhus University (20.05.2022)
- Making the archival watch dog bark': the UNESCO archive of African oral tradition, Africa Knows. Leiden (22.01.2021)
- Science Diplomacy and Afrocentrism during Cold War and COVID, Workshop: Public Diplomacy from Cold War to Covid19, AIAS (09.16.2021)
- A history of decolonization?: Oral history and the question of knowledge in UNESCO's General History of Africa project 1963-1993, Berlin: Humboldt University, (29.01.2020)



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- A quest for relevance: UNESCO's general history of Africa and the decolonization of knowledge, Centre for African Studies, Copenhagen University (11.14.2019)
- 'Use perspectives in the history of technology and the study of African urbanization', European Conference on African Studies (ECAS) Basel (29.06.2017)
- 'Three Vignettes in honour of Jan-Georg Deutsch'. Commemoration Seminar for Jan-Georg Deutsch, Faculty of History, Oxford University (28.04.2017)
- 'Across the decolonization divide: UNESCO's science sector in Africa 1947-1974', Annual Meeting of American Historical Association, Denver, US (08.01.2017)
- 'Internationalism, decolonization and engineering in UNESCO 1945-75.' Seminar: *History of technology as political history*, university of Southern Denmark (12.10.2016)
- 'Imperial Heritage: Editing the Government and Administration of Africa 1880-1940 Collection', University of Bloemfontain, S.A. 15.04.2015
- 'Heritage, Expertise and UNESCO', *African Heritage Workshop*, University of Cape Town, S.A. 13.04.2015
- 'Explorer engineers and Professionals: The literary culture of British imperial engineering 1850-1914', *The Global 19th century: Contiguities, Connections, Detachments*, University of California (Riverside), 27.02.2015
- 'Empire and internationalism: the case of engineering in UNESCO', *Forth European Congress on World and Global History*, Paris, 07.09.2014
- 'Capacity building, scientific independence, and the establishment of UNESCO's science and technology agenda for Africa', *Making Scientific Capacity in Africa: An Interdisciplinary Conversation*, Cambridge 14.07.2014
- 'Historicizing the road to modernity: Heritage Politics in the context of Decolonization', *Collecting and Recollecting the Past*, Aarhus, 29.11.2012
- 'Geographies of decolonization: Britain, India and South Africa in the Commonwealth Engineering Council 1946-70', Work-in-progress article session, *Seminar with Research Group: Transnational Modernities*, Ebeltoft, 11.09.2012
- 'British Engineers and Africa: imperial consultants and their critics c. 1875-1920', *Global & Imperial History seminar series*, Oxford, 09.02.2012



- 'ICE under the Sun: The imperial archive of the Institution of Civil Engineers', *RGS-IGB Annual International Conference*, London, 01.09.2011
- 'The Aswan Dam and the English Garden', *Before and After Toynbee: conceiving the industrial revolution in the long nineteenth century*, Cambridge Victorian Studies Group, Cambridge 23.09.2010.
- 'The Civilisers – Self-representations of British Consulting Engineers in Africa 1885-1920', University of Leeds, 24.10.2006.
- 'Popular Science in Three Danish Newspapers', *Science and Technology in the European Periphery Annual Meeting*, Menorca, 04.06.2006.

Selected research communication and outreach:

Selected TV, Radio/Podcasts

- Radio/podcast: P1 Morgen: Den amerikanske atomparaply under pres (01.03.2024)
- Radio/podcast – Dr P1: Supertanker: Jorden går under om 90 sekunder (05.02.2024)
- Radio/podcast: DR P1 Morgen: Dommedagsuret 2024 (27.01.2024)
- Radio/podcast: DR P1 Orientering: ATOMTRUSLEN I DAG (05.09.2023)
- Radio/Podcast: DR1 P1 -Kampen om historien "Oppenheimer" (29.08.2023)
- Radio/podcast: Hvad så forklarer alt: Oppenheimer Del 1 og Del 2 (25.07.23-02.08.2023)
- TV: TV2 NEWS: Dommedagsuret viser 100 sekunder i midnat (27.01.2023)
- Podcast: Rykker vi tættere på midnat?, Frihedsbrevet (27.10.2022)
- Radio/podcast: RADIO 4: Kraniebrud: Cubakrisen (25.10.2022)
- Radio/podcast: RADIO 4: Kraniebrud: 100 sekunder i midnat (07.07.2022)
- DR P1: Supertanker. Neanderthalere og menneskets forhistorie (19.01.2019)
- Stephen Hawking i Danmark, TV2 NEWS (24.08. 2016)
- Hawking tro og viden: DR P1: religionsrapporten (29.08.2016)
- Liv i rummet DR P1 Eksistens (27.06.2016)
- Liv i Rummet, DRK P4 Live X (24.10.2015)
- Truslen mod Darwin, *IQ, TV2 Eastern Jutland/OJ* (15.07.2014)
- 'Hvorfor kreationisme og intelligent design ikke er videnskab', *Danskeres Akademi. Danish National Television/DR2*, (02.01.2012).
- 'Videnskabens verden: om videnskabeligt snyd og uredelighed', *Radio DR P1*, (26.01.2011).
- 'Tro og viden del 1-4' *Radio DR P1*, (04-07-01.2011).
- 'Imperiets ingeniørhelte', *Danskeres Akademi. Danish National Television/DR2*, (20.10.2010).
- 'Darwin, Grey, Gud', *Danskeres Akademi. Danish National Television/DR2*, (06.04.2010).



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- 'Retssagen mod Galileo', *Danskernes Akademi. Danish National Television/DR2*, (06.04.2010).
- 'Robert Mugabe – 30 år ved magten', *TV2 News*, (04.03.2010). 31.12.15

Exhibitions

- Udstilling: Havneforestillinger: mellem nostalgi og utopi (DOKK1) 2016 (With Mads Daubjerg)
- Exhibition Stand: Aarhus University's Climate research in the Arctic, Arctic Venue: COP15 (December 2009)

Websites developed:

- ECHOES Keywords: Anthology exploring the concepts of colonial Heritage (With Britta Timm Knudsen and Christoffer Kølvråa): 2019. <https://keywordsechoes.com>
- ECHOES Key interventions (With Britta Timm Knudsen and Christoffer Kølvråa): 2021. <https://keywordsechoes.com/interventions>

Public lectures and public lecture series

More than 100 public lectures spread across my fields of research and held in all parts of Denmark (Full list available at <https://pure.au.dk/portal/da/persons/ideca%40cas.au.dk/activities/>)