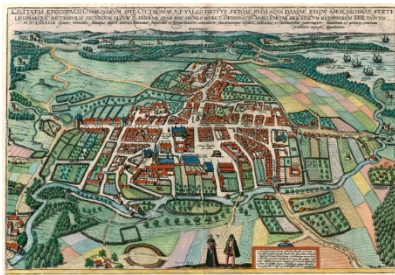


Call for Papers

Towns as meeting places – exploring urban encounters, networks and people in northern Europe 1000-1700 AD

13-14 October 2016, Moesgård, Aarhus University



The research and public outreach project *Urban Encounters – Mobility, Migration and Networks in pre- and early modern Scandinavia* and *Centre for Urban Network Evolutions* (UrbNet) hereby invites you to a conference exploring new perspectives in research into pre- and early modern urbanism in northern Europe. The project *Urban Encounters* is funded by the Velux Foundation and is a collaborative project between the Museum of Copenhagen, Odense City Museums, the Nya Lödöse project in Gothenburg and UrbNet at Aarhus University, a Centre of Excellence funded by the Danish National Research Foundation.

The objective of the conference is to bring together researchers with an interest in pre- and early modern urbanism in northern Europe to discuss the ideas behind the research initiative *Urban Encounters – Mobility, Migration and Networks in pre- and early modern Scandinavia*. We wish to discuss methods and source materials, but also theoretical approaches which can enlighten the overall theme. Ideas and materials from archaeology, history or other related disciplines are all welcome contributions, not least interdisciplinary initiatives.

Through a broad understanding of the concepts “migration”, “mobility” and “networks”, *Urban Encounters* aim to explore ways of studying urbanism by tracing different types of actors, meetings and networks in the material culture and seeing how these affected the urban places.

The multitude of encounters taking place in towns is part of what makes towns and town life different from life in other places. Seeing the town as an instrument or catalyst for meetings between people provides a perspective that puts people, their motivations and experiences in focus. This is an aspect of the study of pre- and early modern urbanism that holds great potential but is in need of further

attention. Seeing the town as the sum of networks, people, actions and practices happening at a specific place will shed light on how towns, in their capacity as meeting places, has shaped life, affected people, life forms and the identities in the urban places.

We invite papers addressing one or more of the following subjects: 1) *The town as a meeting place*, 2) *Migration and mobility in material culture* and 3) *Identity and mentality in material culture*. Papers could either deal with concrete cases, methodological issues or have a more theoretical focus. We wish to take on the theme openly and widely and expect this to be reflected in the programme.

We are pleased to announce that the following three acknowledged researchers have accepted our invitation to each chair a subject as keynote speaker:

Gitte Hansen, Associate professor, PhD, University Museum of Bergen.

Carsten Jahnke, Associate Professor, Dr. phil. habil., University of Copenhagen.

Magdalena Naum, Researcher, PhD, Lund University.

Abstracts of no more than 500 words should be emailed to organisers Kirstine Haase kirha@cas.au.dk or Hanna Dahlström hanna.dahlstrom@cas.au.dk by 1 August 2016.

Questions or problems relating to the submission of proposals may be directed to the organisers.

Day one at the conference will consist of presentations of core elements in the *UrbNet* and *Urban Encounters* initiatives followed by 30-minute papers (Please leave 5 minutes for questions), which relate to the overall themes of the conference. Each theme will be introduced by a keynote speaker.

Day two will consist of group discussions on the conference themes followed by synthesis on these themes by the keynote speakers as well as discussion.

By structuring the conference as described above, we aim to enable a fruitful, open and dynamic discussion on urbanism, migration, mobility and networks.

The conference will be held **13-14 October 2016** and is hosted by *UrbNet* and *Urban Encounters*. It will take place at Moesgård Manor in the southern part of Aarhus (Address: Moesgård Allé 20, 8270 Højbjerg, building 4206, room 139). The venue is reached from the city centre by bus (18 or 100) in 25 minutes (see directions at the UrbNet website: <http://urbnet.au.dk/visitors/directions/>). The conference will begin at 10:00 a.m. on the first day and end around 3:00 p.m. on the second day.

Price: 900 DKK, including lunch and coffee/tea both days, conference dinner and wine, entrance to Moesgaard Museum plus Book of abstract, but excluding accommodation.

Suggested accommodation in Aarhus:

Cabinn: <https://www.cabinn.com/hotel/cabinn-hotel-i-aarhus?gclid=CIXQkr2b4cwCFQXicgodCKENag>

Comwell: <http://www.comwellaarhus.dk/?gclid=CJTt7OOb4cwCFSezcgodZQYKRw>