



ACADEMIC PROGRAM OUTLINE

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**SUSTAINABILITY, SOCIAL RELEVANCE, AND THE HUMANITIES:  
OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES**

**ODENSE, DENMARK, DECEMBER 16-17, 2020**

**Opening talks (45 minutes)**

- SDU Vice-Chancellor Henrik Dam (5 minutes)
- CIPSH President Chao Geijin (5 minutes)
- SDU Dean Simon Møberg Torp (10-15 minutes)
- CIPSH Secretary General, Luiz Oosterbeek (10-15 minutes)

**Keynotes (Each 25 minutes presentation + 20 minutes questions & comments)**

- Sverker Sörlin
- Anders Engberg-Pedersen
- John Crowle
- Helle Porsdam
- Satoko Fujiwara

*Each keynote speaker sends a brief abstract (half a page or so) to Tim Jensen, [t.jensen@sdu.dk](mailto:t.jensen@sdu.dk) and Mette Horstmann Noeddeskou, [mettehnoeddeskou@gmail.com](mailto:mettehnoeddeskou@gmail.com)) no later than October 15.*

**Roundtables (each presenter, chair included, 5 minutes)**

Total time, as well as number of participants, for each roundtable are flexible as it depends on number of participants (and possible) discussants.

Chair opens by outlining his/her own linked take on the theme.

After the presentations, the chair invites questions and comments from participants and from the floor.

*Each presenter sends (to Tim Jensen, [t.jensen@sdu.dk](mailto:t.jensen@sdu.dk) and Mette Horstmann Noeddeskou, [mettehnoeddeskou@gmail.com](mailto:mettehnoeddeskou@gmail.com)) no later than October 15, an extended abstract (max. 2 pages, including one or two references). Abstracts are circulated to the chairs and to all conference participants in advance of the conference.*



The steering committee has formulated brief abstracts to indicate its intentions with the overall theme and the various roundtables.

As for the **overall theme** the text runs:

As the leading global humanities organization, a world-wide umbrella organization for the most prestigious international and regional learned societies within the humanities, the CIPSH has a mandate and a mission to ensure that the human sciences remain scientifically sound as well as of social relevance, also in regard to sustainability. Achieving sustainability requires striking a balance between, on the one hand, being visibly and immediately relevant and, on the other hand, being, at least to the world extra mura, less visible and not immediately relevant.

How and in what ways can CIPSH and its member organizations help humanities strike that balance at the same time as demands, from non-scholars and from scholars, for immediate and visible relevance are growing? What kind of opportunities, and what kind of risks, do the humanities face and what kind of answers can scholars provide - also to the global challenges of humankind and the planet?

The CIPSH encourages critical reflection and discussion on these issues, and we are pleased to call for this international conference, co-hosted by CIPSH and the Faculty of the Humanities at the University of Southern Denmark, in order for CIPSH, its members and invited guests to discuss the above-mentioned matters, including the general methodological approaches and challenges as well as actual practices and current challenges across disciplines and geographic areas.

The Conference will include six roundtables, each introduced by invited speakers and followed by an open debate.

As for the **roundtables**, see the texts below linked to each roundtable

### **1. Understanding the Humanities. Chair Hsiung Ping-Chen**

This Roundtable invites internationally recognized top-scholars and leaders to, from each their scientific, professional and personal position and perspective, ponder and put forward their concepts of and visions for the humanities/human sciences (including their relation to social and natural sciences). They have also been invited to discuss how individual scholars can or maybe even ought to position themselves, in intellectual, epistemological and strategic terms, as well as how an organization like CIPSH with its membership of learned societies can or maybe ought position itself.

#### **Participants:**

- Wilhelm Krull
- Rosi Braidotti
- Adama Samassekou
- Armin W. Geertz



## **2. The Humanities and the SDGs. Chair Philip Buckley**

This roundtable intends to engage senior colleagues holding key positions in national or international organizations, inter-governmental, governmental and academic, to share their experiences and thoughts in keeping humanities sustainable, while charting a future that meet the Sustainable Development Goals, framing the sustainability debate into a mid and long term understanding, which may contribute to a rigorous debate encompassing a diversity of experiences and visions. Each participant is supposed to ever so briefly reflect on the relevance of her approach and thoughts to the overall theme of the conference.

### **Participants:**

- Carlos Diaz Rosillo (tbc)
- John Crowley
- SDU Prorector (tbc)
- SDU Faculty of Humanities Associate Dean, Lars G. Binderup (tbc)

### **Respondent:**

- Sara Guyer (online)

## **3. The Humanities, Technology and AI – and 'Techhumanities'. Chair David Goldberg**

Technology is a key dimension of human behavior, intrinsically connected to cultural dynamics and identities, influencing societies, the world at large, and human ways of thinking and behaving in a variety of ways. This roundtable builds on this understanding and addresses contemporary research and approaches, linking technology and the humanities, from big data processing to ethical concerns. Scholars in the history of science, tech-humanities and beyond will help exemplify ways in which humanities and technology 'interact' as well as highlight theoretical, methodological and epistemological and ethical issues and implications relevant to the overall theme of the conference

### **Participants:**

- Catherine Jami
- Frieda Steurs
- François Djindjian
- Peng Qinglong
- Harold Sjursen
- Kathrin Maurer



#### **4. The Humanities and Health – and 'Health Humanities'. Chair Hsiu-Hsi Chen**

Caught at the moment, as is the case with most of the world of human societies, in a troubling pandemic as well ecological and climate crisis, 'health', human, planetary, social health, emerge as an axis that organizes public and academic debates, promoting the convergence of dimensions, dimensions hitherto separated, in worldwide academic and political discussion of human, cultural and social intentions, dilemmas and values (including the value of individual human lives), a 'terrain' well known to the human sciences. What is called 'Health Humanities' has thus been a field on the rise, and the participants to the roundtable will exchange scholarly experiences, strategies, and resources in order to contribute to and further ongoing endeavors. Each participant is also supposed to ever so briefly reflect on the relevance of her approach to the overall theme of the conference.

##### **Participants:**

- Noel Salazar
- Vladimir Kolosov
- Adams Bodomo
- Anna Paldam Folker

#### **5. The Humanities, Museums, Libraries, Archives. Chair Kirsten Drotner**

As key institutions with the assigned role to preserve, transmit and anchor historical and cultural 'artefacts' (in the broadest sense), human and cultural heritage, museums, libraries, and archives around the world are, now as before, 'treasure houses' for global as well as local humankind – and close collaborators with scholars working a wide variety of the human sciences. Leading scholars from a variety of fields within the humanities will reflect on the importance and benefit of networking and cooperation between the humanities, museums, archives and libraries, as well as on issues linked to the overall theme of the conference.

##### **Participants:**

- Luisa Migliorati
- Renaldas Gudauskas
- Louise Kallestrup

#### **6. The Humanities and Arts. Chair Chao Gejin.**

Arts are often viewed as standing on common grounds with humanities at large, and art history, aesthetics, literary studies etc. all engaged with analyzing, interpreting, understanding and explaining different kinds of art. Many member associations of the CIPSH are thus engaged in the studies of art, including studies in the various relations between art and the humanities. CIPSH itself has recently launched a specific project (with its own journal HAS) on “Humanities, Arts and Society”, in an attempt to bridge these two neighboring, different as well as overlapping, domains. Roundtable participants are invited to revisit this 'relatedness' as well as to link their reflections to the overall theme of the conference.



Participants:

- Zoltan Someghyi
- Rosalind I.J. Hackett
- Flemming G. Andersen
- Margalit Beriette

**SPECIAL SESSIONS:**

**The Global History of Humankind Project (30 minutes)**

A Presentation by Laurent Tissot, Katja Naumann and Matthias Middell.

**World Logic Day (15 minutes; 10+5)**

A Presentation by Benedikt Loewe

Response by William L. McBride