

# THE ANGLO-DANISH SOCIETY

## SCHOLARSHIP REPORTS 2021

[www.anglo-danishsociety.org.uk](http://www.anglo-danishsociety.org.uk)

Reg. Charity No 313202



**Denise Rose Hansen**

**Photo: Sophie Davidson**

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Single membership £25  
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## SUPPORT

# THE ANGLO-DANISH SOCIETY'S SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

From its first award in 1959, the AngloDanish Society's charitable Scholarship Programme continues to grant scholarships for the purpose of post graduate study or research to British and Danish Students for study in the other country.

It is an investment in our youth that underpins our aim of strengthening relations between Britain and Denmark.

This funding makes a real difference to Scholars by enabling further research and providing them with an opportunity to enjoy the whole experience of living and working in another country.

The Society and its Scholarship Programme rely entirely on the work and commitment of its volunteers, with no paid staff, no overheads and very few administrative costs and we need your help in raising funds to ensure that we can continue this valuable work.

Please respond generously to this appeal.

### Payments:

Bank transfer - to NatWest (please add your surname as the reference):

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[www.anglo-danishsociety.org.uk/scholarships](http://www.anglo-danishsociety.org.uk/scholarships)

## THANK YOU

Published March 2023



# Simon Koplev, PhD in Medical Science, University of Cambridge, Cancer Research UK

Area of Study: Tracing cell plasticity of heterogenous tumour clones in the pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma (PDAC) microenvironment.

“Although the past academic year has been different than expected due to the pandemic with fewer social activities in my PhD program and across my College, Magdalene, there has been more time for introspection and sustained focus. Famously, Newton had 2 productive years in exile from Cambridge during the Great Plague of 1665-1666. In Newton’s image, while most certainly of lesser importance, I have nonetheless been able to finish several projects during this time of isolation, with important implications for my efforts to establish my own independent laboratory. Under the supervision of Martin Miller, I have co-authored a paper published in Nature Genetics by the title of ‘Unraveling tumor–immune heterogeneity in advanced ovarian cancer uncovers immunogenic effect of chemotherapy’ (<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41588-020-0630-5> ). In this work, I have made important contributions to the analysis of chromosomal abnormalities through gene copy number variation and understanding of how such mutations may determine the immune response to ovarian cancer. I’m currently working on writing a review article in this field, summarizing insights into the co-evolution of tumors and the adaptive immune system pertaining to the polyclonality of cancer -- a topic of ongoing interest and experiments in collaboration with Arnaldo Silva, a clinical PhD student who joined the lab 1 year ago. In parallel, I have co-authored 4 papers in high impact journals about atherosclerosis: on the clonal expansion of smooth muscle cells in artery tissue (<https://www.pnas.org/content/117/27/15818.short> ), gender-specific smooth muscle cell phenotype switching (<https://www.ahajournals.org/doi/10.1161/CIRCULATIONAHA.120.051231> ), multiomic network modeling of human liver tissue (<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-020-20750-8> ), and endothelial-mesenchymal transition (<https://www.jci.org/articles/view/131178> ). Altogether, consistent research themes are emerging in my work through the roles of cell type transdifferentiation in human disease, ultimately enabling the formulation of a future research program of my own. In addition, I have been teaching as an assistant on a termly 3 day postgraduate course, Introduction to Machine Learning, for biological scientists, gaining valuable teaching experience while also continuously learning about contemporary statistical methodology. I am grateful for the support from the Anglo-Danish Society in pursuing these studies and from my College housemates shown here before sharing dinner outside on the Magdalene lawn and riverside.”



Simon Koplev (centre) with College housemates

# **Julie de Fønss Gandrup**

## **PhD Medicine**

### **University of Manchester**

Area of study: How can digital patient-reported data advance clinical care in rheumatoid arthritis?

“Assessment of disease activity in rheumatoid arthritis currently relies on patients summarising their symptoms since the last visit. However, visits may be months apart and patients often struggle to remember changes in their condition accurately. As digital technologies are becoming increasingly pervasive, opportunities to collect health data directly from patients have emerged. The need for digital systems to collect patient data outside of clinic was further cemented by the pandemic - the concepts of remote patient monitoring and mobile health are as relevant as ever.

During this past year, we developed and implemented a scalable, digital system for remote monitoring into an NHS hospital in Manchester. Rheumatoid arthritis patients enter daily self-reported symptoms on our smartphone app. The data is integrated directly into each patient’s electronic health record, where the clinician inspects the longitudinal symptom graphs in collaboration with the patient to better understand disease progression since the last visit. In essence, we managed to connect the dots by closing the data gap that existed between two distant clinic visits; we are facilitating a clearer picture of the patient’s life outside of the clinic – for the benefit of patients, clinicians, and wider health care systems. The remainder of my PhD will focus on extending and harnessing this novel data source for epidemiological research. Specifically, can we identify a deteriorating patient based on their symptom data, then intervene?

We must strive to provide a solid data foundation for managing chronic disease, to ensure we deliver safer, more efficient, and more patient-centred care. I am grateful that the Anglo-Danish Society supported me in my efforts to carry out research in the rapidly moving field of digital health. Despite the changes the pandemic forced on our lives and livelihoods, I have had a productive second year of my PhD and I am excited for what comes next.”

# **Alissa Machin**

## **Master’s in Comparative Literature**

### **University of Copenhagen**

Area of study: 20th and 21st century women’s writing.

“These past twelve months have paved an exciting entry into the world of Comparative Literature in the wonderful city of Copenhagen. I chose this department at the University of Copenhagen because of its reputation for innovative projects from a variety of Nordic, European and Anglo-American perspectives. The breadth and rigour of the teaching in this department has ultimately confirmed my aim of pursuing a PhD in this research area.

Beginning with two compulsory modules on analytical methods to textual analysis and contextual readings, as well as two research essays, the first year of this MA course grounds itself in the foundational practices of not only developing an appropriate methodology for a given text, but also setting the details of a particular author, language and form in its unique context. In the analytical seminar, our cohort explored a range of texts through close readings focused on theories of style, comedy, narrative perspective and repeated motifs. In the spring term, the contextual focus of the second module enabled an application of these ways



of approaching textual analysis in a group setting. Although all of the teaching time occurred online over Zoom, each group worked impressively to devise their own methodology to answer a research question. Beginning in Renaissance drama and ending in contemporary responses to refugee themes, this module culminated in the production of an independently chosen selection of text extracts as a response to a particular methodology. A survey of six novels from the Scottish, English, Danish and French traditions lead me to some unforeseen conclusions about the collective imagination and discourses surrounding the 2015 refugee crisis in Europe.

The generosity of the Anglo-Danish society through this scholarship has made a great difference to my life this year, ensuring that I could purchase the required course materials, which was particularly useful in enabling me to purchase copies of rare books when they were unavailable in libraries. I am immensely grateful for this support and as a gesture of recognition will continue to acknowledge the enrichment of this cultural exchange in my future research efforts. After an inspiring first year, I now intend to home in on the Danish Golden Age at the department of Nordic Studies in order to lend perspective to a 19th century-focused comparative project that I have in mind for my MA thesis. All in all, I remain steadfast in my passion to value the local and the under-researched, particularly when it comes to balancing out the global influence of English on the evolution of parallel language communities.”



**Alissa Machin in Copenhagen**

# Tinne Amalie Damgaard Nissen

## PhD in Neuro-Immune Interactions in Health and Disease

### King's College London

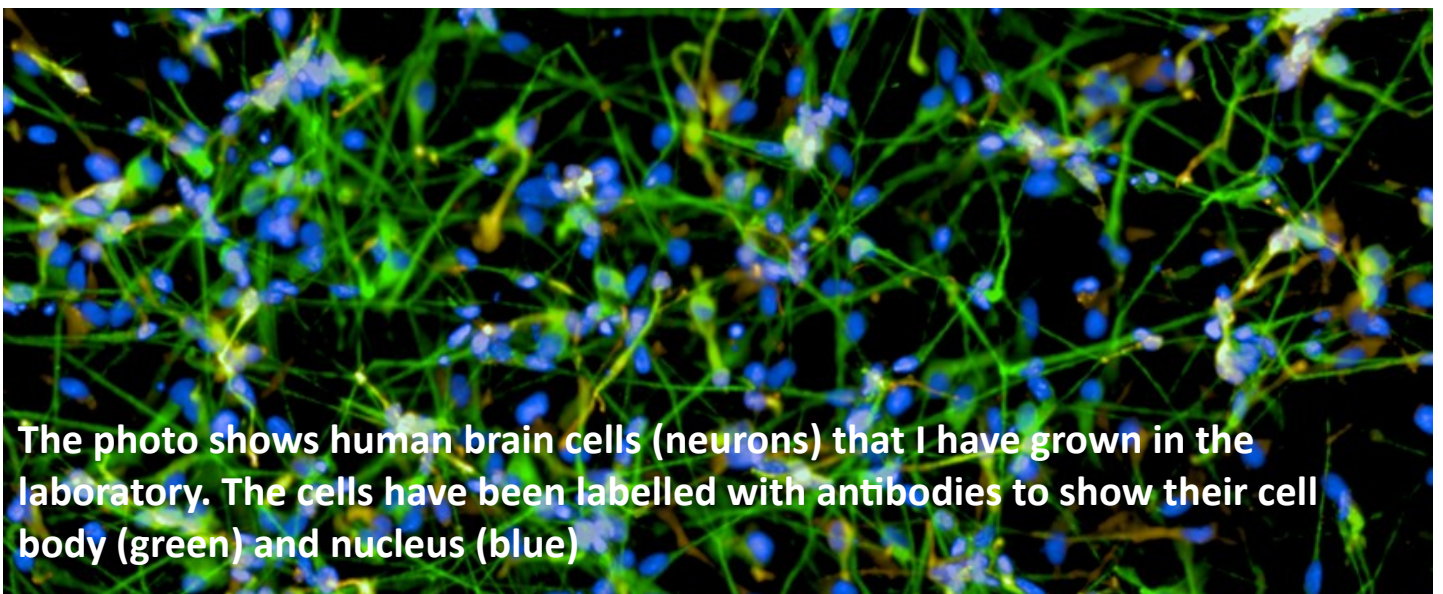
Area of study: Neuro-Immune Interactions in Health and Disease

“In the autumn of 2020, I started a new and exciting chapter of my life. I moved to London as I had been accepted into a new interdisciplinary four-year PhD program at King's College London focusing on how our nervous system and our immune system communicate. As the first year of my program draws to an end, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Anglo-Danish Society for its generous financial support throughout the last year. The financial support has enabled me to fully devote myself to my research into how our immune system and our nervous system communicate.

During my first year in the program, I have undertaken a master's degree consisting of three 12-week rotations. In addition to these three different research projects, I have attended courses equipping me for the next years of my PhD. The three rotations exposed me to a wide range of research projects investigating neuro-immune crosstalk. Now I have chosen one of these projects, one investigating the effect of inflammation on brain stem cells, to pursue as my PhD project for the coming three years.

For many years it was believed that humans were born with a fixed number of brain cells, so-called neurons. However, in recent years researchers have discovered that throughout our life we keep generating new neurons. This process of generating new neurons from stem cells in the brain is called adult neurogenesis. You can find a brilliant TED talk on the topic by my supervisor Dr Sandrine Thuret [here](#). Adult neurogenesis has been demonstrated to be critical for memory formation and mood regulation and is shut down in many diseases such as Alzheimer's and depression. My PhD project investigates how inflammation affects the ability of brain stem cells to generate new neurons. We hypothesize that inflammation can be a common mechanism in these diseases negatively affecting neurogenesis, which can potentially explain some of the symptoms such as memory loss and dysregulated mood. Therefore, this thrilling avenue of research has implications for an enormous patient group that currently have limited therapeutic opportunities.

I am incredibly excited for the next years of research ahead at King's College London, and I look forward to interacting more with the Anglo-Danish Society as the COVID-19 restrictions are easing up. This scholarship made my dream of studying in London come true, and for that, I am forever grateful.”



**The photo shows human brain cells (neurons) that I have grown in the laboratory. The cells have been labelled with antibodies to show their cell body (green) and nucleus (blue)**



# **Denise Rose Hansen**

## **PhD in English literature**

### **University College London (UCL)**

For the academic year 2020/21, I was the fortunate recipient of a scholarship from the Anglo-Danish Society, which has significantly supported me in my studies towards a doctorate degree in English literature at UCL. Being recognised by the Anglo-Danish Society has given me the sense of being part of a community in a year when remote work and social distancing have dominated our academic and social lives.

Entitled *Minor Happenings: The 1960s British Art Novel*, my thesis suggests that the emergence of a myriad of new art forms and movements in the 1960s had seismic effects not just within the world of art but also for a group of loosely connected British writers. In exploring how Ann Quin, Paddy Kitchen, Stefan Themerson, and Denis Williams were deeply engaged with the visual arts across their various approaches to the postwar novel, I locate shared concerns and anxieties between artists and writers regarding aesthetic experience and representation, touch and embodiment, low and high culture, which hold significance not just for how and why we should read these novels, but also for our understanding of crucial developments in 1960s culture more broadly.

Suggesting the framework of *Minor Happenings* through which to approach the late modern art novels under study here, it asks what it would look like if we read them once removed from more usual expectations for what the novel form is meant to do, instead adjusting our vision to consider contemporaneous developments in the art world. In particular, *Minor Happenings* extends the motivations behind 1960s underground happenings to the narrative and aesthetic breaking down of the novel form into a series of 'happenings': seemingly minor and unrelated occurrences, experiences, impressions, sensations, and moods, thereby taking seriously these authors' rejection of stable categories and traditional plot. Rather than 'difficult', 'contrarian', or 'anti-story', they emerge as our guides to 1960s art and life and show us why a turn towards the effects and affects of fleeting experiences, touch, disfiguration and bodily reflexes may not only an aesthetic dominant of the 1960s, but also a generative development of the novel and a completely central grip for living and reading in a fractured postwar landscape.

My thesis builds on interests that I acquired during my MA in English, University of Copenhagen, as well as in my BA in Creative Writing & English Literature, University of Westminster, and has led me to translating Ann Quin into Danish. Upon completing my PhD in March 2022, I will potentially be pursuing a postdoc, while also continuing my work with Lolli Editions, a London-based publisher of contemporary fiction in English translation which I founded in 2019.

# **Benedicte Rahbek : Ova Arup Scholarship**

## **Master of Architecture**

### **Bartlett School of Architecture, UCL**

Area of study: the seaside town of Margate and its regeneration

"As a recent graduate from the Bartlett School of Architecture, I would like to thank the Anglo-Danish Society for supporting my studies with a grant from the Ove Arup Foundation for my postgraduate studies. I applied to the university because I wanted to achieve the best tools for me as an architect to contribute to better conditions for life in the future, and because the Bartlett is known to be one of the best architecture schools in the world. Due to the pandemic, I chose to work in my close proximity, London, for my final year. I was in-

trigued by my swims in the Ladies' Pond on Hampstead Heath, to see if I could create a similar environment of inclusion and well-being as well as replicate some of the immaterial values the pond holds, such as reflection, light, transparency, time and movement in a new and normally less humane setting, the London Skyline. I spent a lot of the school's resources approaching the subject from both a theoretical and a practical angle. I wrote a thesis on the subject of Shared and Segregated Spaces for Women, giving me insight in what it takes for women to feel at ease the space that surrounds them, and developed my own method of design in which I worked with sculpture and analogue collages merging the work of historical and present-day female makers of society, arts and architecture, and letting the collages serve as sources for large analogue models which I used as building blocks to design and compose a new tower for the London skyline. I have been very pleased that the Bartlett has supported me in my desire to explore the field of architecture with a more artistic approach, and the tools I have been supported in developing have given me a strong and unique profile as an architect. For both my thesis and my final design project I graduated with high grades. I would like to once again thank the Anglo-Danish Society for all the support I have been given."

## **Signe Marie Thøgersen**

### **MPhil**

### **University of Glasgow**

Area of study: Textile Conservation

When I was doing my B.Sc. in Object Conservation at the Royal Academy in Copenhagen, I became especially interested in the conservation of textiles – only to find out that there are just a handful of places in the world where you can specialise in this field. The MPhil programme in textile conservation at The University of Glasgow is the only one of its kind in the UK, which for historic reasons is regarded as the textile centre of the world. I also discovered that the fees were dauntingly high. But all obstacles were overcome and next month I will hand in my final dissertation after two rewarding and exciting years in Glasgow. I am hugely grateful to the Anglo-Danish Society for awarding me a generous scholarship that made a major difference, and for the kind encouragement I received during the application process.

Conserving textile objects is a way of preserving our cultural heritage, and cultural heritage refers not only to tangible heritage, the physical objects themselves, but also to intangible heritage, such as the skills required for producing the textiles, and knowledge of the historical context in which they were used. My time in Glasgow has e.g. involved the conservation of a child's romper, a 17th C. lady's evening bag, and a panel of Arts & Crafts silk embroidery - objects in need of scientific analysis, chemical treatment and manual stitching to preserve their evocative past.

In our fast-paced and fragmented world, cultural heritage and material culture, including textile culture, are becoming increasingly important with cultural heritage fostering a sense of belonging through identification with material objects from a shared past. These days it is a matter of great urgency to preserve the old techniques, as knowledge of traditional handicraft is fast losing ground. Another pressing issue is the repatriation of textile objects to their original communities. Moreover, it has always been the case that textiles are more susceptible to degradation than other material groups. Textile conservation is on the cutting edge of scientific and cultural developments – its mission being to preserve the past for the future and to enrich the present by means of the past. As an emerging professional textile conservator I am committed to this mission and hope to help implement it in the conservation department of a major museum.





**Signe Marie Thøgersen**