

MEGA SEMINAR 2025

CO-EXISTING?

The Art and Challenge of Being Together

20-22 AUG

SANDBJERG GODS

MEGA 2025: Co-Existing? The Art and Challenge of Being Together - Call for panels

We invite colleagues to share their research and perspectives on the meaning of "existing together." Rooted in the Latin words co- (together) and existere (to emerge or be), "co-existing" is not merely about being together but also about evolving in relation to others—whether other humans with divergent ways of life, opposing political views, or non-human species with competing practices of being. While co-existence suggests peaceful harmony, in practice it also unfolds through tension, contestation, and negotiation.

The question of co-existing can be understood along at least two axes: the social and the ontological. The social axis deals with inclusion and exclusion, defining who or what is allowed to exist within a space/time, community, or system. On the other hand, the ontological axis explores existence and non-existence, addressing the fundamental recognition—or denial—of being itself. Together, these axes help us understand the complex dynamics of co-existence in terms of social acceptance and the more profound questions of what it means to be.

Who or what is allowed to exist, and on what terms? Who decides what constitutes "good" co-existence, what sacrifices are required, and by whom? Can humans and other species thrive together, or does survival inevitably come at another's expense? At its limits, co-existence challenges us to rethink the boundaries of existence itself. Is it possible to "be" and "not be" simultaneously?

This year's MEGA Seminar calls for panel proposals that explore co-existence in its many variations. We welcome proposals that critically and creatively expand the theme, especially those that embrace multimodal approaches and interdisciplinary collaboration. Panels may be traditional presentations, ethnographic accounts, and roundtable discussions, but we also encourage experimental formats such as workshops, artistic presentations, and ethnographic salons.

We look forward to engaging with your ideas and exploring the many dimensions of coexistence—its promises, tensions, and transformative potentials—together at MEGA 25.

Each panel proposal should include a title and an abstract (up to 300 words). We encourage inter-institutional collaboration and PhD involvement in the panel organization.

Please send your submissions to MEGA2025@samf.ku.dk by February 28, 2025

MEGA 2025: Co-Existing? The Art and Challenge of Being Together

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Cymene Howe // Professor //
Department of Anthropology // Rice
University // <u>cymene.xyz</u>



Tatjana Thelen // Professor //
Department of Social and Cultural
Anthropology // University of Vienna //
ksa.univie.ac.at/en/department/people
/professorinnen/thelen-tatjana



Erik Harms // Professor // Department of Anthropology // Yale University // anthropology.yale.edu/profile/erik-harms