

ANNUAL REPORT

2023 - 2024



THE FIRST YEAR

Center for Understanding Human Relationships with the Environment (CUHRE) has existed since the fall 2023 and is a part of the SDU Climate Cluster (SCC) at the University of Southern Denmark.



Picture 1. Kick-off seminar of 'Digging for the Climate' in SDU's Climate garden May 31, 2024

An eco-literacy research centre

After the first year, the six cornerstone projects in CUHRE are on different stages. Some are just getting started from this autumn and others have had a multitude of activities going on throughout 2024. These include hosting kick-off seminars, engaging with societal actors, participating in outreach activities and of course conducting a broad palette of research activities. Researchers across the centre has connected through the projects and collective events like the CUHRE internat held in the spring.

Here 20 researchers met around two collaborative writing exercises and a pilot-test for upcoming CUHRE videos. The collective writing has resulted in one publication in a popular cultural magazine and the other one continues to take shape as a eco-literacy positioning paper that ought to be published in an academic journal soon. In this report, you will find an assessment of the in- and outreach activities in CUHRE including a status from each of the cornerstone projects.



Picture 2. Participants at the CUHRE internat April 2024

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Picture 3. Foggy field - photo by Dikte Reeh Andersen

CUHRE RESEARCH

The research of CUHRE is multi-faceted and cross-disciplinary at heart. It is dispersed over 6 cornerstone projects (to be revisited in the latter end of the report), which are accompanied by emerging projects established on the basis of collaborations with a wide range of societal actors, organisations and institutions.

PUBLICATIONS

- “Når Regnen Falder” by Nikolaj Elf, Dikte Reeh Andersen, Julie Emontspool, Michael Paulsen, Heidi Phillipsen and Ralf Anderson, published in *Aktuel Naturvidenskab*, magazine no. 3, 2024: [Link](#)
- “Antropocæn: Menneske, samfund og dannelse i en ny tidsalder.” by Michael Paulsen, & Jesper Tække (red.), 2024: *Unge Pædagoger*. Contributions from both CUHRE researchers and affiliates.
- “Medier og Bæredygtighed” by Anette Grønning, Morten Birkved & Lotte Thing Rasmussen (red.), 2024 printed by: Syddansk Universitetsforlag. Contributions from both CUHRE researchers and affiliates.
- Eco-literacy-article, by the collective of CUHRE researchers, initiated at the internat in April 24 and progressed afterwards. Is now being revised.

EXTERNAL FUNDING OBTAINED

- DFF, Playing with Disaster: Ecoliteracy via playful co-creation. DKK 2.434.000, fall 2023 (SP3)
- DFF, Eco-engagement and eco-literacy DKK 3.168.000 kr. (SP5)
Total amount DKK = 5.602.000



Picture 4. Klimafolkemødet 2024

NEW PARTNERSHIPS

- Ringsted Ny Friskole
- Københavns skolehaver
- Kolding Design School
- Workz
- Jernbanemuseet
- Kold College
- Fonden SEF
- SDU FoodLab
- UCL
- Center for Regenerating Futures
- Vilde Middelfart
- Vejle Kommune
- Faaborg-Midtfyns Kommune

CUHRE PARTNERS

- Center of Climate Literacy
- Jordens skole
- Earthways
- Center for Regenerativ Transformation
- Kerteminde Maritime Haver

CUHRE ENVIRONMENT

CUHRE environment is our internal platform for establishing, maintaining and developing communicative infrastructures and events, that foster collaborations internally among researchers in CUHRE and among CUHRE members and external partners.

EVENTS

- **Internal seminars:**
 - Kick-off meeting, 8th of September 2023
 - Internat 3–4th of April 2024
- **Lunch meetings:**
 - 'Shift of Perspective', January 3, hosted by Sara Mosberg Iversen
 - Media, popular culture and dark green religion: recent fantasy and questions of eco-formation'. February 20, hosted by Laura Feldt
 - 'The discursive-material reconfiguration of spaces and species', March 6, hosted by Christina Elvira Dahl
 - 'Coastal chaos in Holger Drachmann's 'Efter Orkanen' ('After the Storm') (1872) and Peder Frederik Jensen's Rans vilje (Will of Ran) (2023), June 12, hosted by Søren Frank
- **Reading circles**
 - The reading circle 'Critical Techtopia' has held a series of meetings with 4 sessions per semester
 - The reading circle 'Green didactics' has held a series of meetings with 3 sessions per semester
- **Research seminars:**
 - Environmental Literacy in L1-Education', November 1, 2023
 - A discussion of technofuturism contra solarpunk, December 11, 2023
 - Symposium: Education for sustainable living February 16–18, 2024
 - Ecoliteracy Spring Lecture by Sean Blenkinsop, May 21, 2024
 - International Seminar on Philosophical perspectives on Eco-Bildung, May 23, 2024



Picture 5. Sean Blenkinsop research talk 2024

- **Online seminars:**

- From January to June 2024, CUHRE, in collaboration with Simon Fraser University, organised an online series of meetings: 'Wild Pedagogies'.

- **Conference participation:**

- CUHRE participated in the 'Environmental Humanities on a Mission' conference April 19, 2024
- CUHRE was represented at Nature's Constitutional Meeting held by Earthways on Himmelbjergaarden June 2, 2024
- CUHRE was represented at Klimafolkemødet (open-air climate meeting) in Middelfart August 29-31, 2024



Picture 6&7 CUHRE at Klimafolkemødet 2024

INITIATIVES

- A collective of CUHRE-researchers answered the SDU call for biodiversity efforts at campus with a suggestion to make a forest garden at the campus in Odense
- A cross-disciplinary educational programme at SDU, is a CUHRE idea that is being developed

CUHRE EXTERNAL AFFILIATES	
Erik Mygind du Pless	Associate Professor, CBS
Finn Torbjørn Hansen	Professor, AAU
Morten Ziethen	Associate Professor, AAU
Tobias Skiveren	Associate Professor, KU

CUHRE ONLINE

The screenshot displays the 'Current' section of the CUHRE website. It features three article cards with images and titles: 'NoFa X: The10th Nordic Conference on subject didactics' (dated 07.05.2025), ''Publication sprint' symposium: Politics of participation in a...' (dated 02.12.2024), and 'EBAN & CUHRE Ph.D. seminar and research writing retreat...' (dated 25.11.2024). Below the articles, there is a 'Get in touch' section with an envelope icon and a 'Contact information' section with the email 'Mail cuhre@sdu.dk' and a 'Contact us!' link. A large cursor icon points to a URL field containing 'http://'. Navigation arrows are visible at the top right of the article grid.

Find us on LinkedIn:



CUHRE MEMBERS

Original	
Michael Paulsen	Kristin B. Munksgaard
Julie Emontspool	Jonas Dejgaard
Jane Ebsen Morthorst	Heidi Philipsen
Nikolaj Elf	New
Ane Qvortrup	Tina Høegh
Sara Mosberg Iversen	Katrine Bergkvist Borch
Laura Feldt	Maria Lyngsøe
Søren Frank	Christina Elvira Dahl
Peter Wolsing	Dikte Reeh Andersen
Søren Harnow	Mikkel Nøjgaard
Cæcilie Kjetil	Mathilda Brückner
Connie Svabo	Amanda Glob
Karl Emil Rosenbæk	Ditte Caroline von Staffeldt
Martin Hauberg-Lund Laugesen	Tanushree Ghosh
Torben Spanget Christensen	Morten Skovsgaard
Peter Hobel	
Ralf Andersson	
Kannan Govindan	
Mette Elmose Andersen	

STATUS FROM EACH CORNERSTONE PROJECT



Digging for the Climate

The project about regenerative soil practices is looking into the potentials and barriers for fostering eco-literacy in the contexts of gardens. The project is running its first data collection and is beginning to establish partnerships with schools for the next phase.

Meetings:

- Extended team meetings – held once per quarter month from fall 2023 till date

Events:

- Research workshop by the Who Owns Nature (WON) team: 'Multispecies Contact Zones: Consumption, Conservation, and Conflict' November 21, 2023 at SDU. International research network of multi-species studies with 25 participants.
- Research presentation by Manuela Zechner: 'Transforming Agriculture and Beyond' - a book and poster toolkit by Common Ecologies April 24, 2024 (event co-organized with PACA), 15 participants
- Networking meeting and research presentation by Morten Kromann: 'Jordbrug, samfund og pædagogik – professionsfaglige perspektiver på bæredygtig dannelse og social retfærdighed' June 28, 2024. 5 participants

Kick-off seminar:

- Held in the Climate Garden at SDU to engage relevant stakeholders in the co-creation of the project and establish partnerships. There was around 30 participants from a wide range of associations, organisations and companies all interested in regenerative gardening. May 31, 2024



Picture 8. kick-off seminar in SDU klimahave

Digging for the Climate

Dissemination:

- Booth at Klimafolkemødet, Ø2. Testing soil quality, assessing compost, polyculture quiz and podcast corner. Co-hosted with collaborators from: Vilde Middelfart, Jordens Skole, SDU FoodLab, Steen Nørhede, Bjarne Schaldemose & Tradition og Håndværk. Approximate number of participants: 150.
- Livetalk at Klimafolkemødet Ø2 the August 29, moderated by Elisabeth Tejlmund: 'Regenera a' hva' for noget?' Panel participation by Dikte Reeh Andersen
- Debate at Klimafolkemødet initiated by the organisation 'Praktisk Økologi' Moderated by Mikael Elke: 'Når Økologi ikke er nok', Panel participation by Mikkel Nøjgaard Ørholm

Academic conferences:

- Roundtable session at the international conference 12th EIASM Interpretive Consumer
- Research Workshop: 'Towards More-than-Human Consumer Research: Considering Multi-species Encounters in Consumption' in Malaga the April 18-19, 2024

PI of the project is [Julie Emontspool](#)



Picture 9. Participatory fieldwork in Charlottenlund Stationshave

Cultivated Wilderness

Rewilding is a method for improving conditions for biodiversity and climate neutrality. It is also a topic that can nearly bring Danes to argue with one another. This research project examines how to create a didactic approach that enables more constructive and eco-formative discussions around rewilding. The project starts in the autumn of 2024.

Recruitment: 1 PhD student.

PI of the project is [Laura Feldt](#).



Picture 9. Wooden log photo by Dikte Reeh Andersen

Playing with Disaster

This project explores the use of cli-fi role-playing games as a way for young people to collaboratively explore alternative futures and delve into themes like hope, responsibility, and coexistence. Children and youth, both in school and during leisure time, get the opportunity to play, imagine, and expand on a potential catastrophe unfolding across different time periods.

Publication:

- Iversen, S. M. & Paulsen, M. Playing with disaster, moving toward change. *Nordicum-Mediterraneum* (2024).
- Iversen (2024). Let's play with hope. Nordic Summer University's Winter Circle. University of Southern Denmark. February 2024.

Conferences and seminars:

- Paulsen, M. (2024). Playing with disaster: A speculative solarpunk / cli-fi / bio-fi roleplaying game as a way of doing life-friendly research / philosophy / education in the Anthropocene together with young people. *Novel Approaches to Doing and Disrupting Climate Educational Research with Children and Young People*. Southern Cross University, Bilinga, Australia. February 2024.
- Paulsen, M. (2024). Playing with disaster: A speculative solarpunk / cli-fi / bio-fi roleplaying game as a way of doing life-friendly research / philosophy / education in the Anthropocene together with young people. *Children, Young People and Education in the Anthropocene*. Swinburne University of Technology, Melbourne, Australia. February 2024.
- Paulsen, M. (2024). Towards Life-Friendly Education: Beyond In/out. 10th International Outdoor Education Research Conference, Tokyo, Japan. March 2024.
- Iversen (2024). *Legende samskabelse som vej til håb og handlekraft? Bylivets sorte omstilling*. University of Southern Denmark. March 2024.
- Paulsen, M. (2024). Playing with disaster: A speculative solarpunk / cli-fi / bio-fi roleplaying game as a way of doing life-friendly research / philosophy / education in the Anthropocene together with young people. *Environmental Humanities on a Mission*. University of Copenhagen. April 2024.

Playing with Disaster

Mentions:

- Part of inspiration catalogue at Nordic Network for Adult Learning: <https://nvl.org/inspirationsbog/cases/nytt-rollspil-om-klimatfraagor-ska-vacka-ungas-framtidshopp/> spring 2024.

Other:

- Finishing first pilot test in Aarhus, August 2023
- Second pilot test at Østerskov Boarding School, January 2024
- Advertised for and hired a Ph.D. fellow, Amanda Glob incl. assessment work and interviews.
- Internal workshop with Professor Sean Blenkinsop, Simon Fraser University. May 2024.

PI of the project is [Michael Paulsen](#)



Picture 10. Solarpunk writing & drawing workshop at Klimafolkemødet 2024

Life-Friendly Land-Sea Interactions

Based on the premise that the world is becoming bluer and wetter, this project seeks to learn from the practical knowledge found in coastal literature. A central question is what insights we can gain from literature about past and future coastal practices that either succeed or fail in human interactions with the unpredictable nature of the sea.

Publications:

- Frank, Søren. "Det store blå Norden". Dagbladet Information. Informations bogtillæg. Avisartikel. June 7, 2024. 10-13.
- Frank, Søren. "Det store blå Norden". Lyd fra NorS. Podcast. May 24, 2024. 53:44 minutter.
- Frank, Søren. "Tre kulturanbefalinger: Siri Jacobsen, Victor Hugo, Jens Munk". GlobalNyt. Netartikel. May 10, 2024.
- Frank, Søren. "Litteraturen kan hjælpe os med at forstå klimaforandringerne". GlobalNyt. Podcast. April 18 2024. 22:21 minutter.
- Rosenbæk, Karl Emil. "Coastal World Literature: Encounters at the Shores of Europe." Ecozona. udkommer 2024.
- Frank, Søren, foredrag. "Havets kulturhistorie", 24. April 2024, Det Letterstedtske Selskab, Nordatlantisk Brygge, København, Danmark.
- Rosenbæk, Karl Emil. Oplæg. Fossil Fri Fremtid, 23. April 2024.
- Frank, Søren, foredrag. "The Coastal Anthropocene" på "Littoralité, littéararité, picturalité", 29. januar 2024, École Normale Supérieure, Paris, Frankrig.
- Frank, Søren, keynote. "A Poetic History of the Oceans" på "Nordic Blue Humanities", 26. January 2024, Sorbonne / École Pratiques des Hautes Études, Paris, Frankrig,
- Frank, Søren, keynote. "Big Blue Nordic" på "The Sea in Scandinavian Literature", 17.-19. January 2024, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt, Tyskland.
- Karl Emil Rosenbæk, paper. "The Sea in Scandinavian Literature", 17.-19. January 2024, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt, Tyskland.
- Rosenbæk, Karl Emil. Paper ved "Petrocultures 2024" 15.-18. May, University of Southern California, Los Angeles.

Conferences:

- Frank, Søren og Karl Emil Rosenbæk, both with paper. "Sea More Blue", 17.-20 June 2024, Université de Perpignan Via Domitia – Campus Moulin-à-Vent, Perpignan, Frankrig.

Life-Friendly Land-Sea Interactions

Dissemination:

- Presentation: Coastal Havoc in Holger Drachmann's "Efter Orkanen" (1872) and Peder Frederik Jensen's Rans vilje" (2023) December 13, 2023 at Beyond the Sea: Literature, Media and Cultural Techniques of the Maritime" Workshop - DIAS, University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark
- Presentation: "Coastal havoc in Peder Frederik Jensen's Rans vilje (2023) and Holger Drachmann's 'Efter Orkanen' (1881)" December 8, 2023 at Rethinking the rural North through environmental literature, film, and TV - Conference. University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark
- Lecture: Havet: en historie om monstre, fisk, maskiner og plastik. November 23, 2023 at KunstCentret Silkeborg Bad, Silkeborg, Denmark
- Presentation: "The Coastal Anthropocene: Literary Visions of Past and Future Shorelines", October 27, 2023 at Historicizing the Oceans – Workshop. NTNU, Trondheim, Norway
- Lecture: "Oceanic Literature and the Blue Humanities" October 24, 2023 at Centre for Languages and Literature (SOL). Lund University, Lund, Sweden
- Lecture: "Havets poetiske historie", September 25, 2023 Frank, Søren, foredrag. "Havets kulturhistorie", April 24, 2024, Det Letterstedtske Selskab, Nordatlantisk Brygge, København, Danmark.
- Voice: "Magiske lofter" September 22, 2023 → January 14, 2024. Frederiksborg Slot x Dark Matters. Frederiksborg Slot, Hillerød, Denmark
- Podcast: "Blå humaniora" September 6, 2023 Habitats. Copenhagen, Denmark
- Roundtable: "Anthropocene Aesthetics". September 3, 2023 in Den Røvsmalle Biograf Odense Film Festival. Odense, Denmark

Internal meetings:

- Rosenbæk, Karl Emil. Project manager of the reading circle: "Critical Techtopia", SDU. 4 meetings during F24.
- Frank, Søren. Project manager of the reading circle: "CoAnt", KU. 3 meetings during F24.

PI of the project is [Søren Frank](#)

Eco-literacy and Eco Engagement

How can students and teachers be supported in eco-formative engagement so that students not only think sustainably while at school but also in all other contexts where they can contribute to decision-making about our shared future?

Dissemination:

- August 2024 Paper on eco-engagement presented at the ECER 2024 conference.
- 04.09.2024 3h online Advisory Board meeting with Sinnes, Scheunpflug, Wegerif, Wals, and Mernild.
- 09.09.2024 Introduction workshop with 40 teachers involved in the project Eco-engagement and Eco-literacy.

Ongoing work:

- Currently conducting a review on the conceptualization of eco-engagement
- Currently developing a survey for measuring upper secondary school students' eco-engagement and eco-literacy.
- Currently developing interventions for both philosophical dialogue and dialogic video club interventions in the eco-engagement and eco-literacy project

PI of the project is [Ane Qvortrup](#)

Green Media Production Development

This project investigates the obstacles and motivations that Denmark's media production industry—the creators of our films and series—encounter in contributing more significantly to the green transition than the industry currently does. Both production processes and the content, the narratives themselves, can be made greener. The research team assists the industry in exploring how to achieve this. This project is led by Heidi Phillipsen and was not originally a part of CUHRE, but has been added as an extra project during the initial year.

Publication:

- Chapter in the anthology: 'Medier og bæredygtighed' (Grønning et al. 2024): Chapter 10 "Bæredygtiggørelse af nye talenter inden for dansk TV- og filmproduktion."

Dissemination:

- Presentation: 'How can screenwriting processes be advanced by focusing on green writing tools for the media production industry?' at SDG Film Festival conference in Jakarta (online)

Meetings:

- Workshop with project partners 27.05.24 at the company 'Produced By'.

Applications:

- Horizon Europe: "European Sustainable Greenplay"
- Creative Europe: "CLIMATIX"

Initiatives:

- Started working on an 'Ideforandringskatalog'

PI of the project is [Heidi Phillipsen](#)

