

## Visit to the 9th Norwegian Conference on the History of Science in Trondheim, Norway

The two GRK PhD candidates Jasmin Dierkes and Nora Schierenbeck travelled to Norway to take part in the [9th Norwegian Conference on the History of Science](#), which took place from 29<sup>th</sup> November – 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2023 in Trondheim, to present first results of their PhD projects. Together with [Eleanor Shaw](#), PhD candidate from the University of Manchester (UK), they organized a hybrid panel entitled “*Milestone or Millstones: Specialisms, journals and the teleological imposition of anniversaries*” in which the three speakers question the importance of anniversaries and emphasize gradual, cumulative changes in the medical field.

Sitting at the airport in Trondheim, Jasmin and Nora reflect on their experiences of the past days...

*Nora:* I have already attended other conferences but here it was the first time presenting in front of an international audience. What is the most important experience you have taken away with you?

*Jasmin:* I think the openness and friendly remarks by the other scholars and there is a connection to other projects by them.

*Nora:* Yes, that is a good point. What would you do again at the next conference?

*Jasmin:* I would connect with others attendants beforehand and/or organize a panel by myself. I think it is good to know who will come to the conference.

*Nora:* I think it was great that it was a conference especially for the History of Science, so I was able to connect to other scholars to the field. I also would try to as open-minded and communicative as possible to learn more about other projects and get in touch with different researchers.

*Jasmin:* What of the new things you learned inspired you the most (or surprised you)?

*Nora:* Honestly, I did not know that the Max-Planck-Society is such an international influential and well-known society beyond Germany. Other researchers mentioned this organization many times and it seems to be very important for the historical study of sciences.

*Jasmin:* Yes, that’s right. I was inspired my research projects about the Karolinska-Institute in Sweden. Now, I also would like to do research on that institution. It is a very important, historical, and big medical faculty in Sweden. I find it fascinating to understand the design of space as a social indicator.

*Nora:* And besides the conference, is Trondheim worth a trip?

*Jasmin:* Yes! I would say especially in this cold and dark time because it looks very picture-perfect with the bright houses, twinkle lights, and the river. And if you get the chance, definitely visit the Nidarosdom cathedral.

*Nora:* I totally agree. I did not have any expectations and was positively surprised. I really enjoyed the conference venue, the university buildings from NTNU, and especially the mountains with the snow surrounding the city.

*Jasmin:* Which moment of the conference do you remember most vividly?

*Nora:* The moment standing in front of the audience and talking about my PhD project.

*Jasmin:* I agree, and looking at the faces and seeing some smiles and nods was reassuring. And one of the senior researchers applauding and complementing us for our talks and being brave enough to talk (in a foreign language) in front of such an audience.

*Nora:* Yes, you are right! I also felt very supported and encouraged by more experienced researchers to continue with my project and attend other conferences. And what do you think, was the hybrid version of our panel a good alternative to the traditional format?

*Jasmin:* Yes, in comparison to not having had the opportunity to collaborate with Eleanor, it was better to have this hybrid version. But if it would not have been for her maternity leave, it would have been nice if she could have been there. Because we were sadly not able to meet in person for this collaboration.

*Nora:* I was very much impressed that everything worked out so well with the technical devices: From the Zoom talk to the microphone, so Eleanor was able to hear questions from the audience. But it was sad that she was not with us in Trondheim. It would have been great to meet in person and celebrate our panel afterwards together.



*Photo by Annette Lykkness*



