

The debate on the Anthropocene intensified in 2016. The influential British Newspaper *The Guardian* published a long article on the Anthropocene in April quoting Niels Bohr Professor Anna Tsing among the interviewed experts and in August the Working Group on the Anthropocene (AWG) with International Commission on Stratigraphy presented its preliminary recommendation to assign the Anthropocene as a geologic epoch.

AURA was actively engaged in both the public and the academic debate. Team members gave 53 invited talks and produced a total of 30 academic publications. Furthermore the AURA team and its research featured in the media 24 times (see appendix).

### Exhibition at MoMu: Mild Apocalypse

February 4 saw the opening of a new collaborative AURA exhibition at Moesgård Museum that explored the human-shaped landscape of the former brown coal extraction site at Søby. The intention of the exhibition was to show that apocalypse can take many forms and that the Anthropocene is also made up of unspectacular and 'mild' cases of human disturbance.

The research-based exhibition happened in collaboration between MoMu, the research projects C3NET and "Natural Goods" and AURA, and it received good publicity in the Danish press ([http://anthropocene.au.dk/fileadmin/Anthropocene/Anmeldelse\\_i\\_WA\\_af\\_MA.pdf](http://anthropocene.au.dk/fileadmin/Anthropocene/Anmeldelse_i_WA_af_MA.pdf))

### The Wilds of Jutland: Perspectives on the Danish Landscape.

AURA held a transdisciplinary *Landscape Seminar*, May 19, 2016 with lectures by Kenneth Olwig, (Professor Emeritus and cultural geographer), Bo Fritzbøger, (historian) and Jens-Christian Svenning, (Professor of Bioscience).

The event drew a large audience from a range of disciplines and resulted in an article in the Danish press. It was videotaped and can be seen here: <http://anthropocene.au.dk/conferences/the-wilds-of-jutland-perspectives-on-the-danish-landscape-may-19-2016/>

A PhD workshop with the invited guests was organised in conjunction with the seminar.



The AURA team with distinguished guests Professor Bruno Latour and Professor Isabelle Stengers at the browncoal field station in Søby.

### Distinguished visits: Bruno Latour and Isabelle Stengers

In June AURA had the great honor of hosting the influential philosopher, anthropologist and sociologist Bruno Latour and critical philosopher Professor Isabelle Stengers, well-known collaborator with Nobel Laureate Ilya Prigogine.

Professor Latour gave a well-attended public presentation in the Futures Lecture Series at Aarhus University in connection with the visit and Professor Stengers gave a keynote speech at the DASTS16 conference in Aarhus.

AURA organized an exclusive workshop with the two scientists on June 3 that focused on the work and research of the AURA researchers in the browncoal area of Søby. The workshop had a strong educational component as Professor Latour brought three of his PhD students from Paris who participated with AURA students in PhD workshop activities and during an overnight fieldtrip to Søby.

### PhD research environment

On the educational level AURA remains committed to ensuring a vibrant research environment for its PhD students, at the highest international level, an environment that includes core AURA PhDs and a continually growing number of visiting and affiliated PhDs, from Denmark and abroad.

In 2016 AURA hosted a series of PhD courses, writing and lab group meetings and field trips. We also welcomed no less than **seven** international visiting PhDs that participated in all AURA activities and benefitted from the unique research environment.



Mild Apocalypse at MoMu (Photo by Iga Kuriata)