



BIWEEKLY COLLOQUIUM
Monday, 28th of November 17.00

**THE ISTED LION – THE MOST TRAVELLED AND REINTERPRETED DANISH
MONUMENT**

Prof. Inge Adriansen, Museum Sønderjylland, Sønderborg Slot

This monument is a perfect example of a site of memory – well suited to mark distinct and conflicting recollections and to illustrate changing roles and meanings.

The Isted Lion, created by the Danish sculptor Herman Wilhelm Bissen, was inaugurated with great pomp in 1862 at the St. Mary's Cemetery in Flensburg. It was commissioned as a Danish monument of victory and a sepulchral memorial site for Danish soldiers fallen in the battle of Isted in the Slesvig War of 1850. After the 1864 war, in which Germany was victorious, the giant metal lion was torn down from its plinth and taken to Berlin, where the monument served as a German trophy until September 1945. After the 2nd World War, a request for return was made and American troops carried the monument to Copenhagen and handed it over to the Danish King, it was received as a representative of the Danish nation. The rightful location of the monument has since then been the subject of questions in the Danish parliament and has been vehemently debated in the city council in Flensburg. Meanwhile, a final twist to its history is about to take place and in September 2011 the Isted Lion will be carried back to Flensburg and re-inaugurated at its original site.

This paper aims to trace this history of changing contestation, and details the discourse that follows its changing roles and meanings.

Venue: Leibnizstraße 1, Seminar Room 204