

## Abstract

Denmark possesses an extraordinary collection of well-preserved textiles and skins from Danish prehistory as well as archaeological and historical skins and costumes from the circumpolar area. Much research has focused on how these textiles and skin garments were produced. Recently, textile research has endeavoured to move beyond this and investigate prehistoric costumes as the output of interactions between resources, technology and society. As some of these aspects are difficult to investigate archaeologically, especially studies of the character of the raw materials used for textile and skin production, fresh approaches are needed, including new methods.

This thesis investigates archaeological and historical skin garments and textiles using an interdisciplinary approach that combines biomolecular methods, archaeology and textile research. The aims of this thesis are first to investigate the development of sheep wool and secondly to species identify archaeological and historical skins.