Laur Kanger is a research fellow in transitions studies in the University of Sussex and a lecturer in technology studies in the University of Tartu. He is interested in long-term socio-technical change, historical macro-evolution of societies and social theory. Being a theorist at heart Laur is also proficient in qualitative methodology.

Oleg Sobchuk is a PhD student and a junior researcher in comparative literature in Tartu. He is studying the main principles of the evolution of arts, e.g. how our shared psychology drives the development of high-brow novels or low-brow thriller films. His research combines humanities with the cognitive science, statistics, and computation.

Peeter Tinits is a PhD student in linguistics in Tallinn University who is also teaching experimental semiotics at Tartu. His research has aimed at understanding the drivers and directions in the evolution of cultural practices – be they linguistic, artistic or heuristic. Peeter can help with quantitative analysis of large volumes of texts and data.

WHAT'S ALL THIS THEN?

Not much. Just 3 guys from different disciplines and with different backgrounds, united by a common interest in:

- **Cultural evolution**: the principles of variation, selection and retention can be usefully applied to cultural traits, including technologies, languages, works of art and much more
- **Epic time-scale**: some processes occur in a blink of an eye. Some take decades and more. We are more interested in the latter
- **Interdisciplinarity**: each of us is a bit bored with our parent discipline. And each of us knows that true discoveries come from gaps between disciplines anyway
- **Belief in you**: we believe that thinking big and researching big requires only one thing – to get on with it! See our choice of topics in the envelope below (bottom right corner of the poster)

WHAT WE OFFER:

- **Demanding but committed supervision**: at least two of us will be working closely with you from the start, guaranteeing an intellectually enriching environment
- **Individualized study track**: for each project a portfolio of courses will be planned for you so that you can maximize your skill-set for studying the particular topic
- **Interesting and cutting-edge topics**: you will get to tackle problems no one else has managed to solve so far. Academically-speaking that is as close to awesome as it gets
- **Further opportunities**: in case you manage to complete the thesis successfully there are ample opportunities for publication and future collaboration

SOUNDS INTERESTING BUT I HAVE A FEW QUESTIONS:

**Are you targeting MA or BA students?**
Mainly MA although if you are a motivated and bright BA student we certainly won’t turn you down.

**Aren't the topics way too broad?**
Yes, they are! (Didn’t we mention we were interested in epic time-scale?) But in terms of tasks every project will be narrowed down to a manageable level. And this will be determined in already in the early phase of each project.

**Can I come up with my own topic?**
Yes, naturally, but at least two of us need to be interested in it. That being said, we would prefer if you chose one of our topics instead...

**I am a bit worried that the topic does not match the profile of the institute...**
You shouldn’t. This is a non-issue. Really. We can even negotiate the topic for you if need be.

OK, I'm hooked! So what should I do?
Why, get in touch as quickly as possible of course! The contacts are as follows:
- **Laur Kanger**: laur.kanger@ut.ee
- **Oleg Sobchuk**: kuchbos@gmail.com
- **Peeter Tinits**: peeter.tinits@gmail.com