

*Imitation and Classicism in Hellenistic Textual
Worlds: Literary Devices and Ethical Implications*

Sandbjerg Estate - Aarhus, Denmark

June 19th - 21st

The seminar is organized by the PhD program of Theology, History of Ideas and Philosophy at Aarhus University, School of Arts and the New Testament Studies Research Unit.

The framework is inter-disciplinary and relevant to the fields of Hellenistic Judaism, Early Christianity, Classics and (ancient) literary studies.

The research question is: How are imitation and classicism used and developed as literary and rhetorical tools in literary and religious texts in the Hellenistic-Roman period?

For discussion are:

- The concept of a 'literary canon' that is defined, both as a distinct body of authorial writings (in the works of Hellenistic-Roman authors) and as a corpus of authoritative texts, which Hellenistic authors (Jewish, pagan, and Christian) refer to in terms of scriptural reference.
- The stylistic feature of 'archaism' in the Hellenistic period, where authors deliberately employed Atticism and archaic language to underscore their competence and authority.
- The literary element/technique of 'imitation' of classical ideals and literary concepts in Hellenistic writings, as well as in Hellenistic Judaism and early Christianity.
- The ethical implications and impact of these literary devices.

Senior scholars presenting papers are:

- Dr. Eve-Marie Becker (Professor, New Testament at Aarhus University)
- Dr. Susan E. Hylen (Assoc. Professor, New Testament at Emory University)
- Dr. George Hinge (Lecturer, Classics at Aarhus University)
- Dr. Sylvie Honigman (Professor, Ancient history at Tel Aviv University)
- Dr. Casper C. de Jonge (Lecturer, Classics at Leiden University)
- Dr. Nicolas Wiater (Lecturer, Classics at St. Andrews University)
- Dr. Hermut Loehr (Professor, New Testament at the University of Muenster)
- Dr. Dr. h.c. Oda Wischmeyer (Professor emeritus, New Testament at the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg)