

CONTEXT AND SUBJECT OF THE CONFERENCE

The third conference of the DFG-research project “The Ancient Fable Tradition and Early Christian Literature” provides an opportunity for dialogue between different areas of scholarship on aging that have rarely been in conversation before.

It explores, on the one hand, the ethics of aging in ancient Jewish, early Christian, and Greek and Roman sources and traditions, with special attention to the ancient fable tradition. On the other hand, it creates a hermeneutical bridge with present-day gerontological research by critically reflecting on the modern Western discourse of aging and its ensuing norms and values.

With its emphasis on interdisciplinary discussion, the conference aims to answer several questions: To what extent is the ethics of aging dependent on culture? How have ancient ethical norms and values regarding old age persisted until today or how have they been transformed across time? How can ancient perspectives on old age enrich our present-day attitudes towards aging—and vice versa?

ORGANIZERS:

Dr. Albertina Oegema

albertina.oegema@uni-mainz.de
+31617244936

Prof. Dr. Ruben Zimmermann

ruben.zimmermann@uni-mainz.de
+4915788044350

Anne Hamann

hamanna@students.uni-mainz.de
+4917631335774

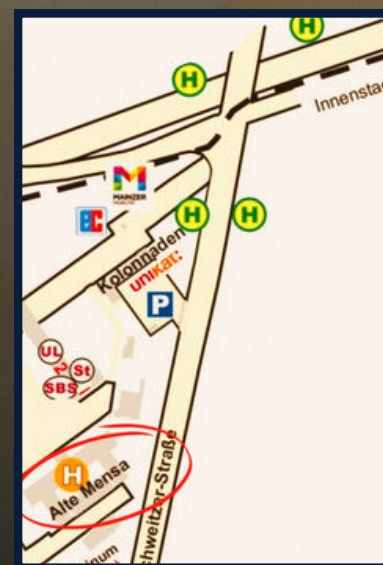
REGISTRATION:

Send an email with the subject “Registration” to
hamanna@students.uni-mainz.de by May 20

LOCATIONS:

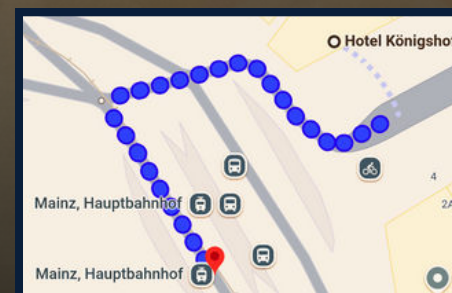
CONFERENCE ROOM:

Atrium Maximum
Alte Mensa
Johannes Gutenberg
University
Johann-Joachim-
Becher-Weg 5
55128 Mainz, Germany



HOTEL:

Hotel Königshof
Schottstraße 1-5
55116 Mainz



May
26-28,
2025

THE ETHICS OF AGING

*in Graeco-Roman
Antiquity and Beyond*

MONDAY | MAY 26TH

12:30 Entrance with Coffee/Tea

13:00 *Welcome by Albertina Oegema*

13:15-14:00 *Jan Baars*

Structural Contexts of Aging: Their Moral Poverty and Classical Inspirations

14:00-14:45 *Christine Walde*

The Old Man and the Garden: A Topos of Graeco-Roman Literature?

14:45-15:15 Coffee/Tea Break

15:15-16:00 *Reuven Kiperwasser*

“That Is No Country for Old Men?” Typology of Elders in Rabbinic Storytelling

16:00-16:45 *Mira Balberg*

No Country for Old Men: Grappling with Old Age in 20th Century Hebrew Culture (online)

18:00 Excursion Mainz

19:30 Dinner @ Zum grünen Kakadu

address:
Gutenbergplatz 3-5,
55116 Mainz

TUESDAY | MAY 27TH

9:15 Entrance

9:30-10:15 *Peter Wick*

Age as a Testimony in the New Testament

10:15-11:00 *Chris L. de Wet*

Intersectionality, Kyriarchal Systems of Marginalization, and the Paradox of Elderly Care in the New Testament: The Case of Paul and Onesimus (online)

11:00-11:30 Coffee/Tea Break

11:30-12:15 *Michael Sommer*

Widows and Early Christianity: A Socio-Historical Perspective on Ideas, Stereotypes, and Clichés

12:15-13:00 *Lisa Brunet*

Avi pientissimi: The Ethics of Grandparenthood in Rome and Early Christianity

13:00-14:30 Lunch @ Baron

14:30-15:15 *Joseph Scales*

Jewish Representations and Realities of Being Elderly during Wartime in Antiquity

15:15-16:00 *Hartwin Brandt*

The Idea of a Good Death in Graeco-Roman Antiquity

16:00-16:45 *Els van Wijngaarden*

Aging and Dying Well in Contemporary Contexts

16:45 Coffee/Tea Break

PUBLIC LECTURE | MAY 27TH

17:45 Entrance

18:00 *Christian Grethlein*

Altern heute: Ethische Herausforderungen und Chancen

19:30 Catered Dinner

WEDNESDAY | MAY 28TH

9:15 Entrance

9:30-10:15 *Caterina Mordeglia*

The Ethics of Aging in the Classical and Medieval Latin Fable

10:15-11:00 *Hedwig Schmalzgruber*

“Not My Spirit But My Strength Failed”: Old Animals in Ancient Fables

11:00-11:45 *Charlotte Haufßmann*

Old Age and Narrative Ethics in Babrios’ *Mythiamboi*

11:45-12:15 Coffee/Tea Break

12:15-13:00 *Benjamin Heim*

Old Fabulists in the Aesopic Tradition

13:00-13:45 *Nina Van der Sype*

Improba naturae dicere iura nefas: Values and Norms of Older Age in Maximianus’ *Elegiae* (sixth century AD)

13:45 *Final Discussion*

14:30 Lunch @ Baron