

## Symposium on Religion and Social Welfare. Lutheranism and Societal Development.

Research has pointed to similarities in European development across confessions from the Reformation onwards, and likewise to the fact that understandings and systems of welfare within Europe today follow confessional boundaries. While the reformation changed legal responsibility for the poor in the Protestant countries, continuity from the middle ages is also obvious.

Each of the three major confessions in Europe has its specific perception of deserving and undeserving poor, of work, of social responsibility and authority, but the consequences of this in relation to poor relief and social responsibility in general have been debated.

When Max Weber developed his work on *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*, he deliberately and almost exclusively drew on the reformed tradition and Calvinism. Nevertheless, there has been a strong tendency in academic work to use his results as covering both the reformed and the Lutheran countries. The aim of this symposium is to challenge this understanding of Protestantism as one and discuss the possibility of talking of a Lutheran social ethic or teaching with consequences for the development of a Nordic model for societal development and, eventually, welfare.

The symposium is the first of two to be held in collaboration between LUMEN, Center for the Study of Lutheran Theology and Confessional Societies and AIAS, Aarhus Center for Advanced Studies, with support from the research programs at the Department of Theology and the Department of History and Classical Studies. The symposiums will address questions central to investigations into the influence of religion on societal development and the formation of welfare states.

Date: Monday 19<sup>th</sup> of March 2018

Time: 9.30 am - 6 pm

Place: AIAS

### **Program**

9.30-10.00

- Registration and Coffee

10.00-10.15

- Welcome

10.15-11.15

- Professor Robert Nelson (University of Maryland): Lutheranism and the Nordic Spirit of Social Democracy. A Different Protestant Ethic.
- Commentators
  - Mary Hilson
  - Charlotte Appel
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11.15-12.15

- Professor Leen van Molle (KU Leuven): Celibacy, Courtship or Marriage? Religions in the maelstrom of Social Modernity
- Commentators
  - Andrew Newby
  - Bo Kristian Holm

12.30-13.30

- Lunch

13.30-14.30

- Professor Jørn Henrik Petersen (University of Southern Denmark): Does Luther have a Paternity Case? Reflections on Luther and the Danish Welfare State.
- Commentators
  - Bo Kristian Holm
  - Mary Hilson

14.30-15.30

- Professor Pirjo Markkola (University of Tampere): Family, Gender and Lutheranism in the 20th Century: The Case of Finland
- Commentators
  - Charlotte Appel
  - Thorsten B. Olesen

15.30-16.00

- Coffee

16.00-17.00

- Associate Professor Nina Javette Koefoed (University of Aarhus): Lutheran Authority and Social Responsibility in 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Century Denmark.
- Commentators
  - Andrew Newby
  - Thorsten B. Olesen

17.00-18.00

- Final discussion
  - Chair Bo Kristian Holm