

Popular Receptions of Classical Antiquity

The Aarhus Studies in Mediterranean Antiquity 2021 Conference

Aarhus University, Denmark

2-3 September 2021



Hulk vs Hercules (from Incredible Hulk vol. 2, 107, 2007).

Taking as its point of departure the astounding longevity and ubiquity in our culture of so many themes, genres, visual forms and personalities from the ancient Greek and Roman world, this conference focuses on popular receptions of Classical Antiquity. In doing so, we will explore specific receptions that make immediate sense in a 'present' and among large, popular audiences. In particular, it will focus on three main themes: the reception of Classical Antiquity in Danish popular culture, in popular music, as well as the popular reception of individual lives in both antiquity and later periods.

The conference is a collaboration between the research programme "Classical Antiquity and its Heritage", the Centre for the Study of Antiquity and Christianity (C-SAC), and Aarhus Institute of Advanced Studies (AIAS). The conference is sponsored by the Carlsberg Foundation and the AU School of Culture and Society.

Organising committee: Christian Thue Djurslev, Jakob Engberg, Jens A. Krasilnikoff, Troels Myrup Kristensen, Vinnie Nørskov, Marianne Pade and Isabelle Torrance.

Programme

Thursday 2 September

09:30 Registration and coffee

Keynote 1

10:00 Edith Hall, KCL: *The Iliad Beyond the Academy in the 21st Century*

11:15 Coffee

Keynote 2

11:45 Trine Arlund Hass, AU/Oxford: *The Rubicon of Stevns: Julius Caesar and King Christian IV of Denmark-Norway in Elverhøi (1828) and Asterix romernes skræk (1972, orig.: Le bouclier Arverne, 1967).*

13:00 Lunch

Paper Session 1: Classical Antiquity and Danish Popular Culture

14:30 Vinnie Nørskov, AU: *The Unruly Power of Myth: Classical Narratives in Contemporary Danish Art*

15:15 Jakob Engberg, AU: *From Wronged Imperialists in Search of Peace to Emperors as Puppets of Germanic Chieftains: The Romans and the Roman Empire in Claus Deleuran's "The Illustrated Danish History for the People"*

16:00 Coffee

16:30 Jens Krasilnikoff, AU: *Finding Pericles Lost. Danish Travel Accounts and Nostalgic Encounters with 19th Century Greece in Transition*

17:15 Conclusion

19:00 Dinner for speakers and chairs

Friday 3 September

Keynote 3

09:00 Lorna Hardwick, Open University: *What's Behind the Label?*

10:15 Coffee

Paper Session 2: Classical Antiquity in Popular Music

10:45 Gregory Darwin, Uppsala: *Ór na Gréige is stór na hÉigipt: Classical Antiquity in Irish Song Tradition*

11:30 Christian Djurslev, AU: *Tomyris: A Killer Queen in Heavy Metal Music*

12:15 Lunch

13:30 Jo Paul, Open University: *Amplification, Reverberation, and Distortion: The Curious Story of Pompeii in Popular Music*

Paper Session 3: Popular Receptions of Individual Lives from Classical Antiquity

14:15 Andrew Faulkner, Waterloo: *Between Poetry and Prose: Eudocia's Martyrdom of Saints Cyprian and Justina*

15:00 Marianne Pade, AU: *The Vernacular Alexander*

15:45 Coffee

Keynote 4

16:15 Toph Marshall, UBC (remote): *Hercules and the Incredible Hulk*

17:30 Conclusion