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 Thrue 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
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

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