

## 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:

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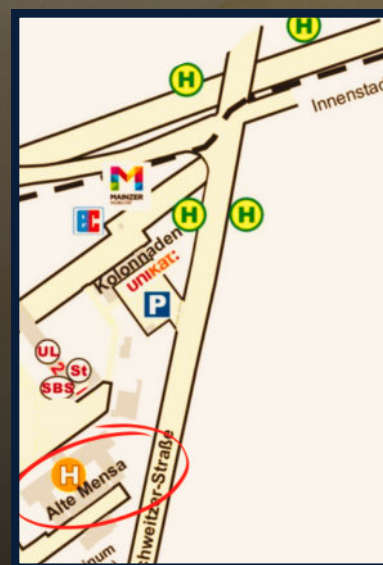
### REGISTRATION:

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

### LOCATIONS:

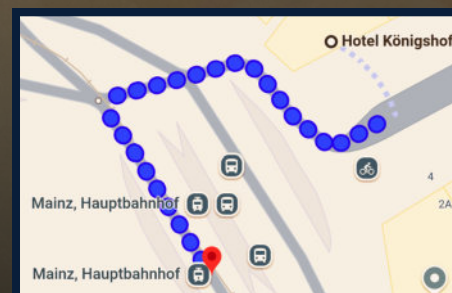
#### CONFERENCE ROOM:

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** *Nina Van der Syde*

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

18:00 Excursion Mainz

*Alter Dom Mainz (Ulrich Volp)*

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 Mordegli*

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

11:45-12:15 Coffee/Tea Break

**11:00-11:45** *Charlotte Haußmann*

Old Age and Narrative Ethics in Babrios’ *Mythiamboi*

**12:15-13:00** *Benjamin Heim*

Old Fabulists in the Aesopic Tradition

**13:00** *Final Discussion*

14:00 Lunch @ Baron