

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Gospel of John as Genre Mosaic

Conference at Aarhus University, Denmark

June 23-26, 2014

Conference website: nt.au.dk/en/the-gospel-of-john-as-genre-mosaic

Conference Subject

In recent decades Johannine scholarship has developed an increasing interest in the interactions between the Fourth Gospel and the literary conventions of genre and form in the ancient Jewish and Greco-Roman context. A new form criticism is emerging. This form criticism is not focused on the early formation of the Jesus tradition but on the relation between genre, ideology/theology, and social location in the Gospel in order to determine how the text communicates by means of ‘genre bending’ (Harold W. Attridge). This interest in generic conventions and modulations regards the Johannine Gospel as a whole (gospel, *bios*, drama, *encomium*, romance, etc.), but pertains even more to the various tiles that constitute the Gospel’s genre mosaic, for example, hymnic prologue (John 1:1-18), *chreia* (e.g., John 1), dialogue (John 3), betrothal type-scene (John 4), forensic oratory (John 5; 7–8), homiletic midrash (John 6), parable (John 10; 14), farewell discourse (John 13–17), prayer (e.g., John 17), symposium (John 13–17), *consolationes* (John 13–17), *ultima verba* (John 19–20), and recognition scene (John 20–21).

This interdisciplinary conference brings Johannine scholars together with classicists and literary theorists in order to further our understanding of the Gospel of John in its ancient literary milieu. Three discussions will be of particular interest:

1) *The Gospel of John in light of Ancient and Modern Genre Theory*

Research questions:

- What were the concepts of genre in Antiquity and are they relevant in a Johannine context?
- What sort of genre consciousness can be detected among writers, readers, and audiences in ancient Christian, Jewish, and Greco-Roman Literature?
- How may modern genre theory contribute to our understanding of the production and reception of literature in general and of the Fourth Gospel in particular?
- Does genre matter in relation to the Gospel of John?
- To what extent are generic approaches to the Fourth Gospel formalistic, deterministic, and circular?
- How does genre relate to other types of intertextuality?
- In what sense are genres vehicles of particular social and theological problems and ideologies?
- What are the implicit and explicit understandings of genre in modern Johannine scholarship?

2) *The Fourth Gospel as a Whole: Recent Developments in Genre History*

Research questions:

- What is the place of the Fourth Gospel in the history of early Christian gospel literature as well as in Jewish and Greco-Roman literature?

- Does the Fourth Gospel as a whole display generic awareness in relation to earlier Gospel tradition and other kinds of ancient literature?
- What are the distinctives of the Fourth Gospel when seen from the point of view of genre history?

3) *The Tiles of the Mosaic: Literary Forms in John's Gospel*

Research questions:

- What are the literary forms (*Gattungen*) that make up the Fourth Gospel?
- How do they relate to other examples of the same forms—in the Gospel itself and beyond it?
- Can they be determined as intended by the author, or do they represent ancient reader or audience perspectives?
- How do micro-genre and macro-genre interact?
- What particular examples of genre criticism reveal new insights to Johannine and Biblical scholarship?
- Are Johannine literary forms and scenes subject to generic modulation in the reception history of the Gospel in early Christianity?
- How did the readers of the Gospel in early Christianity reflect upon the macro/micro genres of the text?

Submission and Review of Paper Proposals

Papers are invited on all aspects relating to the conference subject. Paper proposals (of no more than 400 words) may be submitted to Assoc. Prof. Kasper Bro Larsen (kbl@teo.au.dk) by January 10, 2014. Paper proposals will be peer-reviewed, and applicants will receive information concerning acceptance/non-acceptance by February 6. Accepted papers must be submitted in a full version (not exceeding 20 pages) by May 26 for distribution among the conference participants. At the venue, presenters do not read their paper in full, but summarize it in order to facilitate discussion.

Registration and Conference Fee

Online registration at the conference [website](#) opens on February 1 and closes May 15, 2014. The participation fee (including all meals) is 500 DKR (70 Euro/90 US \$) for paper presenters, and 1500 DKR (210 Euro/270 US \$) for participants without presentation. See the conference website for recommended accommodation (not included in conference fee).

Invited Speakers (of August 2013)

Harold Y. Attridge (Yale), Colleen Conway (Seton Hall), Jörg Frey (Zürich), George Parsenios (Princeton), Troels Engberg-Pedersen (Copenhagen), Gitte Buch-Hansen (Copenhagen), Ruth Sheridan (Melbourne), Sune Auken (Copenhagen)

Programme

Monday, June 23

Welcome and opening lectures

Tuesday, June 24

1) The Gospel of John in light of Ancient and Modern Genre Theory

2) The Mosaic as a Whole: The Gospel of John in the History of Early Christian Gospel Literature

Wednesday, June 25

3a) The Tiles of the Mosaic: Readings in John 1–12

Thursday, June 26

3b) The Tiles of the Mosaic: Readings in John 13–21

Publication

A selection of approximately twenty conference papers will appear in a volume in the new *Studia Aarhusiana Neotestamentica* series (SANt) at Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, Göttingen in 2015. The editorial board of the series peer reviews the contributions.

Organizers

The conference is organized by Assoc. Prof. Kasper Bro Larsen and the Research Unit in New Testament Studies, Department of Culture and Society, University of Aarhus.

Conference website

For further information and updates, see nt.au.dk/en/the-gospel-of-john-as-genre-mosaic