

Nordic New Testament Conference

CALL FOR PAPERS

The 2022 Nordic New Testament Conference (postponed from June 2021) will take place on Friday **June 10** to Tuesday **June 14**, 2022 in Kristiansand, Norway at the University of Agder. The conference supports Nordic scholarship on Early Christianity and the New Testament by bringing together the Nordic community of scholars for exchange, discussions and inspiration.

This is an **invitation to propose a paper** to any one of the following six seminars hosted by the conference. Nordic scholars holding or pursuing a doctoral degree can propose a paper. A wide range of perspectives and topics are welcome to mirror all the different interests and projects of Nordic scholars of Early Christianity and its contexts and aftermath, as e.g. theory, methodology, historical issues, exegetical issues, texts and ideas, genre, literacy, reception, and digital humanities. Please be aware that the conference will also host special sessions for doctoral student presentations (see below).

1. **Manuscripts, Material Culture, and Archaeology** (chair: Kasper Bro Larsen)

This seminar invites papers on topics relating to New Testament manuscripts, textual criticism, early Christian material culture, papyrology, archaeology, and critical provenance research. In recent years, Biblical studies, also in the Nordic countries, has witnessed a growing interest in the material aspects of the early Christ movement and its manuscript culture. In text criticism, for example, the study of variants has become a genuine goal in itself; in papyrology, new dating methods and revisionary manuscript analyses have appeared; and so-called new/material philology has turned focus toward scribal and performative practices as well as the artifactual qualities of individual biblical manuscripts. The seminar facilitates discussion of any of the mentioned topics.

Please send proposal as attached file to the chair (kbl@cas.au.dk)

2. **Translating the Bible: From Text to Context** (chair: Morten Beckmann)

Translation is no neutral enterprise. In the last three decades, Translation Studies have focused on how translations are affected by the cultural context in which they are produced. This shift has led the attention away from assessing translations solely with regard to how «accurate» they render the source text to the multiple socio-cultural (contextual) factors that influence the choice of translation. No translation is made in a vacuum, and every translation is made for a reason. Surprisingly little attention is paid to how Bible translations are influenced by the contextual factors from the time of their production. This seminar invites papers related to the wide question «What is translation» including papers that highlight how the texts, that is Bible translations (ancient or modern), are linked with contextual factors of the target culture. Translations can facilitate ideological aims of the translator(s) within the receiving culture. Relevant themes may for instance be how the different views of theology, gender, homosexuality, politics, slavery are reflected in Bible translations. This list is by no means exhaustive. We also invite papers that deal with relevant issues from a theoretical point of view.

Please send proposal as attached file to the chair (morten.beckmann@uia.no)

3. **Jesus and the Gospels** (chair: Tobias Hågerland)

For this seminar, papers are invited that deal with any aspect of Gospel research. Particularly welcome are papers that contribute to the ongoing debates on the relationship between the Gospels, either with a focus on the synoptic problem or on John's relationship with the synoptic Gospels. Another area of current interest is the question of theories and methods for (re)constructions of the historical Jesus. In addition to this, we welcome proposals taking any exegetical approach to specific issues of Gospel interpretation, ranging from historical and

redaction criticism via narrative and theological interpretation to reception history and ideological criticism.

Please send proposal as attached file to the chair (tobias.hagerland@lir.gu.se)

4. **Global Receptions and Recent Approaches** (chair: Marianne Bjelland Kartzow)
For a few decades now, more attention in the field has been directed to how NT texts have been used, interpreted, misused or misunderstood in the global history of reception and scholarship. The dynamics between the ancient texts themselves and their complex meaning production across time and place have been studied by help of several interdisciplinary approaches. This seminar pays attention to texts, interpretations and receptions in an overall critical manner, and welcomes papers dealing with for example NT in art and literature, Bible and migration, post-colonial studies, environmental and eco-justice approaches, gender/intersectional readings and interreligious approaches to NT.
Please send proposal as attached file to the chair (m.b.kartzow@teologi.uio.no)
5. **Literature and Language** (chair: Maria Sturesson)
New testament texts, their form and function, are still very much debated and discussed among scholars. How and why these texts make use of language and literary tradition, or influence such is the overall topic of this seminar with a general aim to understand something more of the literary environment in which the New Testament texts take shape. This seminar invites papers concerned with literary aspects in a very broad sense. Proposals may have a genre interest or intertextual perspective. They can be related to specific questions of a certain text or concerned with literary tradition in relation to other Jewish and Christian material and the way that New Testament texts use, or are used in, other literary sources. Of interest is also how the texts relate to literary cognitive elements or the way that literary forms are used in the texts. Proposals for this seminar may also have a focus concerned with linguistic details, metaphor, or narrative elements or characters in the New Testament texts.
Please send proposal as attached file to the chair (maria.sturesson@ctr.lu.se)
6. **Education, Bildung, Literacy: “Not Even Fools, Shall Go Astray”** (chair: Tor Vegge)
This seminar invites papers within a wide range of topics with relevance for The New Testament, Early Christianity, and contemporary discussions of relations between religion and education, papers which in some way are related to the broad subjects Bildung, education, literacy and religion. Among issues of interest are literacy in the broader sense (Jewish, Greek, Roman); rhetoric, philosophy, educational concepts; education – revelation; educational practices; learning; orality, literacy, and the interaction between them; education recorded (books, manuscripts, traditions, memory, sacred scriptures); education interpreted (interpretation of traditions and authoritative texts); education communicated (learning, teaching, exercise, guidance, counselling); education – contents/discourses (world view, concepts of knowledge, morals); education – institutions (pupils, teachers, schools); education, social class, gender; and also contemporary issues within pedagogics and didactics and issues related to religion and education.
Please send proposal as attached file to the chair (tor.vegge@uia.no)
- **Doctoral sessions for early stage projects** (chair: Moona Kinnunen)
The conference will also host special sessions for doctoral student presentations. Those doctoral students who do not wish to read a paper in any of the above mentioned seminars are invited to give a brief presentation (ca. 20 min + discussion) on their work to gain feedback from scholars and other students. Please indicate your interest in a student presentation by sending the title of your work and a short description of it (max. 300 words) to Moona (moona.kinnunen@helsinki.fi)

We ask you to send proposals for papers to the chairs within **January 28, 2022**. The seminar chairs organize the review process; together with the committee, they are responsible for assessing the

quality of the proposals and for setting up a program for the seminars. The review process is finalized by March 4, 2022.

The **language** used in lectures, seminars and panels is English.

Participants: Scholars who (1) hold a PhD degree/are enrolled in a PhD candidate programme and are also (2) affiliated by institution or citizenship to the Nordic countries. Guests may participate with special permission from the conference committee chair.

The conference program will consist of seminars, lectures, a panel discussion and an Open Mic/Group intelligence session (more information on this will be provided later).

The University of Agder has all the facilities needed for our conference, and Kristiansand has accommodation and everything else we need for the days in June. We really hope you will find it rewarding to join colleagues in Kristiansand in the early summer of 2022.

The conference committee

Tobias Hägerland (Sweden)
Marianne Bjelland Kartzow (Norway)
Kasper Bro Larsen (Denmark)
Nina Nikki (Finland)
Maria Sturesson (Sweden)
Runar M. Thorsteinsson (Iceland)
Moona Kinnunen (Finland)
Tor Vegge (Norway, chair, local organizer)

For questions, comments, further information don't hesitate to contact Tor Vegge or one of the other committee members.

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