



## Philo of Alexandria and Philosophical Discourse

Philo of Alexandria (ca. 15 BCE — ca. 45 CE) is one of the most prolific and important witnesses to Hellenistic Judaism in the Roman period. His writings are of interest to students of the Classics, Religious Studies, and Ancient Philosophy. This international, inter-religious Tagung will investigate the way Philo uses philosophical texts, traditions, schools, and images to fashion a new Jewish philosophical discourse. Participants will consider the theme both from the perspective of Philo's private, Jewish educational program, as well as from his modelling of a public philosophical identity, as he negotiated the often precarious political stage of Roman imperial life. Special attention will be paid to Philo's library, within the context of other philosophical libraries; Philo's philosophical treatises; his relationship to Stoicism, Scepticism, and Middle Platonism; and the difficulty of balancing religious and philosophical commitments.

### Venue

#### Sunday

Evangelisch - Theologische Fakultät  
Universitätsstraße 13-17, Raum ETH 102  
48143 Münster

#### Monday

Institutum Judaicum Delitzschianum  
Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster  
Wilmergasse 1  
48143 Münster

Please register by 3 May 2019 with Maria Arnhold  
(arnhold@uni-muenster.de)

#### Conference Organizers

Prof. Dr. Lutz Doering (WWU Münster)  
Dr. Michael Cover (Marquette University / Humboldt Fellow, WWU Münster)

Fotos: Dr. Michael Cover; Wikimedia Commons: Roman mosaic of the 1st century BCE from Pompeii, National Archaeological Museum, Naples, Inv. No. 124545



WWU  
MÜNSTER



Institutum Judaicum  
Delitzschianum

ANTIKES JUDENTUM UND CHRISTLICH-JÜDISCHE BEZIEHUNGEN

## > Philo of Alexandria and Philosophical Discourse

12–13 May 2019

Unterstützt von / Supported by



Alexander von Humboldt  
Stiftung/Foundation

wissen.leben

## Sunday, 12 May 2019

### BREAKFAST AT HOTEL

### SUNDAY CONFERENCE VENUE

Evangelisch - Theologische Fakultät  
Universitätsstraße 13-17, Raum ETH 102

12.00–13.00 Gathering for Lunch (Location TBD)

13.00–13.15 Welcome and Opening Remarks

### SESSION 1 – PHILO JUDAEUS IN DIALOGUE WITH PHILOSOPHICAL SCHOOLS AND TRADITIONS

13.15–14.15 “Philo’s Library and the Libraries of Philosophical Schools”

Gregory Sterling, Yale Divinity School

14.15–14.45 Coffee Break

14.45–15.45 “The Difficulty of Being Theologically and Philosophically Orthodox: Reincarnation and Afterlife as a Test Case”

Rainer Hirsch-Luipold, Universität Bern

### SESSION 2 – PHILO’S PHILOSOPHICAL TREATISES: THE CASE OF *QUOD OMNIS PROBUS LIBER SIT*

15.45–16.45 “Exemplary Ethics in Philo’s *Every Good Man is Free*”

Maren Niehoff, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

## Sunday, 12 May 2019 (cont.)

16.45–17.15 Coffee Break

17.15–18.15 “Stoicism, Platonism and Judaism in the *Omnis Probus: Philo’s Authorial Stance*”

Troels Engberg-Pedersen, University of Copenhagen

### RESPONSE

18.15–18.45 Response to Sessions 1 & 2

David Runia, IRCI, Australian Catholic University

19.00 Dinner (Location TBD)

## Monday, 13 May 2019

### MONDAY CONFERENCE VENUE

Institutum Judaicum Delitzschianum  
Wilmergasse 1

### SESSION 3 – PHILO AND SCEPTICAL PHILOSOPHY

9.00–10.00 “Is Philo’s Moses a Pyrrhonian Hero?”

Carlos Lévy, Université Paris-Sorbonne (Paris IV)

10.00–10.30 Coffee Break

10.30–11.30 “Scepticism and Contemplation in Philo of Alexandria”

Mauro Bonazzi, University of Utrecht

## Monday, 13 May 2019 (cont.)

11.30–12.00 Optional: Tour of IJD Library

12.00–14.00 Lunch (location TBD)

### SESSION 4 – PHILO’S PHILOSOPHY OF LANGUAGE

14.00–15.00 “What’s in a Name Change? Neo-Pythagorean Arithmology and Middle-Platonic Namewrights in Philo’s Orchard of Philosophy”

Michael Cover, Marquette University / Humboldt Fellow, WWU Münster

15.00–15.30 Coffee Break

### RESPONSES

15.30–16.00 Response to Sessions 3 & 4

David Runia, IRCI, Australian Catholic University

16.00–16.30 Summary Discussion and Publication Plans

Lutz Doering, WWU Münster, moderator

18.00 Dinner (for remaining participants)