



CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF LUTHERN THEOLOGY AND CONFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

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This Year in LUMEN was first of all marked by our two Guest scholars, Fredrik Thue and Piotr Malysz, who stayed at LUMEN and took part in the daily activities for some months to mutual benefit.

Jette Bendixen Rønkilde was appointed adjunct associate professor at Aarhus University, in order to tighten the bonds between Jette Rønkilde and the activities in LUMEN. Bo Kristian Holm, attended the first meeting in the Joint Working Group between the World Council of Churches and the Roman Catholic Church, to which he has been appointed as the only member with a Lutheran background.

At the turn of the year the final book from the collaborative project *The Nordic Household State* was published at Makadam Förlag in Stockholm, arguing for the “household state” as the common dominator for the two Lutheran monarchies in Scandinavia.

The attached project *Voices of the People*, led by LUMEN member Nina Koefoed launched the first part of the huge database on Danish petitions.

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New book: *The Nordic Household state – variations on a theme* by Luther, eds. Urban Claesson & Nina Javette Koefoed, Stockholm: Makadam Förlag 2024, 244pp.

Martin Luther's ideas about society as a household, governed by parents, established a model of social organisation that became important in the Nordic countries in the 17th and 18th centuries. As the Nordic monasteries were dismantled with the Lutheran Reformation, the household became the new framework for Christian life. The Ten Commandments replaced monastic rules, morning and evening prayers replaced the monastic prayers at canonical hours, and the household became the form of community and organisation. The relationship between parents and children thus became normative far beyond what is now called the family.

This is the point of departure of this anthology, which marks the end of the multiyear collaborative project, funded by the Swedish *Riksbankens jubileumsfond*. The analytical concept of the household state is introduced to denote a theologically based state that was both organised as a household and consisted of, and was based on, smaller households. In older Nordic scholarship, the centrality of the household in early modern society is usually associated with the Swedish church historian Hilding Pleijel and his thesis of the 'world of the table of duties'. On the basis of new research, the authors of this collection confirm Pleijel's basic assumption. However, they do so in a way that Pleijel himself could hardly have imagined. The anthology begins with two chapters that update the state of research. The following chapter examines the historical and simultaneous theological role of the household at different levels in early modern everyday life, in the teaching of the church and in the overall organisation of the state. The studies bring together research from Denmark and Sweden and offer comparative perspectives on the household in each kingdom. The Swedish and Danish household states have been in conflict since the 16th century, while at the same time sharing a Lutheran confession. The kingdoms are both similar and different. For example, a common Nordic feature is that households were not run by fathers alone, but by both parents.

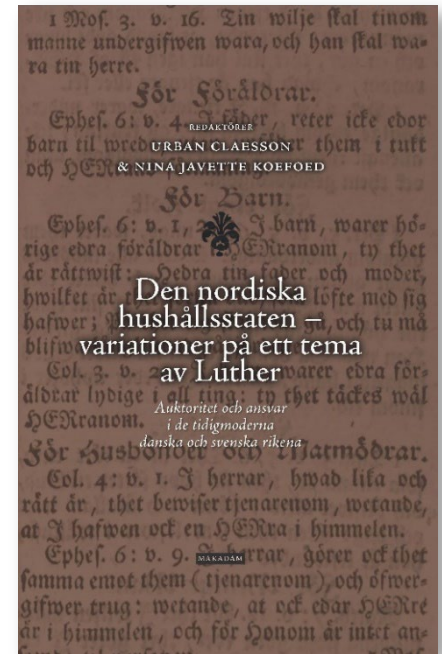


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“The Nordic household state. Variations on a Lutheran theme: Authority and responsibility in the early modern Danish and Swedish kingdoms” [Link to publisher](#)

By Nina Javette Koefoed & Urban Claesson

“Household culture, patriarchalism and social imaginaries: Concepts and practices in the world of domesticity”

By Karin Hassan Jansson

“Parents and children: Variations on a Lutheran theme in 17th century Nordic catechetical developments”

By Urban Claesson

“Duties and unchristian behaviour in the 18th century household in Denmark”

By Nina Javette Koefoed

“Kingly imaginaries in the Nordic household state: Danish and Swedish variations”

By Bo Kristian Holm

“From household states to democratic constitutional states: The dialectic of absolutism in Nordic state formation”

By Gorm Harste

“The Lutheran household: A social form in various Nordic guises”

By Nina Javette Koefoed & Urban Claesson

III. Guest researchers at LUMEN

In the autumn, LUMEN had the pleasure of hosting two guest scholars who have both decided to spend a portion of their sabbatical at the LUMEN Centre. Professor Fredrik Thue from OsloMet, Norway, and Associate Professor Piotr Malysz from Beeson Divinity School, Samford University, USA. Their backgrounds and interests are testimony to the interdisciplinary scope of the LUMEN Centre.

The social role of Lutheran pastors as professional model: Fredrik Wilhelm Thue

Fredrik Thue went to Aarhus on an *Erasmus* stipend to work on a monograph exploring the social role of Lutheran pastors from the 17th to the 19th century as a historical precursor and model of modern caring and childrearing professionals in the Nordic welfare states, such as nurses, teachers, and social workers. Although his focus is on Norway, he also has a keen interest in how pastors functioned as key mediators and translators between the central power in Copenhagen and the scattered peripheral communities of the Danish-Norwegian realm in the 17th and 18th centuries.

Fredrik Thue's choice of Aarhus and LUMEN was inspired by his attendance at a two-day seminar in Aarhus in 2019 on *Truist and Authority in the Lutheran North*, which he found extremely

stimulating. He later contributed to a special issue of the *Journal of Historical Sociology* edited by scholars from LUMEN. "And I have read several of the project's publications with great interest. This has given me a very favourable impression of LUMEN as a research centre and of the standard of its scholarship. Apart from that, I am charmed by the city and university of Aarhus, which I thought would constitute a perfect scenery for a short sabbatical."



Professor Fredrik Thue, OsloMet (left) and Associate Professor Piotr Malysz, Samford University (right)

Luther's ontology of the promise: Piotr Malysz

Piotr Malysz stayed in Aarhus for three months from September to November, funded by a guest scholar stipend from Aarhus University Research Foundation. Malysz, who teaches at Beeson Divinity School, Samford University and has a Polish background, was during his stay working on a project that he tentatively calls *Luther's ontology of the promise*. "Broadly speaking, what interests me is the interpersonal dimension of Luther's thought. What I mean by this is not only the ethics of service to the neighbor, but rather a fundamental ontological dimension that underlies much, if not all, of Luther's theology."

This interest, via a critique of the law, penetrates to the core of Luther's theology and raises the question of ontological recognition. Malysz explains further. "Who is the Christ whose very being is, at long last, a promise to me? What must be true of Christ as the promise's divine-human embodiment—if faith is to rest in him, if I am to rest my self in him through faith? As I seek to answer this question, I argue among other things that Luther's Christological innovations have to do with securing the being of the promisor, which summons me to faith, and his pigheaded theology of the Lord's Supper is inseparably connected with Luther's promise-driven Christology."

When asked why he chose Aarhus, Malysz answered that he believes the scholarly environment in Aarhus could offer crucial stimulation for his project. "First, because of the strong Scandinavian tradition of metaphysical, ontological, and indeed creation-focused theology, where the focus is not merely the believing heart but rather the world understood in its embodied multiplicity as God's world. It brings to mind figures like Regin Prenter, who was a professor at Aarhus University. And I see this tradition very much continued by scholars such as Professor Bo Kristian Holm, whose focus on practices of embodiment, especially questions of reciprocity and gift in Lutheran theology, very much dovetails with my interests. There are enough similarities and differences in our thinking to foster a creative exchange of ideas. Finally, having lived in America for 25 years, I have long wanted to return to a continental European setting, especially a Lutheran theological context within a research university within a city that celebrates the presence of its university. Aarhus fits the bill perfectly!"

LUMEN lecture series in 2024

February 2024: Christine Svinth-Værgø Pøder: "Politisk teologi i Weimartiden og under kirkekampen"

April 2024: Anna Vind: "Words and Things. Readings of texts about language and truth in the Renaissance"

September 2024: Fredrik Wilhelm Thue: "Civil servants and shepherds in the front line of the state: Lutheran clergy as the forgotten ancestors of Nordic welfare professions"

October 2024: Piotr Malysz: "Humanity: An Achievement or a Gift?"

November 2024: Bo Kristian Holm: "The Consolation of Theology"

Morning meetings in 2024

September 13 2024: Maria Nørby Pedersen: "On the path to a happy life. A moral philosophical manuscript by Birgitte Thott, 1659"

September 29 2024: Rasmus Skovgaard Jakobsen: "How to deal with chaos in 17th century war torn Denmark"

November 15 2024: Trine Arlund Hass: "Like a fish in the air (tanquam piscis in aëre)? Learned female self-expressions"

Report:

Seminar on Profession and Vocation September 9. [Link to Program](#)

LUMEN hosted a seminar on profession, vocation and confession in collaboration with Professor Fredrik Thue and the Pastoral Seminary in Aarhus in September 2024.

The seminar explored how the relationship between vocation and profession has changed historically, what the idea of vocation means for a society, if and how vocation and profession are part of a confessional culture, and finally how the relationship between vocation and profession has developed in relation to the priesthood.



Fredrik Thue, OsloMet

In addition to Frederik Thue, who gave a historical perspective on vocation under the title "Female Shepherds: Social work, nursing and teaching as women's vocations and professions, 1860-1940", Camilla Sløk, Associate Professor at the Copenhagen Business School, was invited to give a talk on the idea of vocation from a contemporary social perspective, and Ulla Morre Bidstrup, Head of Department at the Pastoral Seminary in Copenhagen, was asked to give a contemporary perspective on the pastor between vocation and profession.

Report: Seminar on justification November 27. [Link to program](#)

In collaboration with AUFF Guest scholar Piotr Malysz, LUMEN organized at seminar on the Lutheran doctrine of justification seen through the concepts of recognition, gift and personhood, concepts that has established themselves as key terms in contemporary discussions on the doctrine of justification.

The doctrine of justification is the cornerstone of Evangelical Lutheran theology. It orients the other articles of the Church's confession (*articulus stantis et cadentis ecclesiae*)—not only effecting a distinction between Christ as gift and example, but also allowing for a proper understanding of creation, sin, anthropology, and even eschatology. Yet the precise form, content, and implications of justification have been anything but obvious. They have continued to be the subject of intense debate. Some have criticized a purely forensic understanding of justification; others have insisted on its purely forensic character. Some, finally, wonder whether the juxtaposition is at all adequate.

This discussion cannot help but relate historical and biblical interpretation to broader contemporary understandings and modes of elucidation.

This seminar brought together scholars who have all tried new approaches to understanding the doctrine of justification, focusing on the relationship between promise and trust, between justification and reciprocity, between divine justification and the social need of recognition, between word and reality, and on the ontology of promise.

Piotr Malysz investigated Luther's Ontology of Promise, Olli-Pekka Vaino (Helsinki) drove a critical look on the doctrine on justification as a criterion under the headline "The seven-headed Mammoth in the China shop", Anna Vind (Copenhagen) spoke on word and ontology in renaissance and reformation, Sasja Emilie Mathiasen Stopa (Aarhus) gave a talk on justification as a social ontology of mutual recognition, and Bo Kristian Holm concluded the day arguing for the multidimensionality of promissio as an important aspect in Luther's understanding of justification.

It is the plan to collect the key lectures from the seminar in a special issue



Olli-Pekka Vaino, Helsinki University



Anna Vind, University of Copenhagen

V. LUMEN overview: 1. The Nordic Household State

The collaborative and comparative project on the Nordic household state, funded by Sweden's RIKSBANKENS JUBILEUMSFOND in 2018 and led by Urban Claesson from Church History in Uppsala, ended last year. During 2024 the final book has been through peer review and now finally published (see above). The project, which investigated how Lutheran theology formed the basis of the strong states in both Denmark and Sweden during the 17th and 18th centuries, arguing for a new concept to understand the specifics of social development in the Nordic countries.

Project publications by members 2018-2024 as part of the project “The Nordic Household State” funded by Riksbankens Jubileumsfond.

Book:

- Claesson, Urban & Nina J. Koefoed (eds.): *Den nordiska hushållstaten – variationer på ett tema av Luther*. [The Nordic Household state – variations upon a theme by Luther], Stockholm: Makadams Förlag 2024

Articles

- Harste, Gorm: **Fra husholdsstat til demokratiske retsstat. Absolutismens dialektik i nordisk statsdannelse.** In: U. Claesson & N. J. Koefoed (eds.): *Den nordiska hushållstaten – variationer på ett tema av Luther*. Stockholm: Makadams Förlag 2024, 185-228.
- Harste, Gorm: **Blind path dependencies: War and welfare in the Lutheran states.** In: N.J. Koefoed & A. Newby (eds): *Lutheranism and social responsibility*. R5AS 82. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 233-256.
- Holm, Bo K. **Kongeforestillinger i den nordiske husholdsstat. Danske og svenske variationer.** In: U. Claesson & N. J. Koefoed (eds.): *Den nordiska hushållstaten – variationer på ett tema av Luther*. Stockholm: Makadams Förlag 2024, 145-185.
- Holm, Bo K.: **God’s Caring Vice-Regent: The Lutheran transformation of the Senecan ideal of the benevolent monarch as the basis of both absolutism and social responsibility.** In: *Toronto Journal of Theology*, 37(2), 2021, s 135-146
- Koefoed, Nina J. & Urban Claesson: **Household culture, patriarchy and social imaginaries: Concepts and practices in the world of domesticity.** In U. Claesson & N. J. Koefoed (eds.): *Den nordiska hushållstaten – variationer på ett tema av Luther*. Stockholm: Makadams Förlag 2024, 7-42.
- Koefoed, Nina J. & U. Claesson: **Det lutherske hushold. En samfundsform i forskellige nordiske afskyninger.** In: U. Claesson & N. J. Koefoed (eds.): *Den nordiska hushållstaten – variationer på ett tema av Luther*. Stockholm: Makadams Förlag 2024, 229-238
- Koefoed, Nina J.: **Pligter og ukristelig opførsel i 1700-tallets hushold i Danmark.** In: U. Claesson & N. J. Koefoed (eds.): *Den nordiska hushållstaten – variationer på ett tema av Luther*. Stockholm: Makadams Förlag 2024, 115-144.
- Koefoed, Nina J. & Jansson, K. H: **Mapping the Household State: Treatment of disobedient children in early modern Denmark and Sweden.** In: *Journal of Family History*, 48(1), 2023, 30-46.

V. LUMEN overview: 2. Nordic Variation of Protestant Governance

NOS-HS workshops on Nordic Variation of Protestant Governance

After completing a series of three workshops on Household, Parish, and State, funded by The Joint Committee for Nordic research councils in the Humanities and Social Sciences (NOS-HS), the organisers (Nina J. Koefoed, Jørn Ø. Sunde, and Urban Claesson) are now editing a volume within the Routledge book series, Routledge Studies in Eighteenth-Century Cultures and Societies. The process has been a bit delayed, but the book titled, *Nordic Protestant Governance*, will be published in 2025.



The book explores and discusses the Lutheran influence on Early Modern European societies and reconsiders dominant theories on the societal influence of Protestantism built on the Reformed Tradition by introducing findings and perspectives on connections between theology and societal change within the Lutheran sphere. The chapters in the book examine the Lutheran influence on Nordic societal development through three levels of governance: the household, the parish, and the state and discuss how the Reformation established a culture of interconnected and far-reaching governance in the Nordic countries as distinct from German Lutheran areas that politically were part of the Holy Roman Empire.

V. LUMEN overview: 3. Other LUMEN publications

Bach-Nielsen, Carsten: **En nyopdukket tekst af Kingo? Thomas Kingo og borgmester Christen Caspersøn Schøller, Køge.** In: *Kirkehistoriske Samlinger*, 2023, 191-202.

Bach-Nielsen, Carsten: **Danmarks største freskoudsmykning og dens efterliv.** In *Nordisk Tidsskrift*, 2024(3), 299-306

Hass, Trine Arlund: **Writing a woman scholar: Poems around Birgitte Thott.** In: *An anthology of Neo-Latin poetry by classical scholars*, eds. William M. Barton, Stephen Harrison, Gesine Manuwald & Bobby Xinyue, Bloomsbury, 2024, 255-289.

Hass, Trine Arlund: **Hyrdedigtning fra hellenismen til humanismen: Fra Theokrit til Vergil og humanisterne.** In: *Standart*, 2024, 101-8.

Holm, Bo Kristian: **Det læremæssige ansvar.** In. *Store Bededag: Teologiske og juridiske refleksioner over regeringens afskaffelse af store bededag den 6. marts 2023*, eds. Marianne Christiansen & Lars Christian Kjærgaard. Haderslev: Haderslev Stift. 45-59.
Reziprozität im Rechtfertigungsgeschehen? In: *Ökumenische Herausforderungen der Lutherforschung: Festgabe für Theodor Dieter zum 70. Geburtstag*, eds. Jennifer Wasmuth & Frank Zeeb. Leipzig: Evangelische Verlagsanstalt, 31-46.
Sozial-imaginäre Verschiebungen beim älteren Luther: Drei-Stände-Lehre als Alternative zum *tertius usus legis*. In: *Lutherjahrbuch* 91, 160-175

Ingesman, Per: **Antonitterne i Præstø. Antonitterklostret indtil reformationen.** In: *Præsto og omegn – historie, natur, kultur*, eds. Helge Rørtoft-Madsen & Anna Sarah Rye Vestergaard, Forlaget Spring, Hellerup 2024, 192-201.

Ingesman, Per: **Den lovlige trolovelse. Et nyt retsbegreb i protokoller med ægteskabsdomme fra Lunds domkapitel 1577-1579 og 1589-1597.** In *Scandia. Tidskrift för historisk forskning*, 90, 2, 2024, 174-202.

Ingesman, Per: **Til jubilår i Rom.** In *Skalk*, nr. 6, 2024, s. 4-10.

Koefoed, Nina J.: **Religion og historie. Om religionens forklaringskraft i historiske analyser.** In: *temp. Tidsskrift for historie*, vol. 29, 2024, 117-128.

V. LUMEN overview: 4. Lutheranism and Societal Development

Project publications by members 2017-2022 as part of the project “Lutheranism and Danish Societal Development” funded by the Independent Research Fund, Denmark

Books and Special Issues

- Harste, Gorm: **The Habermas Luhmann Debate**. Columbia University Press, 2021
- Holm, Bo. K., & Nina J. Koefoed: **Lutheran theology and the shaping of society: The danish monarchy as example**. Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2018
- Koefoed, Nina J., & Bo K. Holm (eds): **Pligt og omsorg. Velfærdsstatens lutherske rødder**. Gads forlag, 2021
- Koefoed, Nina J. & Andrew Newby (eds.): **Lutheranism and social responsibility**. Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht. Refo500 (R5AS) Academic Studies Bind 82, 2022
- Koefoed, Nina J., Bo. K. Holm & Sasja E. M. Stopa (eds): **Religion som forklaring? Kirke og religion i stat og samfund. Festskrift til Per Ingesman**. Aarhus Universitetsforlag, 2020
- Pedersen, Maria Nørby: **Forsorg for de fattige. Fattigforsorg i lyset af en religiøs forståelseshorisont, Danmark 1522-1739**. Unpublished PhD thesis, 2022
- Stopa, Sasja E. M., & Gert Tinggaard Svendsen (eds.): **Trust and protestantism: Symposium issue of journal of historical sociology**. Wiley-Blackwell: *Journal of historical sociology*, 2022

Articles in volumes and special issues edited by LUMEN members

- Barclay, Katie & Nina J. Koefoed: **Family, memory, and identity: An introduction**. In: *Journal of family history*, 46(1), 2021, 3-12.
- Holm, Bo K.: **Et nyt Gudsforhold og dets konsekvenser**. In: N. J. Koefoed & B. K. Holm (eds.), *Pligt og omsorg: velfærdsstatens lutherske rødder*. Gad, 2021, 39-75
- Koefoed, Nina J. & Bo K. Holm: **Afslutning: Velfærdsstatens lutherske rødder**. In: N. Javette Koefoed & B. Kristian Holm (eds.), *Pligt og omsorg: Velfærdsstatens lutherske rødder*. Gad, 2021, 271-280
- Koefoed, Nina J. & Bo K. Holm: **En luthersk autoritet i dansk enevælde**. In: N. Javette Koefoed & B. Kristian Holm (eds.), *Pligt og omsorg: Velfærdsstatens lutherske rødder*. Gad, 2021, 79-101
- Koefoed, Nina J. & Bo K. Holm: **Indledning: på sporet af velfærdsstatens dybe rødder**. In: N. Javette Koefoed & B. Kristian Holm (eds.), *Pligt og omsorg: velfærdsstatens lutherske rødder*. Gad, 2021, 19-35
- Koefoed, Nina J. & Sasja E. M. Stopa: **Pietistic influence on societal development in 18th century Scandinavia**. In: U. Sträter (ed.), *Pietismus und Neuzeit: Ein Jahrbuch zur Geschichte des neuen Protestantismus*, Vol. 45 – 2019. Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2021, 13-18.
- Koefoed, Nina J. & Andrew Newby: **Introduction: Lutheranism, social responsibility, and the poor**. In: N. J. Koefoed & A. Newby (eds.), *Lutheranism and social responsibility*. Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht. Refo500 (R5AS) Academic Studies Bind 82, 2022, 9-20.
- Koefoed, Nina J.: **En luthersk velfærdsstat?** In: N. Javette Koefoed & B. Kristian Holm (eds.), *Pligt og omsorg: velfærdsstatens lutherske rødder*. Gad, 2021, 243-270
- Koefoed, Nina J.: **Negotiating memory and restoring identity in broken families in eighteenth-century Denmark**. In: *Journal of family history*, 46(1), 2021, 30-45.
- Koefoed, Nina J.: **Lutheran social responsibility and the early Danish welfare state**. In: N. J. Koefoed & A. Newby (eds.), *Lutheranism and social responsibility*. Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht. Refo500 (R5AS) Academic Studies Bind 82, 2022, 153-182
- Pedersen, Maria N.: **En kristen forsørgelse af alle fattige**. In: N. Javette Koefoed & B. Kristian Holm (eds.), *Pligt og omsorg: velfærdsstatens lutherske rødder*. Gad, 2021, 209-239.
- Pedersen, Maria N.: **Christian relief for the poor in early modern Denmark**. In: N.J. Koefoed & A. Newby: *Lutheanism and social responsibility*. R5AS 82. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht 2022, 103-128.
- Stopa, Sasja E. M., & Gert Tinggaard Svendsen (eds.): **Trust and Protestantism: Symposium issue of journal of historical sociology**.

V. LUMEN overview: 4. Lutheranism and Societal Development

Wiley-Blackwell: Journal of historical sociology, 2022.

- Stopa, Sasja E.M., & Gert Tinggaard Svendsen (eds.): **Trust and Protestantism**. In: *Journal of historical sociology*, 33:4, 2020.
- Stopa, Sasja E. M.: **A communion of saints? - Reincorporating sinners into the created order of 18th century Denmark through catechetical practice**. In: U. Sträter (ed.), *Pietismus und*

Neuzeit: Ein Jahrbuch zur Geschichte des neuen Protestantismus, Vol. 45 – 2019. Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2021, 84-116

- Stopa, Sasja E. M.: **Den kristne opdragelse i 1700-tallets Danmark**. In: N. Javette Koefoed & B. Kristian Holm (eds.), *Pligt og omsorg: velfærdsstatens lutherske rødder*. Gad, 2021, 105-133

Articles in other journals, etc.

- Holm, Bo K.: **Hvad ville mangle uden de lutherske bekendelser (What will be lacking without the Lutheran Confessions)**. In: Henrik Brandt-Pedersen (ed.), *Bekendelser. En antologi om forpligtethed*. Copenhagen: Eksistensen 2022, 119-132.
- Holm, Bo K. & Nina J. Koefoed: **"Social imaginaries" as a tool for interdisciplinary Reformation research**. Blogindlæg på LUMEN.dk fra 14.02.2019
- Holm, Bo K. & Nina J. Koefoed: **Den politiske lutherdom og velfærdsstatens rødder**. In: *Kristeligt Dagblad, Sektion 1*, 11, 2021
- Holm, Bo K.: **Reformationen i Danmark: Teologi og kultur**. Danmarkshistorien.dk, 2017
- Holm, Bo K.: **Luther, Seneca, and benevolence in both creation and government**. In: P. Kärkkäinen & O-P. Vainio (eds.), *Apprehending love: theological and philosophical inquiries*. Luther-Agricola-Society. Schriften der Luther-Agricola-Gesellschaft Vol. 73, 2019, 287-312
- Holm, Bo K.: **Der går en lige vej fra Luther til enevælden og velfærdsstaten**. In: *Berlingske Tidende, Sektion 1*, 42, 2021
- Holm, Bo K.: **Ånd hos Luther: Åndens frihed i en tvetydig verden**. In: M. A. Mørch & O. Korsgaard (eds.), *Åndsfrihed i det moderne samfund*. Aarhus Universitetsforlag, 2022, 34-51
- Koefoed, Nina J. & Helle M. Sigh: **Ægteskab, forældreskab og husstand**. In: O. Hoiris & P. Ingesman (eds.), *Reformationen - 1500-tallets kulturrevolution: Danmark*, Vol. 2. Aarhus Universitetsforlag, 2017, 327-350.

- Stopa, Sasja E. M.: **'Through sin nature has lost its confidence in God' - Sin and trust as formative elements of Luther's conception of society**. In: *Journal of early modern christianity*, 5(2), 2018, 151-171.
- Stopa, Sasja E. M.: **Durch die Sünde hat die Natur ihr Vertrauen auf Gott verloren": Sünde und Vertrauen als formgebende Elemente von Martin Luthers Gesellschaftsverständnis**. In: C. Neddens & C. Barnbrock (eds.), *Simul-Existenz: Spuren reformatorischer Anthropologie*. Evangelische Verlagsanstalt: Lutherische Theologie im Gespräch (LThG) No. 1, 2019, 122-141
- Stopa, Sasja E. M.: **Martin Luthers syn på kvinden som hustru og hersker**. *Scandia: Tidskrift för historisk forskning*, 85(2), 2019, 30- 58.
- Stopa, Sasja E. M.: **Når Gud angriber mennesket: Den tvetydige erfaring af Gud og verden hos Martin Luther, K.E. Løgstrup og Regin Prenter**. In: *Foenix*, 2019, 194-232.
- Stopa, Sasja E. M.: **Har den danske tillidskultur lutherske rødder?** Artikel under Nyt fra Aarhusteologerne på Institut for Kultur og Samfunds hjemmeside, afdeling for Teologi, d. 18.12.2019
- Stopa, Sasja E. M.: **Hvordan blev den nordiske kvinde hersker?** Blogindlæg på hjemmesiden Scandia d. 20.01.2020

V. LUMEN overview: 5. An Economy of Reception

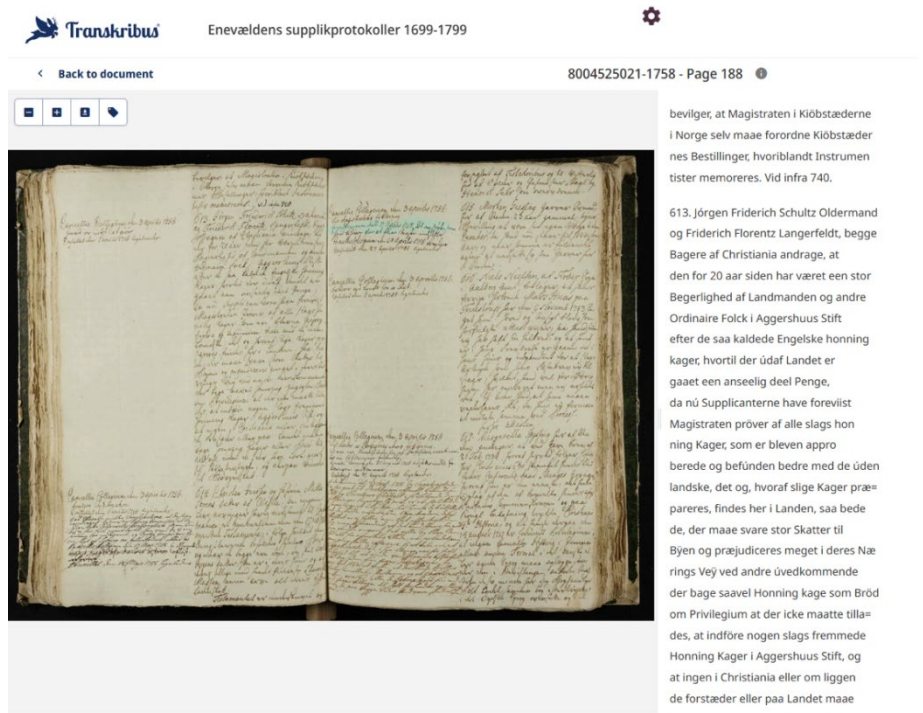
Project publications by members 2016-2023 as part of the project “An economy of Reception” funded by Aarhus University Research Foundation (AUFF)

- Holm, B. K.: **Det legemlige promissio: Socialitet som nøgle til Luthers nadverskrifter.** In: *Dansk Teologisk Tidsskrift*, 3-39, 2023.
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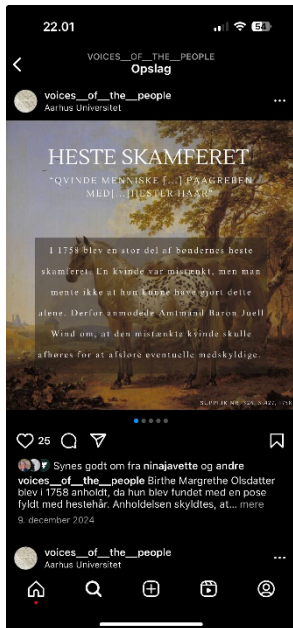
Voices of the People. A digital platform for 18th century petitions

The digitization project *Voices of the People: A Digital Platform for 18th-Century Petitions*, funded by the Carlsberg Foundation, was launched in August 2023. The aim of the project is to make petitions sent to the absolute monarch in Denmark during the 18th century accessible on an open-access platform through the digitization and transcription of the handwritten letters.

These petitions provide a rare insight into the population's perception of their position in society, their cultural and religious worldviews, their legal understanding, and their indirect participation in political processes. They will serve as a basis for further research within LUMEN on how religion influenced early modern Danish society.



Petitions published at Transkribus Site with both the original image and the transcribed, searchable text shown



Throughout 2024, we have made significant progress on the project. In August, we launched the Transkribus site *Enevældens Supplikprotokoller 1699–1799* (now *Dansk Enevælde – centraladministrationen*) and published the first fully transcribed protocol from 1758. Since then, four more years of transcribed protocols have been made available as open access on the site:

<https://app.transkribus.org/sites/supplikker>

We plan to publish all protocols from the 1750s and 1760s this spring. Additionally, we have trained an AI model for reading Danish Gothic handwritten sources, achieving an error rate below 4%. This model will soon be published on Transkribus.

On Instagram, the account *voices_of_the_people* shares personal stories from the petitions, offering a glimpse into the lives and world of 18th-century individuals. Expanded versions of these stories are available as blog posts on the project's webpage: <https://cas.au.dk/voices> (in Danish).

Follow us on Instagram to stay updated on the project's progress.

2025 (Preliminary list)

Morning meetings in 2025

February 2025: Maria Nørby Pedersen: "A Philosophical Cure: Scientific enlightenment through fictionality in 18th century Danish periodicals"

March 2025: Nina J. Koefoed: "Digitalisering af skriftlig kulturarv: Hvorfor, hvordan og for hvem [Digitizing of written cultural heritage: Why, how and for whom]"

April 2025: Erik Sporon Fiedler: "Paternal Care? A contemporary intellectual history of Lutheranism, gender, and welfare"

May 2025: Mattias Sommer Bostrup: "Lutherske oversættelseskulturer i de danske riger, ca. 1526-1850 [Lutheran translation cultures in the Danish realm, ca. 1526-1850]"

Jun3 2025: Odile Panetta: "Discipline and Punish: Civil authority and the corporeal sphere in early modern Protestantism"

Professor Lee Palmer Wandel as Guest Researcher in the Autumn term 2025

In the autumn semester 2025, Professor Lee Palmer Wandel, a member of our Advisory Board, will spend three months as a visiting researcher at the LUMEN Centre, where she has been before. This time her stay will be funded by the Aarhus University Research Foundation. Lee Palmer Wandel is the WARF Michael Baxandall and Linda and Stanley Sher Professor of History at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her approach to the relationship between confession and cultural development is very similar to LUMEN's - among other things, she contributed a fascinating article on the Reformation in the LUMEN volume *Reformation and Everyday Life*. We are very much looking forward to welcoming Professor Wandel back. Wandel will participate in seminars and research activities. Information will be published on the LUMEN website



VIII. International Congress for Luther Research 2026



Some attention in LUMEN is directed towards the preparation of the fifteenth International Congress for Luther Research, which will take place at Aarhus University August 9-14, 2026.

By choosing Aarhus as the venue for the 15th congress, the International Luther Research Congress is returning to its roots: In 1956 it met for the first time in Aarhus (Denmark). Its driving force was Regin Prenter, who a few years earlier had published his book *Spiritus Creator* on Luther's pneumatology. In connection with this, the present Congress is dedicated to the theme of the Holy Spirit in the horizon of today's world - a world marked in so many ways by anxiety and uncertainty. In light of the upheavals caused by war, pandemics and the climate crisis, the Congress found the title of the ancient Latin hymn "Come Creator Spirit" fitting, as it examines the understanding of trust and the future in Luther's theology.

The programme has been organised by the international continuation committee, which met in Aarhus for a week in 2023, but the chosen theme fits very well with the interest of LUMEN and the profile of Luther research in Aarhus.

14 invited keynote speakers will address the main theme from different angles and perspectives.

The first day will examine the relationship between scientific forecasting and biblical prophecy. The second day will focus on how the spirit and the body are linked in Luther's theology, a question that was particularly urgent in the disputes of the 1520s. After a day of short paper presentations, the fourth day will examine Luther's thinking about the embodied work of the Holy Spirit and its relationship to how one anticipates the future in both good and bad events, under the title "Fear and Hope". The congress will conclude with a consideration of the social relevance of these thoughts in the present day.

For further information and registration please visit: <https://conferences.au.dk/luthercongress2026>

As a large part of the congress will consist of theme-based seminars throughout the week, the deadline for registration is 1 June 2025 to ensure adequate preparation.

