



SYMPOSIUM

CONFESSION AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

11-12 February 2019, Aarhus University



Photo By Andrew G. Newby from an exhibition of Pauper Statues, Kerimäki Church, Finland, 2013.

**Aarhus University
Building 1422**

Preben Hornung Stuen
Frederik Nielsens Vej 2
8000 Aarhus C

Each of the three large confessions in Europe (Lutheranism, Reformed, Catholicism) have their specific perception of “deserving” and “underserving” poor, of work, of social responsibility and authority.

The consequences of these particular viewpoints on the provision of poor relief and social responsibility more generally, however, remain open to debate. The Reformation may have changed the legal responsibility for the poor in Protestant societies, but these places nevertheless retain clear cultural continuities from the medieval period.

Even though it is possible to highlight differences in welfare systems according to confessional boundaries, this cannot in itself be said to prove an influence from religion and confessional specifics on the understanding of welfare and social responsibility. With this symposium on religion and welfare, we will address the possible connection between confession and social welfare on both a both concrete and methodological level.

PROGRAMME:

February 11

- 10:30-11:00** Coffee and registration
- 11:00-12:15** Key-note: **Dr. Esther Chung-Kim, Associate Professor of Religious Studies, Claremont McKenna College:** Caring for the Deserving: Wittenberg Reformers on Poor Relief
- 12:15-13:15** Lunch
- 13:15-15:15** Paper-panel
- Prof. Dr. Sabine Hiebsch, Theological University Kampen, Netherlands:** “Poor Relief in the Dutch Republic: a responsibility for the religious communities”
- Maria Nørby Pedersen, PhD-Student at Aarhus University:** Authority and responsibility towards beggars in 18th Century Denmark
- David C. Fink, Associate Professor of Religion, Furman University (Greenville, SC, USA)** “Salvation, Almsgiving, and Wisdom in Reformation Biblical Interpretation”
- 15:15-15:45** Coffee
- 15:45-17:00** Keynote: **Dr. Christian Neddens, Professor at Luth. Theol. Hochschule Oberursel:** Personal relationships as core metaphors of faith in the pictorial worlds of Lutheranism - their implications for social responsibility

February 12

- 09:00-10:15** Key-note: **Dr. Andrew G. Newby, Kone Senior Research Fellow, Tampere Institute for Advanced Social Research:** “Worship Industry or Starve” - racial, ethnic and religious rhetoric in nineteenth-century poor relief.
- 10:15-10:30** Coffee
- 10:30-12:30** Paper-panel
- Dr. Anders Sevelsted, Assistant Professor, Copenhagen Business School:** Reformed action and Lutheran doxa - the emergence of voluntary social work in late 19th century Copenhagen
- Dr. Camilla Sløk, Associate Professor, Copenhagen Business School:** The function of illness absence conversations in a Danish welfare system
- Gorm Harste, dr.scient.pol., Department of Political Science, Aarhus University:** “Conflicting Roots of Welfare - from warfare to combat against welfare hypocrisy”
- 12:30-13:30** Lunch
- 13:30-14:30** Final Discussion



AARHUS UNIVERSITY



CENTER FOR
THE STUDY OF
LUTHERAN
THEOLOGY AND
CONFESSIONAL
SOCIETIES