

**Living with God:
A material approach to the early modern Lutheran household in
Denmark**



**Seminar 6th December 2018, 12.15-17.00
AU Moesgaard, Lecture Hall (4206-139)**

Organizer: Mette Svart Kristiansen, Dept. of
Archaeology and Heritage Studies.

This interdisciplinary seminar will explore material expressions and strategies of how to instil piety and provoke virtuous thoughts in early modern Protestant households across different confessions. There will be a particular focus on the Lutheran household in Denmark, and religious inscriptions, imagery and emblems as material framework and point of reference for the ideal of godly living.

The event is free; to be able to order the right amount of coffee and snacks, please register at <https://events.au.dk/livingwithgod/living-with-god.html>

Keynote:

'To Adorn the Chambers of thy Memory.' Material Culture and the Formation of Protestant Identity in the Early Modern Home

Andrew Morrall, Bard Graduate Center, New York

Other speakers:

Edgar Ring, Museumsstiftung Lüneburg - Archäologie

Laura Katrine Skinnebach, Aarhus University

Birgitte Bøggild, The National Museum

Jakob Ørnbjerg, independent researcher

Mette Svart Kristiansen, Aarhus University

The seminar is supported by *LUMEN (LutheranMentality) - Interdisciplinary Centre for Lutheran theology and confessional society* in collaboration with the research programme *Material, Culture and Heritage* at the Department of Archaeology, University of Aarhus.

Full programme

12.15-12.30	<p>Living with God. Introductory remarks on early modern materiality in Danish Lutheran households Assoc. Prof., PhD Mette Svart Kristiansen Dept. of Archaeology and Heritage Studies, Aarhus University</p>
12.30-13.30	<p>'To Adorn the Chambers of thy Memory.' Material Culture and the Formation of Protestant Identity in the Early Modern Home Prof., PhD Andrew Morrall Bard Graduate Center, New York</p> <p>This talk will examine the ways by which the domestic accouterments and furnishings of early modern Protestant households – examined comparatively across different reformed confessions – were intended variously to instill piety, provoke virtuous thoughts or to stimulate the memory, and thereby to reinforce, within the continuities of domestic life and the household space across generations, the theological tenets and the ethical, ideological and political dimensions of Protestant identity.</p>
13.30-14.15	<p>„Emblema des alten und neuen Testaments auf Bret gemahlet von Lucas Kranach ...“ The Lutheran doctrine in private homes in Lüneburg in the 16th and early 17th c Prof. Dr. Edgar Ring Museumsstiftung Lüneburg - Archäologie</p> <p>While it is possible to study the gradual change of the church interior after the introduction of the reformation in Lüneburg in the year 1530, it is hard to reconstruct the interior of private homes in general and to detect witnesses of the Lutheran doctrine in private homes in particular. Inventories, surviving objects in museums and archaeological finds are sources to document this transition.</p>
14.15-14.25	Discussion
14.25-14.45	Coffee/tea
14.45-15.15	<p>Prayer and devotion in the Lutheran household RA, PhD Laura Katrine Skinnebach Dept. of Art History, Aesthetics & Culture and Museology, Aarhus University</p> <p>Lutheran devotional prayer books and psalm books were composed of material that served to sacralize daily life and ordinary duties. In particular, it established the family as a devout entity and the house as the seat of devout conduct. The present paper takes as point of departure a selection of early Lutheran prayer books (<i>En liden vandrebog</i> by Hans Christensen Sthen and Hans Thomesen's book of psalms) and studies how these books establish the devout ideal of the early Lutheran household.</p>

15.15-15.45	<p>Surrounded by God. Confessionalizing the Domestic Spaces of the Nobility in Early Modern Denmark (c. 1550-1650) Editor Birgitte Bøggild The National Museum / Middle Ages, Renaissance and Numismatics</p> <p>The mid-1500s marked the beginning of a veritable building boom among the Danish nobility, due to a growing economic and political stabilization of the expanding social class – a development to be continued well into the 17th century, yet at a lower speed in the wake of upcoming crises and wars. The new aristocratic residences in the major cities and the countryside became speaking testimonials to the ambitions of the Lutheran household, in religious inscriptions, imagery and emblems - painted, sculpted or woven – establishing a material framework and point of reference for the ideal of godly living.</p>
15.45-16.15	<p><i>'Write these laws on the door frames of your homes and on your town gates'</i> PhD Jakob Ørnbjerg</p> <p>This paper will examine the use and impact of the religious inscriptions which appeared inside and outside the houses in the Danish market towns 1550-1650. Brought together the preserved door frames, their inscriptions and the written sources bring us close to the daily lives and imaginations of the inhabitants of these houses.</p>
16.15-16.25	Coffe/tea
16.25-16.40	Discussion
16.40-17.00	<p>Final discussion Conclusive thoughts, Andrew Morrall</p> <p>End of seminar, Mette Svart Kristiansen</p>
	Wine reception and snacks