

# CONTEXT AND SUBJECT OF THE CONFERENCE

*The second conference as part of the Mainz DFG researchproject "The Ancient Fable Tradition and Early Christian Literature" is dedicated to questions of genre. The focus will be on the form and function of the micro-narrative (fable, parable, mashal) as well as the macro-narrative (biography, gospel, midrash) in which they are embedded. The relationship between fable, parable, and mashal has long been the subject of controversy. Is this an overarching genre of fable with various subgenres? Did ancient authors have an awareness of the differentiated use of genre terms such as mythos, ainos, parabole or paroimia? The conference will also deal with as of yet underexplored questions regarding the significant parallels in form and function between the Life of Aesop and the Gospels. Fundamental questions on genre theory are also reflected upon. All interested scholars are welcome to attend free of charge. To register, please email Ms. Winekenstädde by May 15th.*

## ORGANIZERS:

**Prof. Dr. Ruben Zimmermann**  
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## REGISTRATION:

Send an email with subject "Digital Registration" to:  
**fable.project@uni-mainz.de**

## CONTACT:

**Acelya Winekenstädde**

## LOCATIONS:

### CONFERENCE ROOM:

T 5  
Faculty of Protestant  
Theology  
Johannes Gutenberg-  
University  
Wallstraße 07  
55122 Mainz, Germany

### HOTEL:

Hotel Königshof  
Schottstraße 1-5  
55116 Mainz



June  
6th-7th,  
2024

# FORM, FUNCTION, AND FABLES

*Genre in Early Christian,  
Jewish, and Graeco-Roman  
Traditions*

JOHANNES GUTENBERG  
UNIVERSITÄT MAINZ

JG|U



THURSDAY | JUNE 6TH

# PROGRAM

FRIDAY | JUNE 7TH

14:00 *Welcome, Coffee*

**14:15-14:30** *Justin Strong*

The Story of Christians and Jews  
Comparing Comparisons

**14:30-15:00** *Ruben Zimmermann*

Introduction to Ancient and Current Genre  
Theories

**15:00-15:45** *Niklas Holzberg*

What's in a Fable? Thoughts on the  
Evolution of the Genre in Antiquity

**15:45-16:30** *Sean A. Adams*

Embedded Fables in Jewish Literature from  
the Graeco-Roman Era

16:30-17:00 *Coffee Break*

**17:00-17:45** *Michal Beth Dinkler*

Attention 'Deficit'? Narration, Attention  
Distribution, and Ancient Short Stories

**17:45-18:30** *Lukas Spielhofer*

"What Is Fable, Really?" Reflections on  
Genre in Imperial Fable Collections

19:30 *Dinner at Heilig Geist*

*Rentengasse 2*

*55116 Mainz*

**9:15-10:00** *Grammatiki Karla*

Life of Aesop as Fictional Biography

**10:00-10:45** *Jacob Mortensen*

Mark's Parables as Progymnastic *mythoi*  
and Computational Approaches to the  
Fable Genre

10:45-11:15 *Coffee Break*

**11:15-12:00** *Lieve Teugels*

Myth in Parable Form: Does It Make a  
Difference?

**12:00-12:45** *Eric Ottenheim*

The Early Jewish Parable as a Regional  
Genre

**12:45-13:15** *Final Discussion*

13:15 *Lunch, Farewell*  
(on-site catering)