

The Art of Dying in Antiquity

Interdisciplinary Conference
in Helsinki, May 25–26, 2027

"Achilles Lamenting the Death of Patroclus" by Gavin Hamilton, ca. 1763 (Wikimedia)



Photo by Ted on Flickr

Valerie Hope – Helen Bond – Nienke Vos – Rob Boddice

The Greco-Roman ideal of a *good or noble death* was immensely important for how death was understood in the ancient world and how dying was described in ancient narratives such as biographies, histories, and hagiographies. In this conference, we trace the ideal through Greco-Roman, Biblical, and early Christian literature, and discuss the interplay between Greco-Roman and Christian ideals in death narratives from different eras and contexts.

Doctoral students, postdocs, and senior scholars in Classical Studies, Biblical Studies, Church History and related fields are welcome to send in an abstract (100–200 words) for a short paper (20 minutes) to contribute to the discussion. The organizers will seek to have select papers published in a conference volume or thematic journal issue. Send your abstract to art-of-dying@helsinki.fi by November 30, 2026.



UPPSALA
UNIVERSITET



UNIVERSITY
OF HELSINKI

HELSINKI
COLLEGIUM
FOR ADVANCED STUDIES

25^{years}

Open call for papers – <https://blogs.helsinki.fi/art-of-dying>