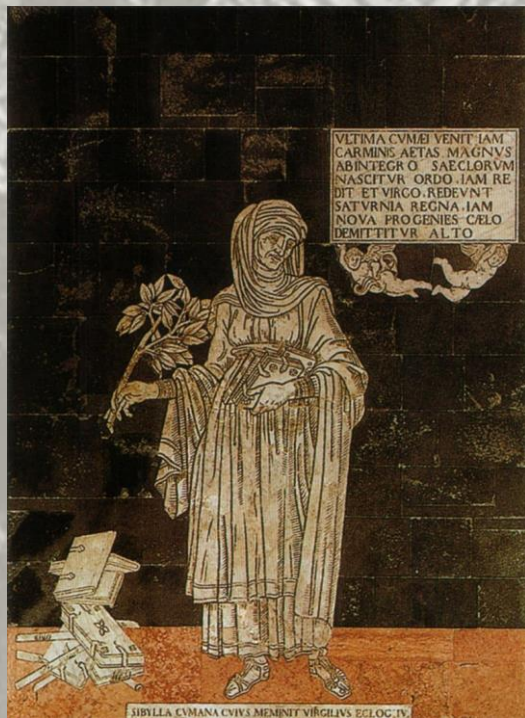


Classical Antiquity and its Heritage  
Research Seminars  
Spring 2020

**Helen Van Noorden, Cambridge**

**'Homer and Virgil Opened My Books':  
*The Sibylline Oracles* and the Non-Jewish Canon**



The surviving collection of *Sibylline Oracles* preserves Judaeo-Christian compositions ranging from c. 2<sup>nd</sup> century BCE to the 5<sup>th</sup> century CE. Reviewing world history and sketching rewards and punishments due at the end of days, the Sibylline voice urges ethical behaviour in the face of cosmic destruction. These Greek hexameter oracles ape the authority not only of ancient Sibyls but also of Homer; cultural rivalry is signposted by a Sibylline 'prediction' in book 3 that the blind Homer will be the first to copy the Sibyl's tale of Troy. This paper reassesses the Sibylline engagement with the Classical canon, factoring in the substantial (but uncredited) debts to Hesiodic poetry pervading this oracle collection, and its reuse in book 11 of the lines about Homer in a 'prophecy' of Virgil's activity.

**Wednesday 6 May 15.15-17**

**Antikmuseet**

**Contact:**

Troels Myrup Kristensen  
[tmk@cas.au.dk](mailto:tmk@cas.au.dk)

