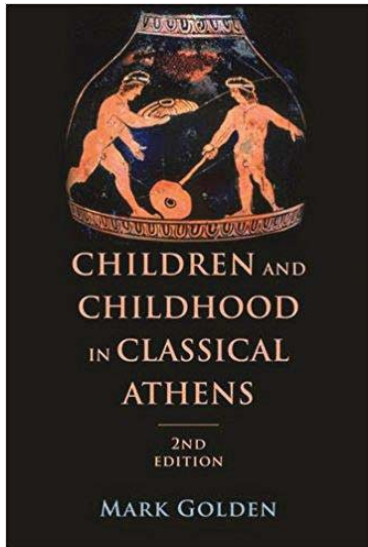


# Gæsteforelæsning med Mark Golden

## Children in Hellenistic Greece



**Mandag d. 11. september kl. 10.15-11.15.**  
Byg. 1453, lokale 121 på Jens Chr. Skous Vej 3, 8000 Aarhus C

The conquest of the Persian Empire by Alexander the Great ushered in great changes among the ancient Greeks in the 300 years after his death, the Hellenistic period (323-30 BCE). It is often asserted that one change affected childhood. Hellenistic Greeks are supposed to have discovered their children: they saw them as more important and more interesting than before. But close study of new and old evidence calls this belief into question. The three main characteristics of childhood in the preceding Classical period - - pathos, precocity and play -- are prominent in the Hellenistic period too. The allegedly new ideas of the time often go back much earlier than Alexander or concern only part of the period or just a portion of the (vastly enlarged) Greek world. In addition, poets often had purely literary motives for their representations of children and their ideas (and those of artists) had little effect on the lives of children. Evidence for important aspects of their lives (exposure, adoption, festival competition) is too scanty to identify change. But philanthropy and public spending did make education more accessible. This likely improved the lives of Hellenistic girls in particular.

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