

# Aarhus Seminars in Classical Antiquity

KLASSISKE STUDIERS SEMINARRÆKKE E2019

**Sabine Ladstätter,**  
**Österreiches Archäologisches Institut**  
*Beyond Monumentality:*  
*The Ephesos Excavation in the 21st Century*

With what justification are excavations still actually carried out in Ephesos after 125 years? Planned and executed as a cultural-imperial project, the character of the research enterprise has changed over the course of time, also against the background of contemporary political developments in the 20th century.

The monumentality of the city led to the fact that, for a long time, archaeological research was occupied with the investigation of individual buildings and the urban centre. With the development of new research concepts and the application of modern methods, about 15 years ago a paradigm shift was introduced. The central issues include a better understanding of the relationship between humans and their environment, the infrastructure of an ancient metropolis, and the decisive culturally determined components for prolonged settlement activity, despite adverse physiographical conditions.



In the presentation, these issues will be explored in three large thematic blocks: by way of introduction, the complex harbour landscape of Ephesos will be presented, in order to subsequently thoroughly examine the water supply and management, and the problem of waste disposal. In conclusion, the significance of Ephesos as a religio-political centre will be discussed, as well as the issue of pilgrimage.

**Friday 1 November 15.01-16.00**  
**Antikmuseet**

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