



14 January, 2022

The Nils Klim Committee Citation: Elisa Katariina Uusimäki

The Nils Klim Committee has decided to recommend that Elisa Katariina Uusimäki be the recipient of the 2022 Nils Klim Prize.

Elisa Uusimäki is Associate Professor of Hebrew Biblical Studies at the Department of Theology, School of Culture and Society, at Aarhus University in Denmark. After completing her PhD degree in theology from the University of Helsinki in 2013, she pursued post-doctoral research in Helsinki, Jerusalem, and Groningen, as well as at Yale University and New York University.

Uusimäki is an exceptionally accomplished and productive scholar of the literary and cultural history of Judaism in antiquity. In her wide-ranging research, she moves confidently between the Dead Sea Scrolls, early Jewish writings, and Hellenistic philosophy, combining the insights emerging from these varied sources in a highly original fashion. Uusimäki has already published close to forty peer-reviewed articles, co-edited three books, and written two monographs: *Turning Proverbs towards Torah: An Analysis of 4Q525* (2016) and *Lived Wisdom in Jewish Antiquity: Studies in Exercise and Exemplarity* (2021). She has received several awards and grants, including a recent European Research Council's Starting Grant for the project "An Intersectional Analysis of Ancient Jewish Travel Narratives".

Elisa Uusimäki is eminently accomplished in her academic area, relying on linguistic skills in several languages and philological as well as hermeneutic expertise as she delves into texts and matters that are highly relevant to our historical understanding of the ancient world. Her research topics and her ways of coming to grips with them also relate in significant ways to contemporary global concerns. She has worked in the areas of wisdom studies, descriptive ethics, and cultural interaction, addressing issues such as lived ancient religion, gender, intersectionality, social hierarchy, enslavement, and several aspects of mobility. Recently she has also turned her attention to women's journeys, the impact of plagues, and travel-related anxieties.

Elisa Uusimäki's research span is remarkable, and her combination of classical and contemporary approaches, as well as her numerous original contributions to scholarship, are impressive and exemplary. She is a most worthy recipient of the 2022 Nils Klim Prize.

On behalf of the Nils Klim Committee,

Ástráður Eysteinnsson, Chair