

**Der Lehrstuhl für Antikes Christentum  
an der Theologischen Fakultät der Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin**

**lädt ein zum**

**Vortrag (in Englischer Sprache) von**

**Annewies van den Hoek (Harvard University)  
und  
John J. Herrmann, Jr. (Museum of Fine Arts, Boston)**

## **Philo's Mission to Rome: A Historical- Archaeological View**

**am Donnerstag, den 07. Dezember 2017, 18:00 Uhr**

**in der Theologischen Fakultät der Humboldt-Universität  
Burgstr. 26, 10178 Berlin, Seminarraum 117**

In spite of its highly rhetorical character, Philo's *Legatio ad Gaium* reflects a historical situation with real people and real places. New light can be shed on Philo's embassy to the emperor Caligula in 38-39 CE by coupling the fields of archaeology and philology. Archaeologists have used Philo's account in his *Legatio* to interpret excavated remains in Rome, and these remains can in turn offer some new perspectives on the philosopher-ambassador's rhetoric. The emperor wanted veneration from the Jews and pampered Philo with access to his private retreat. However, Philo's response to the luxurious setting, while not entirely indifferent, was not what the emperor expected.

Annewies van den Hoek taught at Harvard University (1989-2016) and is now retired. She wrote a monograph on Clement of Alexandria and Philo (1988), a Greek text edition of Clement's *Stromateis IV* (2001), and co-authored with John Herrmann: *Pottery, Pavements, and Paradise* (2013). She is currently preparing a commentary on Philo's *De Cherubim*.

John J. Herrmann, Jr. is Curator of Classical Art Emeritus of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston and vice president of the Association for the Study of Marble and Other Stones In Antiquity (ASMOSIA). His articles, books, and contributions to exhibition catalogues range through Greek, Roman, and Early Christian art and architectural decoration.