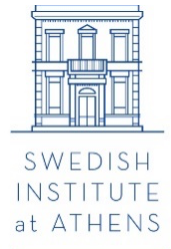


Bridges

Swedish Institutes at Athens and Rome Joint Lecture Series



Tuesday, September 29, 2026 at 19h Athens time, 18h Rome
Swedish Institute at Athens, Mitseon9

Dr. Ulf R. Hansson, University of Texas at Austin

Adolf Furtwängler and the Great Systematisation of Antiquity:
Die antiken Gemmen Project 1885-1900

ABSTRACT

When published in 1900, Adolf Furtwängler's monumental and lavish three-volume *Die antiken Gemmen. Geschichte der Steinschneidekunst im klassischen Altertum* was unanimously hailed as his magnum opus, a model work of reference for the new century, and an achievement that made German Wissenschaft proud. The book was widely understood as more than just a study of engraved gems: it was seen as an ambitious cultural history of the ancient Mediterranean civilizations, based on source material that Furtwängler's nineteenth-century predecessors had deemed unreliable and problematic, but which he was now making available, in a completely restructured form, to the scholarly community as a solid basis for further research. This lecture takes a closer look at Furtwängler's ambitious project, which took a decade and a half to complete, its prehistory, its achievements and initial reception, as well as its long-term impact.

The seminar will take place in a hybrid format, with live presence at the Swedish Institute at Athens, Mitseon 9, and via zoom link.

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