

**Han Lamers**

**Afterlife of Antiquity: Historical Meanderings**

This article traces some of the main travel routes of the term *Nachleben der Antike* ('afterlife of antiquity') as a scholarly metaphor. Drawing examples from art history, classics, and modern philology, it shows how, mainly from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century onwards, *Nachleben der Antike* was used to structure and organize scholarly discourse on the subject, while also being employed as a figure of thought to interrogate received ideas on the persistence of ancient culture without offering one single theoretically consistent perspective. The article thus loosens the term's close (and sometimes exclusive) association with the work of Aby Warburg and its reception, while it also demonstrates that *Nachleben der Antike* cannot be made to stand simply for uncritical approaches to the classical heritage.