

S W E D I S H  
COLLEGIUM  
*for* ADVANCED STUDY

Seminar

**HANS HELANDER**

Professor Emeritus of Latin, Uppsala University

*New Words for a New Era:  
The Medical Works of Emanuel Swedenborg  
as a Mirror of the Scientific Revolution*

Wednesday, 11 November, 6:15 p.m.

In the Thunberg Lecture Hall  
SCAS, Linneanum, Thunbergsvägen 2, Uppsala

The seminar will be followed by a reception. Prior registration is required.  
Please contact [rsvp@swedishcollegium.se](mailto:rsvp@swedishcollegium.se) no later than 6 November to sign up.  
The event is organized in collaboration with *Uppsala Interdisciplinary Seminar in  
Eighteenth-Century Studies* on the occasion of its 20th Anniversary.



## ABSTRACT

Latin was the main vehicle of all the new ideas and rapidly expanding knowledge of Early Modern Europe. It was a living language in the pragmatic role of what has been called *Kommunikationssprache* and *Gebrauchslatein*, a language for intellectual communication and practical use. But the Latin language had to develop to meet these demands; and the main challenge was the creation of new words (or *neologisms*) that could adequately express the concepts and notions of a new age. In his presentation, Hans Helander, Nestor of Neo-Latin studies in Sweden, will focus on learned and scientific works published during "the long 18th century". His aim is first to give a picture of the development that made the introduction of new words necessary, and also to describe the intellectual processes that generate innovations in the field of terminology and nomenclature. For his examples, Hans Helander will turn to Emanuel Swedenborg – today best known as a religious mystic, but also, in his earlier career, a versatile scientific writer – whose medical works, such as the *Oeconomia Regni animalis* from the 1740s, mirror the Scientific Revolution in their use of language.