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ΙΝΣΤΙΤΟΥΤΟ ΤΗΣ ΔΑΝΙΑΣ ΣΤΗΝ ΑΘΗΝΑ
THE DANISH INSTITUTE AT ATHENS

The Danish Institute at Athens is pleased to invite you to
a lecture in English by

Anders Dahl Sørensen

PhD

Teacher of Classics, Gammel Hellerup Gymnasium

**”Using what laws? Plato’s Statesman and
the Athenian Patrios Politeia debate”**

Friday 29 May, 7 p.m.

at the Danish Institute



Why did reflections on law and the rule of law begin to emerge as a dominant vehicle for social criticism among critics of democratic Athens in the fourth century? In the talk I will approach this general research question by means of a close reading of a central passage in Plato’s dialogue the Statesman. In particular, I will argue that we can make much better sense of a puzzling feature of Eleatic Stranger’s discussion of ‘second best’, law-bound regimes once we appreciate how this discussion critically reflect and intervene in the political discourse and constitutional debate of Plato’s contemporary Athens. On my reading, the Statesman polemically takes over the restored Athenian democracy’s insistence on the patrioi nomoi as the highest political authority and shows how this idea can be made to support a far less democratic vision of political life.