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Preferred panel:  
Continuity and Change in Late Antiquity  
(or: Religion in Society)

Title of the paper:  
*Pax deorum* and *pax dei* – Changes and continuities in mental framework and argumentation in Late Antiquity

Length of paper: 20 minutes

Outline of the content:

This paper will discuss the argumentation of *pax deorum* and *pax dei* in the late antique texts. Several Christian and non-Christian authors seem to have shared the thought-pattern according to which the welfare of the empire was based on the divine favour. Religious misbehaviour of individuals or groups was thought to bring down the punishment of gods or god upon not only on individuals but also on community and the empire as a whole. I will examine both Christian and non-Christian authors such as Emperor Constantine, Eusebius, Orosius, Libanius and Emperor Julian in order to survey changes and continuities in the argumentation.