

1. Annemaré Kotzé  
Department of Ancient Studies  
Stellenbosch University  
Private Bag X1  
Matieland  
7602  
South Africa  
[Ak5@sun.ac.za](mailto:Ak5@sun.ac.za)

2. Preferred panel: The Powers of Persuasion

3. Title of paper: A Vexing Problem Revisited: Protrectic, Paraentic and Autobiography.

4. Length of paper: 20 minutes

5. Outline of content:

The paper investigates the nature of ancient protrectic as a continuation of a previous analysis of the protrectic characteristics of Augustine's *Confessions*. It discusses the problematic nature of defining this genre and, proceeding from the work of Hartlich, Jordan, Van der Meeren and Slings (amongst others), examines elements of a number of extant (and fragments of non-extant) ancient protrectic texts (like Isocrates' *Ad Demonium*, Aristotle's *Protrepticus*, Plato's *Euthydemus* and *Apology*, Cicero's *Hortensius*, Seneca's *Epistula* 90, Clement's *Protrepticus* and Augustine's *Confessions*). In its suggestions about the nature of protrectic the paper focuses on the communicative purpose of these (and other) texts, the use of topoi and the distinction between protrectic and paraenetic as well as the intersection between autobiographical narration and protrectic purpose.