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B. Preferred Panel:

Cultural Encounters and Fusions in the Roman Empire

C. Title of the Paper:

Title:

The Construction of the Ethnic and Political Achaean Identity in Polybius' Histories.

Abstract:

The general question of this subject is enclosed in current studies about Ethnicity and Identity in the Hellenistic and Roman Antiquity. Our research process is based on ethnicity as a concept socially constructed and subjectively perceived. That is because Historiographical works from Antiquity are an important root to research about ethnic identity construction. Henceforth from this statement our general aim consists in produce a new reading of a well-known Hellenistic font with appropriate interpretative criteria. This approach will allow us develop the truthful dimension of ethnic identity as a fundamental component in political, social, and cultural processes developed in the Hellenistic Greek and Republican Roman World.

In according to this general aim, we will analyze the Polybius' Histories as one of the most important font to research the construction of ethnic identities and to look at the ethnic diversity inside the late Hellenistic Greece, when a new mediterranean political order was being constructed by Rome with formulation and reformulation of new identities. In this context, the Histories are an example of discursive construction where the Peloponese and Achaean Confederacy are proposed by the author as a great polis. For Polybius to be a Peloponesian is a synonymous of being an Achaean. And the political and ethical characteristics are the base of this ethnic construction and representation of the *Achaios Ethnos*.