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**B. Preferred panel:**

15. Greek and Roman Epic

**C. Title of the paper:**

The structural role of the supplication in Statius' *Thebaid*

**D. Length of the paper:**

20 minutes

**E. Abstract:**

The unity of Statius' *Thebaid* has long been debated by scholars who seek in the poet's predecessors their indebtedness to the composition of his *opus magnum*. Particularly as regards formal unity, the foremost studies by Legras, Kytzler and Vessey have paved the way for both modern and ongoing criticism at the same time as they have shown remaining gaps still to be filled. Presently, I intend to demonstrate how the supplication furthers the use of *amplificatio* in the specific *Thebaid* warring universe and thus functions as a unifying element to the poem. To do so, I will examine *Th.* 1.56-87, 7.771-793 and 12.546-586, aiming at showing how supplication becomes essential to the structuring of the poem as a whole.