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Panel: Continuity and Change in Late Antiquity

Title: "Literary and Historical Contexts for Ausonius' *Cupido Cruciatu*s"

Language: English

20 minutes

In this paper I examine sources for Ausonius' *Cupido Cruciatu*s and analyze Ausonius' allusive practices. Ausonius' poem is clearly in dialogue with Virgil's *Aeneid* 6; in addition, I identify a special relationship between Ausonius' poem and two works of Apuleius, both the tale of Cupid and Psyche and a short and relatively unnoticed poem, the *Anechomenos*. Ausonius' efforts to align himself with a classical tradition are evident, but if we consider moreover Ausonius' poem in its own time and place, the allusive practices reflect a deeper resistance to the centrality of Rome. The poet from Bordeaux engages with the literature of empire while marking the vast geographical and political differences in his own world.