

**Between written transmission and oral tradition: the case of the *Orphic Hymns*.**

**Preferred Panel: 4. Continuity and Change in Late Antiquity**

This paper explores the consequences of the theories of orality of Archaic poetry for the accepted date of composition of the *Orphic Hymns*. The inquiry pursues the elements of continuity and transformation in the late Hymns, especially those concerning cosmogony and eschatology. These elements allow us to investigate the process of transmission and the instance of written fixation in attention to the demands of a literate audience acquainted with philosophical, religious and mythological trends of different origins. In this sense, the *Orphic Hymns*, transmitted in previous ages by relatively closed communities and for restricted audiences, reflect in the Late Antiquity the exploration of new ways of philosophical speculation in the mythopoietic language.

**Language of the exposition:** English

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