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Invited speaker in panel 10 “Epigraphical Documents: Reflection of Reality or Construction of Historical Knowledge?”

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Title: The ‘epigraphic habit’ in the Roman world

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Abstract:

In the last twenty-five years Roman inscriptions are no longer perceived as merely instrumental -ie just as a source of information- to be seen as a cultural phenomenon worthy of historic reflection in itself. This paper reflects on the different visions of what has been called 'epigraphic habit', and on some features of the Roman epigraphic culture with particular emphasis on issues such as periods, areas or social groups most prone to the epigraphic expression, or the evolution of certain types of inscriptions.