This book sheds new light on the religious and consequently social changes taking place in late antique Rome. The essays in this volume argue that the once-dominant notion of pagan–Christian religious conflict cannot fully explain the texts and artifacts, as well as the social, religious, and political realities of late antique Rome. Together, the chapters demonstrate that the fourth-century city was a more fluid, vibrant, and complex place than was previously thought. Competition between diverse groups in Roman society – be it pagans with Christians, Christians with Christians, or pagans with pagans – did create tensions and hostility, but it also allowed for coexistence and reduced the likelihood of overt violent, physical conflict. Competition and coexistence, along with conflict, emerge as still central paradigms for those who seek to understand the transformations of Rome from the age of Constantine through the early fifth century.

Michele Renee Salzman is Professor of Ancient History at the University of California, Riverside. She is the author of numerous articles and books on late antiquity and recently published *The Letters of Symmachus: Book 1* (including a translation with Michael Roberts, 2011).

Marianne Sághy is Associate Professor in the Medieval Studies Department at Central European University in Budapest, Hungary. She has published several books and articles in Hungarian, English and French on Damasus of Rome and on late antique hagiography.

Rita Lizzi Testa is Professor of Roman History at the Università di Perugia (Italy), a member of the International Advisory Board of “CUA Studies in Early Christianity,” and of the Advisory Board for the NAPS-Christianity in Late Antiquity Series. She is author of several books, numerous articles, and editor of many volumes.
PAGANS AND CHRISTIANS IN LATE ANTIQUE ROME

Conflict, Competition, and Coexistence in the Fourth Century

Edited by

MICHELE RENEE SALZMAN
University of California, Riverside

MARIANNE SÁGHY
Central European University, Budapest

RITA LIZZI TESTA
Università di Perugia
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BIOGRAPHIES OF AUTHORS

Silviu Anghel is a researcher at the Bildung und Religion – Courant Forschung Zentrum of the University of Göttingen. He is the author of *Burying the Gods: Statue Depositions in Late Antiquity* (Leiden: Brill, 2015) and is preparing a book tentatively titled *The Last Hellenes: The Athenian Pagan Sacred Landscape in Late Antiquity*. His main interests are Greek and Roman Egypt, and late antique history and religion, in particular late antique paganism.

Jonas Bjørnebye is the author of several articles and is preparing a book. His most recent publication is “Mithraic Movement: Negotiating Topography and Space in Late Antique Rome,” in I. Östenberg, S. Malmberg, and J. Bjørnebye, eds., *The Moving City: Processions, Passages and Promenades in Ancient Rome* (New York: Bloomsbury, 2015).

Douglas Boin is an assistant professor of ancient and late antique Mediterranean history at Saint Louis University. He is the author of *Coming Out Christian in the Roman World* (New York: Bloomsbury, 2015) and *Ostia in Late Antiquity* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2013).

Alan Cameron is Charles Anthon Professor of the Latin Language and Literature, Emeritus, at Columbia University. He is the author of several books, including *The Last Pagans of Rome* (New York: Oxford Press, 2011). He is the winner of the 2013 Kenyon Medal for Classical Studies and Archaeology from the British Academy.

Robert R. Chenault is an associate professor of history and classics at Willamette University. He is the author of several articles, and is preparing a book, *Rome without Emperors: The Revival of a Senatorial City in the Fourth Century A.D.*
Caroline Michel d’Annoville, former member of the École française de Rome, is an archaeologist and is currently Professeur d’archéologie, Université Paris-Sorbonne (Paris IV, 2015—). Her publications include “Fidélité à la tradition et détournements dans la controverse de Dracontius (Romulea 5): un poème à double sens,” in Mélanges B. Beaujard (Rennes: Presses de l’Université de Rennes, 2008).

Francesca Diosono is Alexander von Humboldt Advanced Research Fellow at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität of Munich. Her published works include a monograph on professional collegia in the Roman world.

Monica Hellström is a Junior Research Fellow in the Department of Classics and Ancient History at Durham University, UK. She has written on aspects on the topography and sociology of imperial Rome, most recently published in The Moving City: Processions, Passages and Promenades in Ancient Rome, edited by I. Östenberg, S. Malmberg and J. Bjørnebye (New York: Bloomsbury, 2015).

Andra Juga is a second-year PhD student at the Medieval Studies Department, Central European University (Budapest, Hungary). She is interested in the history of Early Christianity, particularly in the early monasticism, within its social, economic, political, and cultural context.

Thomas Jürgasch is a scientific assistant at the Faculty of Theology, University of Freiburg. He is the author of Theoria vs. Praxis. Zur Entwicklung eines Prinzipienwissens im Bereich der Praxis in Antike und Spätantike (Berlin: De Gruyter, 2013) and Boethius as a Paradigm of Late Ancient Thought (Berlin: De Gruyter, 2014).

Maijastina Kahlos is at the University of Helsinki and has published several books, including most recently Forbearance and Compulsion: Rhetoric of Tolerance and Intolerance in Late Antiquity (London: Duckworth, 2009).

Nicola Denzey Lewis is a visiting associate professor at Brown University and works on the intellectual and social history of late antique Rome. She is the author of Cosmology and Fate in Gnosticism and the Graeco-Roman World: Under a Pitiless Sky (Leiden: Brill, 2013) and of The Bone Gatherers: The Lost Worlds of Early Christian Women (Boston, MA: Beacon Press, 2007).

Neil McLynn is a university lecturer in later Roman history at Oxford University, and a fellow of Corpus Christi College. His publications include Ambrose of Milan: Church and Court in a Christian Capital (Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1994) and Christian Politics and Religious Culture in Late Antiquity (Aldershot: Ashgate, 2009).
Biographies of Authors

Levente Nagy is an associate professor at the University of Pécs and an archaeological advisor of the Gyula Forster National Centre for Cultural Heritage Management, as well as co-director of research in the Frühres Christentum in Ungarn project in collaboration with the University of Vienna. His works focus on pagan and Christian archaeology and have included A Fine and Private Place: The Late Antique Cemetery of Sopianae/Pécs: (Pécs: Örökség Ház, 2008); and, on the cult of Mithras, “The Short History of Time in the Mysteries of Mithras: The Order of Caos, the City of Darkness and Iconography of Beginnings.” Pantheon: The Journal for the Study of Religions 7:1 (2012), 37–58.

Marianne Sághy is an associate professor at the Central European University in Budapest, and a former academic director of the Hungarian Cultural Institute in Paris. She has published on late antique bishops and hagiography (“Martyr Bishops and the Bishop’s Martyrs in Fourth-Century Rome,” in John Ott and Trpimir Vedriš, eds., Saintly Bishops and Bishops’ Saints (Zagreb: Hagiotheca, 2012), 31–45), with a special focus on Damasus of Rome (Fido recubans sub tegmine Christi: Rewriting as Orthodoxy in the Epigrammata Damasiana,” in Jörg Ulric, Anders-Christian Jacobsen, and David Brakke, eds., Invention, Rewriting, Usurpation: Discursive Fights over Religious Traditions in Antiquity (Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang, 2011), 41–55). Her monograph on Saint Martin of Tours: Asceticism and Power in Late Antiquity is forthcoming.


Gitte Lønstrup Dal Santo was formerly the assistant director at the Danish Institute at Rome (2011–14), and is currently an advisor and a consultant in Copenhagen. Her PhD thesis, Concordia Augustorum – Concordia Apostolorum. The Making of Shared Memory between Rome and Constantinople (Aarhus University, 2010), is partially published in Stine Birk and Birte Poulsen, eds., Patron and Viewers in Late Antiquity (Aarhus: Aarhus University Press, 2012), 237–57, and available for loan at www.bibliotek.dk.


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