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978-0-521-89724-2 - The Religion of Senators in the Roman Empire: Power and the Beyond  
Zsuzsanna Varhelyi

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IN THE ROMAN EMPIRE

This book examines the connection between political and religious power in the pagan Roman empire through a study of senatorial religion. Presenting a new collection of historical, epigraphic, prosopographical, and material evidence, the author argues that, as Augustus turned to religion to legitimize his powers, senators in turn also came to negotiate their own power, as well as that of the emperor, at least in part in religious terms. In Rome, the body of the senate and senatorial priesthoods helped to maintain its religious power; across the empire senators defined their magisterial powers by following the model of emperors and relying on the piety of sacrifice and benefactions. The ongoing participation and innovations of senators confirm the deep capacity of imperial religion to engage the normative, symbolic, and imaginative aspects of religious life among senators.

ZSUZSANNA VÁRHELYI is Assistant Professor of Classical Studies at Boston University. She has published extensively on Graeco-Roman history and religion, and co-edited, with J.-J. Aubert, *A Tall Order: Writing the Social History of the Ancient World. Essays in Honor of William V. Harris* (2005).

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# THE RELIGION OF SENATORS IN THE ROMAN EMPIRE

*Power and the Beyond*

BY

ZSUZSANNA VÁRHELYI



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*To my family, whose lives in Hungary in a much-torn twentieth  
century made me want to become a historian,  
and  
to my daughter, in hopes for an ever-better world*

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## Abbreviations

Abbreviations of ancient names and works and of modern collections follow, where available, those of the *Oxford Classical Dictionary*. For periodicals see *L'Année philologique*; for epigraphical abbreviations see *L'Année épigraphique* and *Supplementum Epigraphicum Graecum*. Other abbreviations are as follows:

<i>Alt.v.Perg.</i>	<i>Altertümer von Pergamon</i> (1885–)
<i>CFA</i>	J. Scheid, P. Tassini, and J. Rüpke, <i>Recherches archéologiques à la Magliana. Commentarii fratrum arvalium qui supersunt</i> (1998)
<i>EE</i>	<i>Ephemeris epigraphica: Corporis Inscriptionum Latinarum supplementum</i> (1872–1913)
<i>EOS</i>	<i>Atti del Colloquio Internazionale AIEGL su Epigrafia e Ordine Senatorio, Roma, 14–20 maggio 1981</i> (1982)
<i>GRIAsia</i>	R. A. Kearsley, <i>Greeks and Romans in Imperial Asia</i> (2001)
Halfmann, <i>Senatoren</i>	H. Halfmann, <i>Senatoren aus dem östlichen Teil des Imperium Romanum</i> (1979)
<i>I.Alex.Troas</i>	M. Ricl, <i>The Inscriptions of Alexandria Troas</i> (1997)
<i>IDR</i>	<i>Inscriptiones Daciae Romanae</i> (1975–)
<i>I.Eph.</i>	H. Wankel (ed.), <i>Die Inschriften von Ephesos</i> (1979–84)
<i>IGUR</i>	L. Moretti, <i>Inscriptiones Graecae Urbis Romae</i> (1968–90)
<i>IL Afr.</i>	R. Cagnat, <i>Inscriptions latines d'Afrique (Tripolitaine, Tunisie, Maroc)</i> (1923)
<i>ILTun.</i>	A. Merlin, <i>Inscriptions latines de la Tunisie</i> (1944)
<i>I.Milet</i>	P. Herrmann, <i>Inschriften von Milet</i> (1997–2006)

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<i>Insch. Ol.</i>	W. Dittenberger and K. Purgold (eds.), <i>Die Inschriften von Olympia</i> (1896)
<i>Inscr. Kourion.</i>	T. B. Mitford, <i>The Inscriptions of Kourion</i> (1971)
<i>IRC</i>	G. Fabre, M. Mayer, and I. Rodà, <i>Inscriptions romaines de Catalogne</i> (1984–)
<i>IRT</i>	J. M. Reynolds and J. B. Ward Perkins (eds.), <i>The Inscriptions of Roman Tripolitania</i> (1952)
<i>IscM</i>	<i>Inscriptiones Scythiae Minoris Graecae et Latinae</i> (1983–)
<i>LTUR</i>	E. M. Steinby (ed.), <i>Lexicon Topographicum Urbis Romae</i> (1993–2000)
<i>NP</i>	H. Cancik and H. Schneider (eds.), <i>Der Neue Pauly: Enzyklopädie der Antike</i> (1996–2003)
<i>OLD</i>	<i>Oxford Latin Dictionary</i> (1996)
<i>PIR</i> online	<a href="http://www.bbaw.de/bbaw/Forschung/Forschungsprojekte/pir/">www.bbaw.de/bbaw/Forschung/ Forschungsprojekte/pir/</a>
Raepsaet, <i>FOS</i>	M.-Th. Raepsaet-Charlier (ed.), <i>Prosopographie des femmes de l'ordre sénatorial</i> (1987)
<i>RIT</i>	G. Alföldy, <i>Die römischen Inschriften von Tarraco</i> (1975)
<i>RIU</i>	L. Barkóczi and A. Mócsy, <i>Die römischen Inschriften Ungarns</i> (1972–)
<i>SIRIS</i>	L. Vidman (ed.), <i>Sylloge Inscriptionum Religionis Isiacae et Sarapiacae</i> (1969)
<i>SuppIt</i>	<i>Supplementa Italica</i> (1981–)