



CALL FOR PAPERS

International Conference
26-28 October 2009

EPISCOPAL ELECTIONS IN LATE ANTIQUITY (CA. 250 - CA. 600 AD)

Hosted by the Faculty of Theology
Katholieke Universiteit Leuven

Keynote speakers include:

Pauline Allen (ACU, Brisbane), George Bevan (Queen's, Kingston), Philippe Blaudeau (Paris XII), Peter Bruns (Bamberg), Bruno Dumézil (Paris X), Geoffrey Dunn (ACU, Brisbane), Rudolf Haensch (DAI, München), David G. Hunter (Kentucky), Hartmut Leppin (Frankfurt), Veit Rosenberger (Erfurt), Claire Sotinel (Tours), Raymond Van Dam (Michigan), Eckhard Wirbelauer (Strasbourg), Ewa Wipszycka (Warsaw)

Organising Committee: Boudewijn Dehandschutter (Leuven), Johan Leemans (Leuven), Peter Van Nuffelen (Exeter), Shawn Keough (Leuven), Carla Nicolaye (Leuven – Aachen)

URL: [Episcopal Elections and Episcopal Succession in Late Antiquity](#)

Conference Secretary: Dr. Shawn Keough: shawn.keough@theo.kuleuven.be

It is well known that episcopal elections in the later Roman Empire were often a complicated and complicating event, as the controversy (and even violence) attendant upon the elections and successions of many bishops indicates. This conference will approach the phenomenon of episcopal elections and succession from the broadest possible perspective, examining the **varied combination of factors, personalities, rules and habits** that played a role in the process that eventually resulted in one specific candidate becoming the new bishop, and not another. The many diverse and even conflicting aspects of this phenomenon will be addressed: the influence of doctrinal conflicts, the relationship between Church and State, patronage, local habits and regional differences, chronological developments, ethnic identity. Also relevant is the **development of images of the ideal bishop**, especially the manner in which such idealized representations shaped the outcome of contested elections and affected the character and exercise of **episcopal authority in late antique society**.

Proposals for papers approaching the broader theme by any number of perspectives and methodologies are welcome: particular elections, specific bishops, geographical surveys (e.g. a city or a province), and concrete texts (e.g. legislation – both civil and canonical, or, hagiography) are all legitimate points of entry shedding valuable light upon a relatively little studied phenomenon.

English will be the primary conference **language**, although proposals for papers in French and German are equally acceptable. Following the conference there will be opportunity for participants to submit their papers for peer review, as the conference organizers intend to edit the conference proceedings for publication.

Paper proposals should be sent to the conference secretary by **15 May 2009**. Proposals should consist of a title and an abstract of up to 300 words providing a clear indication of the paper's thesis, sources and methodology.

All those interested are encouraged to contact the conference secretary, Dr. Shawn Keough [shawn.keough@theo.kuleuven.be].