

Personeel / Staff

'Episcopal Elections and Succession in Late Antiquity (ca. 300-600 AD)'
Een historisch-theologische studie van de bisschopsopvolging in de Late Oudheid

Onderzoeksproject (F.W.O.-V.)



- **Prof. Dr. Boudewijn Dehandschutter** (promotor) (STD, 1977) is professor emeritus of Early Church History and Patrology at the Faculty of Theology of the K.U.Leuven. His research covers orthodoxy and heresy in early Christianity as well as martyrological texts and traditions. He continues to teach early Christian oriental languages and literatures while supervising two doctoral projects on early Syriac theology, and also provides leadership and support to the research project on episcopal succession in Late Antiquity. He has published recently his collected essays on martyrdom (*Polycarpiana. Studies on Martyrdom and Persecution in Early Christianity*. Edited by Johan Leemans. BETL 205, Peeters Publishers, Leuven, 2007). Prof. Dehandschutter's main focus will be on 5th century Syriac writings of the Eastern Church (i.e. Rabbula of Edessa, Hiba of Edessa).
- **Prof. Dr. Johan Leemans** (promotor) (STD Leuven, 2001) is Professor of Early Church History and Patrology at the Roman Catholic Theological Faculty of the University of Erfurt (Germany). As of October 1st 2008 he was appointed at the Faculty of Theology of the K.U. Leuven. His research area is Christianity in the "Greek East" of the Roman Empire in the fourth and fifth centuries AD, in which he combines historical theology and church history while including the broader historical-religious context. The sermons of the Church Fathers are at present his main research focus, esp. the Cappadocian Fathers' panegyrics on martyrs and social-ethical homilies. He co-directs research projects on episcopal succession in Late Antiquity as well as on Patristics and Contemporary Christian Social Ethics. He co-authored *'Let Us Die That We May Live': Greek Homilies on Christian Martyrs* (Routledge, 2003) and *More than a Memory. The Discourse of Martyrdom and the Construction of Christian Identity in the History of Christianity* (Peeters Publishers, Leuven, 2005). At present he is working on a volume on Gregory of Nyssa's panegyrics on martyrs (for Sources Chrétiennes), for which he writes introduction and commentary. Longer-term projects include a book in the patristic reception of the pauline Letter to the Colossians (for the *Novum testamentum Patristicum*).
- **Dr. Peter van Nuffelen** (promotor) is Lecturer in Roman History at the University of Exeter (U.K.). His research interests are Late Antiquity, Greek and Roman religion, Ancient

historiography and Ritual forms of communication in Antiquity. Apart from numerous articles on these topics, he has published a monograph on the fifth-century historians Socrates and Sozomen (*Un héritage de paix et de piété. Étude sur les Histoires ecclésiastiques de Socrate et de Sozomène* (Orientalia Lovaniensia Analecta 142, Peeters Publishers, Leuven – Paris – Dudley (Ma.), 2004). A volume on philosophical readings of religion in the Roman Period is almost completed, as well as three edited volumes on pagan monotheism, Pagan-Christian debates in Late Antiquity, and Hellenism. He is currently working on a monograph provisionally entitled *A Cultural History of Late Antique Historiography*. For the project, Dr. van Nuffelen will be working on the sociology of episcopal succession in 4th and 5th century Constantinople.

- **Dr. Shawn W.J. Keough** (Research Fellow) earned his PhD in Theology at the University of St. Michael's College (2007), where he studied the history and theology of early and eastern Christianity. His dissertation, *Exegesis Worthy of God*, articulated the governing theological commitments displayed by the biblical interpretation of Jewish and Christian theologians in late antique Alexandria (Philo, Clement and Origen). Since leaving Toronto in order to join the project in Leuven his research has remained focused on Alexandria but has moved forward several centuries in order to examine the rivalries associated with Alexandrian episcopal elections and succession in the period between the council of Chalcedon and the Arab conquest (ca. 450 – ca. 650).
- **Carla Nicolaye, M.A.** (Research Fellow) is a doctoral student working on a dissertation on the first Vandal king Geiseric at the Department of Ancient History of the RWTH Aachen University (Germany), where she studied history, philosophy and social- and economic history, with a main focus on Ancient History (M.A. 2005). Her research interests are Late Antiquity in general, Early Christianity and its contention with Roman paganism, Early Achaemenid History and Ancient Historiography. She co-edited and -authored *'Ille operum custos'. Kulturgeschichtliche Beiträge zur antiken Bienensymbolik und ihrer Rezeption* (Spudasmata Bd. 118, Georg Olms Verlag, Hildesheim – Zürich – New York, 2008). Since joining the project in October 2007, her research currently focuses on episcopal elections and succession in the Roman West (Gaul, Italy, Africa, ca. 300 – ca.600).