



Marina Prusac

Introduction: Interaction, Urbanisation and Cultural Changes in the Balkans

This session presents recent studies on communication with Rome, urbanisation processes, economic and cultural changes on the Eastern Adriatic coast. Epidamnos, later Dyrrachium, at present-day Durrës in Albania, was an important urban centre throughout Antiquity. Sara Santoro demonstrates in her article that its location between the eastern and western Mediterranean caused complex urban and cultural transformations.

The economic ambitions of Roman Dalmatia in imperial times are investigated by Kristina Glicksman, who accounts for the ways by which cultural interactions were stimulated by economic activities. Thus, different culturally related practices were used concurrently following the inclusion in the Roman world.

The encounters between the Illyrian, Greek and Roman cultures in South Dalmatia are discussed by Marina Prusac. Such cultural encounters are expressed by the iconographic representations of hybrid deities, and the significance of the landscape for the character of these cults is emphasised.

Cultural influences depended on communication routes, such as the Via Egnatia, which connected the Adriatic with the Bosphoros. Arja Karivieri provides new evidence from the Roman and Early Byzantine periods from the area between Thessalonica and Philippi in Greece.

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