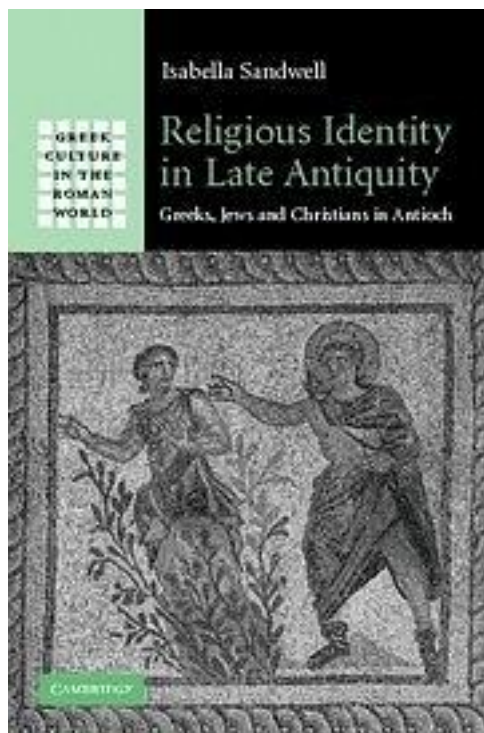# Religious Identity in Late Antiquity

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Studies of religious interaction in the fourth century AD have often assumed that the categories of 'pagan', 'Christian' and 'Jew' can be straightforwardly applied, and that we can assess the extent of Christianization in the Graeco-Roman period. In contrast, in this 2007 text, Dr Sandwell tackles the fundamental question of attitudes to religious identity by exploring how the Christian preacher John Chrysostom and the Graeco-Roman orator Libanius wrote about and understood issues of religious allegiance. By comparing the approaches of these men, who were living and working in Antioch at approximately the same time, she strives to get inside the process of religious interaction in a way not normally possible due to the dominance of Christian

sources. In so doing she develops approaches to the study of Libanius' religion, the impact of John Chrysostom's preaching on his audiences and the importance of religious identity to fourth-century individuals.

作者介绍:

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标签

身份认同

晚古典

评论

作者用建构主义的方法看待宗教认同。四世纪的人们持续不断地跨越宗教边界并进行交互，所谓基督徒或异教徒，其身份在本质或客观上并不存在，这些人为(基督徒)创造的术语实际上抹平了当时宗教生活的多样性。Chrysostom继承传统，用文本和话语构建唯一的基督教身份认同与宗教忠诚，但其对人们的思维和行为方式影响有限，更重要的是自君士坦丁后新宗教权威带来的机会主义。作者认为，Libanius也是这场宗教游戏中的能手。然而，作者只看到了师徒二人分别代表的群体，未考虑其余的激进及温和派，还有那些处于灰色地带的人，因此有所局限。不过，作者将宗教分为"规则/意识形态"，与"实践/习惯"，以及比较宗教认同和其他社会认同的关系等，让人受益匪浅。

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书评

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