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**Sociologies of Religion in Fourth- and Fifth-Century Rome**

This paper explores the sociology of Christianity and of paganism in fourth-century and early fifth-century Rome, looking specifically at the relationship between religiosity and the family. Using the evidence from shrines, chapels and private churches, as well as textual sources, it will be argued that aristocratic Christians in Rome, and indeed in much of the West, retained strongly family/patronage-based notions of religious hierarchy and organization, sociologies which had molded religious experiences since the early empire. These conceptions entailed important home-based rituals, including the consumption of the reserved eucharist, private relic veneration and private clergy in the employ of the family. These practices do not represent a simple and unproblematic “Christianization of the family,” as has been typically assumed, but rather comprised the most deeply-seated ‘carry-over’ from a pre-Christian past, and they rubbed uncomfortably against a nascent episcopal organization organized around apostolic authority and church law.