



UNIL | Université de Lausanne  
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**Colloque du mercredi 17 mars 2010, à 17 h. 15**  
**Anthropole (ex BFSH 2), salle 5021**

**« Between Martyrdom and Apologetics: Jewish and Christian Identity  
 in Conflict »**

Apologetic writings and Martyr Acts emerge within Christian literature from the middle of the second century. Traditionally these two genres have been seen as very different — one seeking some common ground with the intellectual leaders without, the other deeply hostile to external power. Nonetheless, Christian writers used both these genres to assert their distinctive identity. Yet in this they were following the example of their Jewish predecessors, although with startling differences in the way they did so. The paper will focus on the Christian texts, exploring the explicit and the implicit patterns in the construction of identity within them, and the extent to which the competing Jewish construction of identity remains in the background.

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