

Teaching Philosophy in the 4th Century: Julian and the so-called "School of Pergamum"

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This paper aims to outline Julian's philosophical training against the wider background of philosophical teaching during the 4th century. In particular the paper will focus on the so-called 'School of Pergamum', which included Julian's masters and counsellors Maximus of Ephesus and Priscus. From Karl Praechter onwards the School of Pergamum has often been regarded as a quasi-religious group where theurgy dominated over rational teaching. This is a very partial picture however, passages from Eunapius, Julian and Themistius offer a much more nuanced picture of Neoplatonic teaching during the 4th century and this picture sheds light on some aspects of Julian's philosophical and political thought.