

Power, Royal Agency, and Elite Women in the Hellenistic and Roman World
Questions from Session 1

Sheila Ager, *Power: Paradigms & Parameters*.

From Marion Meyer to Everyone: 12:31 PM

Thinking about evidence: would not the visual presence of a queen (coin Portraits!) - kind of - "pave the way" for authority, influence, etc. ?

From Elizabeth Carney to Everyone: 12:32 PM

I wonder if its access rather than influence?

From Andrea Gatzke (she/her) to Everyone: 12:34 PM

I also wonder if we see differing examples of powerful women who are the mothers of kings rather than the wives of kings? Is it easier or harder to be "orthogonal" depending on your relationship with the king?

From Alex McAuley to Everyone: 12:35 PM

I was wondering much the same thing, Andrea - derivative power or power by association?

From Cristina Rosillo Lopez to Everyone: 12:35 PM

What about the different types of political power? Leverage? Legislative power? Real political influence?

From Brett Evans to Everyone: 12:36 PM

Pursuing lord Varys's brilliant formulation, whose beliefs matter in defining a queen's power and how do they influence each other? King's, queen's herself, courtiers, cities' leaders, the masses?

From Caitlin Gillespie to Everyone: 12:36 PM

To build on Andrea and Alex, how does becoming a mother (of a potential heir) impact a queen's level of power?

From Brett Evans to Everyone: 12:41 PM

What is the power of individuals or groups below the king to confer or create authority for a queen? I'm thinking of members of the court.

From Daniel to Everyone: 12:42 PM

It's a fairly common political ploy to criticize others for a leader's poor decisions. How common was it for the supporters of the king to heap criticism on the Queen, Sister, Mother etc to try and salvage a king's reputation and authority?

From Marion Meyer to Everyone: 12:47 PM

Isn't it indicative of Kleopatra Thea's "power" that she was BELIEVED to have killed her husband, the king??

Alex McAuley, *Archein* and/or *Archesthai*: Exploring the Vocabulary of Female Power.

From Sheila Ager to Everyone: 01:19 PM

Do royal men do things on their own?

From Monica D'Agostini to Everyone: 01:21 PM

I think Brett Evan's question relates to this

From Gillian Ramsey to Everyone: 01:21 PM

Your examples for Kleopatra Thea as the bountiful provider/Tyche seem to speak to Sheila's earlier comments in the discussion about other forms of authority, like divine or moral authority, which, arguably were extremely important to people as characteristics of their rulers (whether male or female).

From Ana García to Everyone: 01:22 PM

But also at times the military

From Ioanna Kralli to Everyone: 01:23 PM

Adding to Alex's argument about Apollonis, we could say that she brought up good boys, good future kings (as Polybius knew), i.e. that she contributed immensely to the welfare of the Attalid oikos / dynasty/kingdom

From Marion Meyer to Everyone: 01:25 PM

To Gillian: Interestingly, Kleopatra Thea was "Tyche" FOR Alexander Balas (Response to Demetrios I's Tyche), and she was shown as Eueteria on the coins, much later, when she was shown as queen (without any male companion, husband or son!!!)

From Sheila Ager to Everyone: 01:29 PM

Is Apollonis different because the kings of Pergamon tried to avoid the grand exaltation of monarchy? Apollonis is, as you say, a good citizeness.