

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

**Beth Carney, Complicating the "Agency" of Royal Women.**

From barry\_brisk to Everyone: 12:29 PM

Thank you for a most enlightening perspective.

From Lloyd Llewellyn-Jones to Everyone: 12:30 PM

Thank you Elizabeth, that was fresh and very thought-provoking.

From Me to Everyone: 12:31 PM

You mention the possibility of Diodoros being critical of Olympias for having a "largish court" - could you expand on the distinction between expectations around male royalty and female royalty when it comes to a court?

From Alex McAuley to Everyone: 12:33 PM

I was about to ask the same thing Sheila - is it only 'controversial' because we have a queen/princess with male courtiers rather than just a female entourage?

And to follow on from Monica's question: I wonder where the economic resources of these late Argead royal women would have come from?

From iPad di Franca (4) to Everyone: 12:33 PM

Thank you Beth... vero interesting di

From Lloyd Llewellyn-Jones to Everyone: 12:34 PM

Might I contribute something on the Achaemenid female court?

From Alex McAuley to Everyone: 12:37 PM

Excellent point, Lloyd - and I wonder where 'retinue' or 'entourage' ends and a 'court' begins!

From Me to Everyone: 12:37 PM

And would a large percentage of male courtiers be potentially constraining on a queen?

From Andrea Gatzke (she/her) to Everyone: 12:38 PM

I think it might be hard to argue for a Persian-style court for Olympias, though, as opposed to later Hellenistic (and esp. Seleucid) queens, where the Persian influence is much deeper. No? (I don't have a voice today so can't elaborate verbally, so sorry).

From Lloyd Llewellyn-Jones to Everyone: 12:38 PM

yes, exactly.

From Andrea Gatzke (she/her) to Everyone: 12:41 PM

Sorry!  
thank you Lloyd & others.

From Lloyd Llewellyn-Jones to Everyone: 12:44 PM  
Do it, Beth! Do it!

From Timothy Howe to Everyone: 12:44 PM  
Thank you for that important point, Beth. I think we are so eager for evidence that we overlook the Roman reception out sources put on things.

From nili almagor to Everyone: 12:45 PM  
Yet we still cannot do without Plutarch...

From Tara Sewell-Lasater to Everyone: 12:46 PM  
Great talk. I am sorry to leave a bit early- I have a class to teach. Great to see everyone.

From Monica D'Agostini to Everyone: 12:47 PM  
Thank you for coming :)

From Marion Meyer to Everyone: 12:47 PM  
Too sorry that I have to leave now. Thanks.

From iPad di Franca (4) to Everyone: 12:48 PM  
Great talk. Sorry, I have to leave..

### **Caitlin Gillespie, The Arrogant Fecundity of Agrippina**

From Sabine Müller to Everyone: 01:04 PM  
Dear all, sorry to have to leave now. Thank you, dear Beth, for your great and inspiring talk and also thank you, Caitlin, for this interesting Approach.

From Monica D'Agostini to Everyone: 01:04 PM  
Thank you!

From Lloyd Llewellyn-Jones to Everyone: 01:12 PM  
Excellent!

From Timothy Howe to Everyone: 01:13 PM  
Thank you so much, Caitlin, for this fascinating analysis of the Julio-Claudian women. Do you think Agrippina the Elder was conscious of her role in crafting a new royal ideology for Rome. Could that explain why she is so different from her mother and sister, the Julias? The fact that she recognised her agency within the Augustan system?

From Alex McAuley to Everyone: 01:13 PM

Many thanks for this, Caitlin, fascinating - I wonder if we see the shadow of Messalina in the background of Tacitus' understanding of fecunditas?

From Lloyd Llewellyn-Jones to Everyone: 01:14 PM

I'd like to ask about fertility as a threat, if I may?

From Mr. Stephen Guerriero to Everyone: 01:14 PM

Since they didn't have 23 and Me DNA testing, what evidence was offered in terms of legitimacy of parentage? Was familial resemblance something?

From Me to Everyone: 01:15 PM

Really interesting, Caitlin - I especially like the notion of fecundity as a symbolic power (going beyond the simple production of heirs). I have a few Ptolemaic and Ptolemaic/Seleukid queens that I would love to throw into the mix here....

From Mr. Stephen Guerriero to Everyone: 01:15 PM

Sorry I can't unmute at the moment- if you want to read my Q, I'd be so appreciative!

From nili almagor to Everyone: 01:22 PM

Thanks Caitlin for the  
(This is Eran)

From Frances Pownall to Everyone: 01:26 PM

Just a comment (not a question). On the issue of threatening wombs, there is also the story of Mandane in Herodotus.

From Me to Everyone: 01:26 PM

Yes, indeed, Fran!

From Christopher Star to Everyone: 01:27 PM

How might Tacitus's portrayal of fecundity be related to this theme in the play Octavia? The play concludes with a celebration of Agrippina the Elder and calls her children "tokens of peace" (pignora pacis).

From Mr. Stephen Guerriero to Everyone: 01:27 PM

Thank you so much— a wonderful talk! 🙏

From Gillian Ramsey to Everyone: 01:31 PM

I have to duck out. Thank you so much Beth and Caitlin for your wonderful papers!

From Alex McAuley to Everyone: 01:31 PM

Forgive me everyone I have to head off - many thanks for these fascinating talks and wonderful discussion. See you next time!

From Timothy Howe to Everyone: 01:33 PM

Caitlin, Beth, thank you for a great session. I have to go to another meeting. S

From Andrea Gatzke (she/her) to Everyone: 01:34 PM

the "adoption of the best man" is a great way to take the power of succession away from women

From Lloyd Llewellyn-Jones to Everyone: 01:38 PM

New Kingdom Egypt is best for images of pregnant queens: Queen Ahmose, Queen Mutemwiya and queen Tiiya.

From Andrea Gatzke (she/her) to Everyone: 01:41 PM

Thank you so much Beth and Caitlin.

From Brett Evans to Everyone: 01:41 PM

Thank you, both, so much, for these stimulating talks!

From Ana García Espinosa to Everyone: 01:41 PM

Thank you Caitlin and Elizabeth for the wonderful papers, very interesting!

From Lloyd Llewellyn-Jones to Everyone: 01:41 PM

thank you everyone; that was fantastic.

From Rachel Tucker to Everyone: 01:41 PM

thanks everyone!