

Call for papers

Ἐν Μοῦσῃσι ἔξοχος. *Greek Intellectual Women in Hellenistic and Imperial Age*

(PRIN2022 WInGS. Women Intellectuals in Greek Society)

Dipartimento di Filologia Classica e Italianistica (FICLIT) – Alma Mater Studiorum, Università di
Bologna
12th -13th of June 2025

Organised by Vittoria Dozza and Lucia Floridi

Scientific committee

Andrea Capra, Lucia Floridi, Cecilia Nobili

Keynote speakers: Peter Bing, Regina Höschel, Jacqueline Klooster

Call for papers – deadline 30th September 2024

Literary and documentary sources from the Hellenistic and Imperial ages offer profiles of ‘literate’ women who display intellectual activities and skills, bringing to light a new category of woman ‘excelling in the Muses’ (*IG XII 6,2,873*) and new ways of representing it. The social visibility and recognition achieved by some prominent female figures within the civic community, attested for example in public honorary inscriptions, is also accompanied by forms of promotion on the cultural level. Women’s involvement in the παιδεία and the education achieved by those who are variously defined as ‘well-educated’, the literary production of female authors and the distribution of literary works to a female audience, as well as the inclusion of women in cultural institutions and events are noteworthy expressions of this social phenomenon and change.

Our workshop aims to investigate the role of Greek intellectual women in the Hellenistic and imperial ages in a comprehensive way, by making the most of the following conducive research approaches, without being limited to them:

- What were the intellectual professions of women? What educational programs could they follow? What cultural assignments were entrusted to them? Can we identify ‘patronesses’ who protected the poets and scholars of their time and influenced their production? With these questions, we invite you to define the identity of literary women, their scope of action, and the family and social context that afforded them access to culture and its practices. By way of example, we will recall the accounts of ‘wandering’ women who gave public literary performances and the public roles with a cultural impact played by women belonging to the ruling class of their city, such as ‘agonistic liturgies’ or the funding of spaces for artistic and intellectual activities. In addition, the economic aspect of these professional activities deserves further investigation: did intellectual and literary women receive remuneration for their performances and works? Conversely, could ‘patronesses’ independently dispose of their own assets to finance intellectual activities, without the intercession of a family member?
- What literary genres did Greek female authors practice in this period? Did any of these genres take on a distinctly ‘feminine form’? Were any genres specifically perceived and presented as ‘feminine’ in the Hellenistic and imperial ages? If so, how do they relate to the corresponding

'feminine' literary genres of earlier and/or later periods? When it comes to the works of female authors indirectly quoted by others, what kind of fragments are selected by 'male' sources, in what contexts do we find these quotations and how are they introduced? What problems of authorship attribution arise in the field of Greek women's literature and what literary space is given to female authors?

- What audiences can be assumed for the intellectual women of the Hellenistic and imperial ages? Was their literary output (also) aimed at women? On what occasions and in what contexts, if any, did they have the opportunity to address a broader audience (as may have been the case of Aristodama of Smyrne, whose poetic ἐπιδείξεις gained official recognition from the citizenship) or an audience shared with their male counterparts (as illustrated by the inscriptions visible to visitors on the Memnon Colossus, signed by both male and female authors)?

Select bibliography

- R. Ancona-G.Tsouvala, *New Directions in the Study of Women in the Greco-Roman World*, Oxford 2021.
A. Bielman, *Femmes en public dans le monde hellénistique*, Paris 2002.
F. Ferrandini Troisi, *La donna nella società ellenistica. Testimonianze epigrafe*, Bari 2000.
L. Floridi, *Dare e negare la voce alle donne. Dinamiche di attribuzione e disattribuzione autoriale nella letteratura greco-latina al femminile*, «IFC» XXII (2022-2023) 1-47.
E.A. Hemelrijk, *Matrona Docta. Educated women in the Roman élite from Cornelia to Julia Domna*, London/New York 1999.
F. Kirbihler, *Les femmes magistrats et liturges en Asie Mineure (IIe s. av. J.-C. - IIIe s. ap. J.-C.)*, «Ktema» XIX (1994) 51-75.
S. Lalanne (ed.), *Femmes grecques de l'Orient romain*, Besançon 2019.
M.R. Lefkowitz-M.B.Fant, *Womens' Life in Greece and Rome. A Source Book in Translation*, London 1982.
A. Martin, *A Heritage of Her Own? Allusion and Tradition in Female-Authored Poetry of the Hellenistic Age*, Lausanne 2023.
I.M. Plant, *Women Writers of Ancient Greece and Rome. An Anthology*, Sheffield 2004.
S.B. Pomeroy, *Technikai kai Mousikai. The education of women in the Fourth Century and in the Hellenistic Period*, «American Journal of Ancient History» II (1977) 51-68.
J. Rowlandson, *Women and Society in Greek and Roman Egypt. A Sourcebook*, Cambridge 1998.
P. Siekierka-K. Stebnicka-A. Wolicki, *Women and the Polis. Public Honorific Inscriptions for Women in the Greek Cities from the Late Classical to the Roman Period*, I-II, Berlin/Boston 2021.

We welcome proposals for 20-minute presentations that will be followed by a 10-minute discussion. Proposals should be submitted in the form of an anonymous abstract (max. 300 words, *.pdf file), with a brief bibliography, by **Monday 30th September 2024** to Vittoria Dozza (vittoria.dozza@unibo.it)

We accept proposals for papers in English, Italian, French, German and Spanish. For papers in Italian, German, French or Spanish we will kindly ask you to provide an extended summary in English for the conference. Accepted papers may be considered for publication in a volume with the proceedings of the conference.

We will inform all applicants of our decision by 15th November 2024. For any inquiries, please contact Vittoria Dozza (vittoria.dozza@unibo.it) or Lucia Floridi (lucia.floridi2@unibo.it).