

Contested Queens: Powerful Women and their Historiography.

ICS Ancient History Seminar Autumn Term 2024

Convenors: Dr Julietta Steinhauer and Dr Amber Gartrell

Thursdays at 4:30pm

Over the course of the past few decades, ancient women have moved from the peripheries of our subject, from being exempla and exceptions, to being considered as fully fleshed individuals with their own motivations, agency, and shortcomings. Since the 1970s but particularly in recent years, handbooks, compilations, sourcebooks, and whole book series have been dedicated to investigating ancient women. Throughout, there has been an effort to rehabilitate particularly those powerful women that have notoriously been used for political ends or for arguments sake by ancient (and sometimes modern) authors, such as Cleopatra VII or Agrippina the Younger.

This series is designed as an update to the scholarship on ‘powerful women’ over the past few decades focusing on questions of historiography and changes in reception. In other words, what has changed over the course of the past 50 odd years and how do we understand these women today?

10 th October <i>264, Senate House</i>	Guy Middleton, Newcastle University <i>Writing Powerful Women.</i>
17 th October	No seminar
24 th October <i>264, Senate House</i>	Nathanael Andrade, Binghamton University <i>Zenobia of Palmyra for the 21st century?</i>
31 st October <i>264, Senate House</i>	Christiane Kunst, Universität Osnabrück <i>Wife - Sister - Mother and the Concept of Hellenistic Queenship.</i>
7 th November	No seminar
14 th November <i>264, Senate House</i>	Susan Treggiari, University of Oxford <i>Servilia and Power: Second Thoughts.</i>
21 st November <i>Online seminar</i>	Eva Carrara, James Madison University <i>Reassessing Kyniska.</i>
28 November <i>264, Senate House</i>	Shushma Malik, University of Cambridge <i>Contesting Queenship: The ‘Trials’ of Messalina and Queen Caroline.</i>
5 th December <i>264, Senate House</i>	Monica D’Agostini, Università degli Studi di Bergamo <i>Who was Philip V’s Basilissa? The Problematic Search of the third century Macedonian Queen.</i>
12 th December <i>261, Senate House</i>	Jane Draycott, University of Glasgow <i>Cleopatra Selene II in Context as the Last Ptolemaic Queen.</i>