

Save Ancient Studies Alliance

Summer 2022 Texts-in-Translation Reading Group

“Odi et amo”: Perspectives on Roman Women

In Catullus 85, the Roman poet addresses Lesbia and expresses his hatred of her for the injustice she inflicts on him, and yet, his love persists: “nesc[it]” (meaning, “he does not know why”). It is as if he does not understand...

Grappling with the spectrum of perspectives held on and by Roman women, this reading group will explore both what the range of these attitudes were and to what degree they persist in their local communities and societies. How much can we know anyhow? We’ll engage in a close reading of ancient texts, including Catullus 85, and in so doing participants will develop a better understanding of the intersections of gender, patriarchy, power, and their implications for the lives of Roman men and women, and for our own lives. Can we get beyond “odi et amo”?

Your SASA Educational Ambassadors:

Victoria Muccilli
vmucc@yorku.ca

Dates (8-weeks):

Thursdays at 3pm EST

Skipping week of July 14th

- Session 1: June 9th
- ~~-Session 2: June 16th - deferred to June 23rd~~
- Session 2: June 23rd
- Session 3: June 30th
- Session 4: July 7th
- Session 5: July 21st
- Session 6: July 28th
- Session 7: August 4th
- Session 8: August 11th

Location:(Provided by SASA)

Zoom Meeting Link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87637683167?pwd=WjhqcUZEMWZ3Tm80dnp0MDIUZW96dz09>

Zoom Meeting ID

876 3768 3167

Zoom Meeting Password

779515

Reading Group Google Folder: (PDF Readings and Session Recordings)

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1keObQ6KoiENEdkIE4o-o5l28cn1CJr-T?usp=sharing>

Week 1 (Introductions; Assumptions; Locating Women in Antiquity)

Amy Richlin, *Arguments with Silence*, “Introduction: In Search of Roman Women”

[Catullus 85](#)

* Supplemental: Judith Bennett, *History Matters*, pp. 6-29 (“Feminist History and Women’s History”)

Week 2 (Matronae, Vestals, and Slaves in the Roman Republic)

**** TO BE COVERED 23 JUNE ****

Selections from [Cicero, Pro Caelio](#)

[Catullus 5](#)

Excerpts from *Women’s Life in Greece and Rome (WLGR)* (ed. Lefkowitz and Fant)

- [II.51-53](#)
- [V.109, 112, 120](#)
- [VI.166, 167, 173, 174](#)
- [VII.233](#)
- [X.408, 409](#)

*Supplemental: [Terence, Hecyra \(The Mother-in-Law\)](#)

Week 3 (Women and Funerary Commemoration)

Propertius, 4.11 ([English](#), [Latin](#))

[CIL VI 41062](#), the so-called *Laudatio Turiae*

W. Riess (2012). “*Rari exempli femina*: Female Virtues on Roman Funerary Inscriptions.” In *A Companion to Women in the Ancient World*, eds. S. J. James and S. Dillon. Oxford: 491-501.

Week 4 ((In)Fertility and Motherhood)

Plutarch, [Consolation to his Wife](#)

Aulus Gellius, [Attic Nights 12.1, exc. L](#) (on hiring a wetnurse)

M. Golden (1988). “Did the Ancients Care When Their Children Died?” *Greece and Rome* 35.2: 152-163.

Week 5 (Morality and Sexuality in the Roman Principate)

**** TO BE COVERED 21 JULY ****

Ovid, [Ars Amatoria, Book 1](#)

Propertius, [1.3](#), [1.15](#)

Augustan moral legislation

[Lex Iulia de adulteriis coercendis](#) (adultery)

[Lex Iulia de maritandis ordinibus/ lex Papia Poppaea](#) (marriage)

[Lex Fufia Caninia and Lex Aelia Sentia](#) (slavery and emancipation)

Week 6 (Women and Power in the Roman Principate)

Excerpts from [Tacitus, Annals](#)

11.1-4, 11-13, 25-38

12.1-9, 22, 25-27, 41-42, 56-69

13.1-21, 45-46

14.1-13

E.J. Hemelrijk (2012). “Public Roles for Women in the Cities of the Latin West.” In *A Companion to Women in the Ancient World*, eds. S. J. James and S. Dillon. Oxford: pp. 478-490

** Optional: [Juvenal, Satire VI](#)

Week 7 (Women and Warfare)

Cassius Dio, [62.1-12 \(Revolt of Boudicca\)](#)

Imagery on the Columns of Trajan and Marcus Aurelius

- S. Dillon (2006). “Women on the Columns of Trajan and Marcus Aurelius and the Visual Language of Roman Victory.” In *Representations of War in Ancient Rome*, eds. S. Dillon and K.E. Welch. Cambridge: 244-270.

** Optional: Tacitus, [Annals, 14.29-39](#)

Public Interest: [“A Moot Trial of Boudica: Terrorist or Freedom Fighter”](#)

Week 8 (Women and Religion)

Procopius, [Secret History](#) - Chapters 1-5, 9, 16-17

Inscriptions on [Paulina, a priestess of mystery cults](#) (CIL VI.1779, 1780, 2145)

Elizabeth A. Clark (1994), "Ideology, History, and the Construction of 'Woman' in Late Ancient Christianity" *Journal of Early Christian Studies* vol. 2.2, pp. 155-184.

Fanny Dolansky (2011), "Reconsidering the Matronalia and Women's Rites." *The Classical World* vol 104.2, pp. 191-209