



A VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM HOSTED BY THE GALLATIN SCHOOL
OF INDIVIDUALIZED STUDY, NYU

QUEEN

REIMAGINING POWER FROM
ANTIQUITY TO THE PRESENT

SEPTEMBER 23-24, 2021

Image: Yellow jasper fragment of an Egyptian queen's face. ca. 1353–1336 BCE. Met Museum 26.7.1396.

**WHAT IS
A QUEEN
TO YOU?**

QUEEN

REIMAGINING POWER FROM ANTIQUITY TO THE PRESENT

Royal and elite women in the ancient world established and maintained a powerful public presence through visual and material culture. While the principal ancient narratives tend to cast women as passive and immobile, the material record presents numerous alternative pictures that problematize this relationship of gender, agency, and mobility.

Throughout the 1st millennium BCE in particular, such women moved across the interconnected geographies of the Mediterranean and western Asia to marry into new dynasties, participate in war, and oversee the design and construction of new monuments and artworks. Through their direct and indirect involvement in shaping art and visual culture, ancient royal and elite women have been central to the production and negotiation of political identities not only in the deep past, but in subsequent centuries as well. These women continue to enrich our broader discussions of the art of power and the intersections of race, gender, and agency today. Indeed, modern-day expressions of queenship take place beyond elite spheres, as artists, performers, and political actors have invoked and adapted aspects of ancient queenship.

This virtual symposium integrates scholarly and creative knowledge production from different perspectives that broaden the stakes and widen the impact of historical work. The symposium aims to model collaborative, critical, and public approaches to history and art by including the expertise of students, artists, performers, and educators beyond the university alongside the work of scholars and curators. This gathering hybridizes a scholarly conference with an arts exhibition, live performances, and public engagement initiatives.

The goal is to bring diverse perspectives from multiple disciplines, generations, and practices while filling in the gaps that exclude women and femmes from historical and political memory. By highlighting multiple ways of knowing, we aim to foster a space that is academic, creative, political, intersectional, intersubjective, and speculative.

Spanning two days, the symposium comprises seven panel discussions, five keynote talks, one performance, and public engagement activities in partnership with the Makeup Museum. Log on to the symposium website one week before the live symposium to watch and learn from participant presentations. Keynote presenters include **La Vaughn Belle** (visual artist), **Amy Gansell** (Associate Professor of Art History, St. John's University), **Shelley Haley** (Edward North Professor Emerita of Classics, Hamilton College; President, Society for Classical Studies), **Jackie Murray** (Associate Professor of Classics, University of Kentucky), **Aminah Fadhil Jafaar Al-Bayati** (Director, Iraqi Museum Library), and New York City-based performance artist **Mrs. Smith**.

The symposium organizers would like to thank the following individuals for their generosity and support: Susanne Wofford, Millery Polyné, Linda Wheeler Reiss, Theresa Anderson, Jennifer Birge, Doreen Bloch, Aaron Cedolia, Jenny Kijowski, Keith Miller, Rachel Plutzer, KC Trommer, and Michael Wess.

**Register and find more ways to engage at
<https://wp.nyu.edu/queensymposium>**



COMMUNITY AGREEMENT

By participating in this symposium, whether as a speaker, performer, or attendee, you agree to uphold the community mission and values as outlined by NYU's Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards.

The Queen symposium strives to create an inclusive and collaborative environment that encourages the free exchange of ideas, promotes scholarly excellence, and fosters artistic creativity. We have included a non-exhaustive list of the ways we can create this productive environment together:

- We will refrain from capturing, screenshotting, and screenrecording participants' presentations, formal and private chats, and other exchanges on the website and during the live symposium.
- We will use the mute button when not speaking.
- We will create an inclusive space together by respecting pronouns, abilities, and physical needs. We will not tolerate racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, ableism, and other forms of discrimination.
- We will take turns to speak and respect those who are speaking.



Image: Banquet Scene of Liballi-sharrat and Ashurbanipal from the North Palace at Nineveh, 645-635 BCE. BM 124920. © The Trustees of the British Museum.



Image: Edmonia Lewis, The Death of Cleopatra. Marble. Carved in 1876. Smithsonian 1994.17.

PROGRAM

September 10-24, 2021

The symposium website will host the twenty-nine 10-15-minute video presentations of all the speakers under "Panel Presentations." Registrants are able to view and make comments prior to the live discussion sessions. Keynote presentations will be live and recorded.

September 23, 2021 (Thursday)

10:45-11:00 am (EST)

Introductory Remarks Patricia Eunji Kim and Anastasia Amrhein

11:00-11:30 am (EST)

Keynote #1: Shelley P. Haley—"Queen: Recovering, Reconstructing and Revisioning Ancient African Queens"

11:30-12:15 pm (EST)

The Gender and Sex of Queenship

Papers analyze the construction of gender and sexuality for queens and queenly figures, both in the past and in present-day scholarship

Moderator: Patricia Eunji Kim

- Justine Cudorge—"Merovingian Royal Women and Authority: Gender Studies and Marks of Feminine Agency within the Frankish *palatium*"
- Yanxiao He—"Roxane: The Making of the Last Achaemenid Queen"
- Alice Parkin—"The Amazon Paradox: Exploring Female Power and Agency in Myth"
- Quinn Stickley—" 'As if He Were a Queen': Gendered Representation and Reception in the Temple of Hatshepsut at Deir el-Bahri"
- Jacquelyn Williamson—"Hatshepsut: The Female King in Context"

12:15-1:00 pm (EST)

Keynote #2: Aminah Fadhil Jafaar Al-Bayati—"Important Women in the Civilization of Mesopotamia in the Light of Cuneiform Texts and Archaeological Evidence"

1:00-1:30 pm (EST)

Queens as Patrons of the Arts and Architecture

Queens exercised their power and agency to support the construction and creation of public art, architecture, and spectacles

Moderator: Ainsley M. Cameron

- Karen Britt—"Empress in Exile: Eudokia's Patronage in the Holy Land"
- Mehreen Chida-Razvi —"Bilqis at the Mughal Court: Solomonic Imagery of the Empress Nur Jahan to Portray Imperial Power"
- Michael Moore— "Hittite Queens and Their Officials: the Queen as Patron and Entrepreneur"
- Kate Rose—"Kandakes of the Past and Present: A Study of Queenship and Power in Ancient Kush"

1:30-2:00 pm (EST)

Divine Queens and Queenly Cults

An exploration of queenly goddesses, goddess-like queens, and the role of royal women in cult.

Moderator: Jillian Stinchcomb

- Megan Daniels—"Divine Bodies: Rethinking Nude Female Imagery through the Lens of Feminine Power in Iron Age Greece"
- Valentina Grasso—"Theodora, Shirin and Hind: Sixth-Century Women of Power and Faith"
- Lindsey A. Mazurek—"Movers and Shakers: Women as Founders outside Cult Structure in the Worship of Isis"
- Jessica Plant—"Saint Thecla's Sensational Grip on Late Antique Cult"

2:00-2:30 pm (EST)—**BREAK**

2:30-3:00 pm (EST)

Keynote #3: Amy Gansell —"Ivory Reflections of the Sexual Aspect of Neo-Assyrian Queenship and Imperial Power"

3:00-3:30 pm (EST)

Queenly Bodies and Beauty

Papers explore the visual expressions and cultural ideas around queenly bodies and beauty as politically significant themes

Moderator: Hallie Franks

- Caitlin C. Gillespie—"Royal Baby Bumps: Pregnancy as Power in the Early Roman Empire"
- Christina Ko—"Tools of Beauty - Soft, Bristly, and Clean"
- Lex Ladge—"Laodike III and Public Performance(s) in Asia Minor"

September 24, 2021 (Friday)

10:45-11:00 am (EST)

Welcome Remarks Patricia Eunji Kim and Anastasia Amrhein

11:00-11:30 am (EST)

Keynote #4: La Vaughn Belle—"Queen Mary, Weh We Ah Go Bu'n?"

11:30-12:15 pm (EST)

Defining Queenship from Antiquity to the Present

Papers employ a variety of methodological and theoretical frameworks to grapple with the notion of queenship across disciplines

Moderator: Anastasia Amrhein

- Ellie Bennett—"Arabian 'Queens' or 'Female Kings'? Defining *šarratu* during the Neo-Assyrian period"
- Allison Hurst—"Bathsheba, Jezebel, and Esther: Biblical Queenship and the Power of Persuasion"
- Catherine Newell—"A Queenly Model: Dido, Cleopatra and the Roman Empire"
- Saana Svärd—"Neo-Assyrian Queens and Power"
- VISCO: The Virgin Islands Studies Collective (La Vaughn Belle, Tami Navarro, Hadiya Sewer, and Tiphonie Yanique)—"Black Queendom in the Danish West Indies: Counter-hegemonic Ideations of Flesh and Body"

12:15-12:45 pm (EST)

Keynote #5: Jackie Murray—"The Impossible Dream of a Female King: Gender Transgression and the Reception of Cleopatra in the Korean Historical TV Drama, *The Great Queen Seodoek* (2010)"

12:45-1:15 pm (EST)—**BREAK**

1:15-2:00 pm (EST)

Reception and Modern Mythologies of Ancient Queens

These papers explore the stakes of ancient queenship in modern and contemporary visual and material culture

Moderator: Bruce M. King

- Elizabeth D. Carney—"Picturing Olympias: The Mother of Alexander the Great after Antiquity"
- Aimee Hinds—"Barbie, Perpetual Queen of the Egyptians: Inventing Egyptian Queenship in Popular Culture"
- Jose Ignacio Rivera—"Califia: Queen of the Golden West"

- Michael Seymour—"Queens and Consorts in the Modern Story of Sardanapalus"
- Casey Stark—"Portrayals of the Vestal Virgins in Late Medieval and Early Modern Europe"

2:00-2:30 pm (EST)

Centering Women in the Ancient World

Papers offer new modes and methods of critical, creative, and publicly-engaged pedagogies that center histories and art of queens and women from the ancient world.

Moderator: Clare Fitzgerald

- Ashley L. Bacchi—"Representation Matters and Hellenistic Queens Have the Power to Help"
- ChelseaDee—"The stories we tell, the people we become': Sonic Adventures of Historic Queenship and the 'Vanguard of the Viragoes' Podcast"
- Tasha Vorderstrasse—"Studying and Teaching Nubian Queens"

2:30-3:15 pm (EST)

Performance by Mrs. Smith (followed by conversation)

3:15-3:30 pm (EST)

Closing remarks Patricia Eunji Kim and Anastasia Amrhein

PEOPLE

ORGANIZERS

PATRICIA EUNJI KIM (she/her)
Assistant Professor/Faculty
Fellow, NYU Gallatin

ANASTASIA AMRHEIN
(she/her)
Visiting Assistant Professor, Bryn
Mawr College



Image: Faience head of Arsinoe II From
Naukratis, Egypt, 3rd century BCE. BM
1888,0601.38 © The Trustees of the British
Museum

KEYNOTE PRESENTERS

LA VAUGHN BELLE (she/her)
Visual Artist

AMINAH FADHIL (she/her)
Director, Iraqi Museum Library

AMY GANSELL (she/her)
Associate Professor, St. John's
University

SHELLEY P. HALEY (she/her)
Edward North Chair of Classics
Emerita, Hamilton College

JACKIE MURRAY (she/her)
Associate Professor, University of
Kentucky

MRS. SMITH (she/her)
Philanthropist, cat lover, guitar
hero

PARTICIPANTS

Ashley L. Bacchi (she/her) Assistant Professor, Starr King School for the Ministry of the Graduate Theological Union

Ellie Bennett (she/her) Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Helsinki
Karen Britt (she/her) Assistant Professor, Northwest Missouri State University

Elizabeth D. Carney (she/her) Professor Emerita, Clemson University

ChelseaDee (she/her), Interdisciplinary Creator and Arts Educator

Ainsley M. Cameron (she/her) Curator, Cincinnati Art Museum

Mehreen Chida-Razvi (she/her) Deputy Curator and In-House Editor, The Nasser D. Khalili Collection of Islamic Art, London

Justine Cudorge (she/her) PhD Candidate, Université de Reims-Champagne-Ardenne
Megan Daniels (she/her) Assistant Professor, University of British Columbia

Yanxiao He (he/him) PhD Candidate, University of Chicago

Clare Fitzgerald (she/her) Associate Director for Exhibitions and Gallery Curator, Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, NYU



Image: Limestone head of the statue of an elite woman, Neo-Assyrian, ca. 700-625 BCE. BM 118897
© The Trustees of the British Museum.

Hallie Franks (she/her) Associate Professor, NYU Gallatin

Caitlin C. Gillespie (she/her) Assistant Professor, Brandeis University

Valentina Grasso (she/her) Visiting Assistant Professor, NYU Institute for the Study of the Ancient World

Aimee Hinds (she/her) PhD Candidate, University of Roehampton

Allison Hurst (she/her) PhD Candidate, Harvard University

Bruce M. King (he/him) Lecturer, NYU Gallatin

Christina Ko (she/her) Visual Artist

Lex Ladge (she/her) PhD Candidate, University of Chicago

Lindsey A. Mazurek (she/her) Assistant Professor, Indiana University

Michael Moore (he/him) Scholar of Near Eastern Studies

Catherine Newell (she/her) MA Student, University of Colorado, Boulder

Alice Parkin (she/her) PhD Candidate, University of Oxford

Jessica Plant (she/her) PhD Candidate, Cornell University

Jose Ignacio Rivera (he/him) Retired Museum Professional and Ethno-historian



Image: Ivory head of a queen or goddess, from Nimrud, Neo-Assyrian, 8th century BCE. Met Museum 54.117.8

Kate Rose (she/her) PhD Candidate, Harvard University

Michael Seymour (he/him) Associate Curator, The Metropolitan Museum of Art

Casey Stark (she/her) Assistant Teaching Professor, Bowling Green State University

Quinn Stickley (they/them) MA Student, Cornell University

Jillian Stinchcomb (she/her) Florence Levy Kay Postdoctoral Fellow, Brandeis University

Saana Svärd (she/her) Associate Professor, University of Helsinki

Virgin Islands Studies Collective (VISCO) — LaVaughn Belle (visual artist), Tami Navarro (Associate Director of the Barnard Center for Research on Women), Hadiya Sewer (Research Fellow, African and African American Studies Program, Stanford University), and Tiphonie Yanique (novelist, poet and essayist)

Tasha Vorderstrasse (she/her) University and Continuing Education Program Coordinator, Oriental Institute, University of Chicago

Jacquelyn Williamson (she/her) Associate Professor, George Mason University

WHAT IS A QUEEN TO YOU?

In partnership with the Makeup Museum, we're asking public audiences, "what is a queen to you?"

In this collective reappraisal of queenship, we are excited to think speculatively and creatively about what power looks like, from antiquity to the present.

Join the conversation by downloading, completing, and sharing this activity across your networks. The conversation is open to folks of all ages, genders, and professions.

Participants who want to share and give their consent to publicize their responses can find instructions on our website. You can explore different responses on our website gallery and by following @nyugallatin and @makeupmuseumofficial.



WHAT IS A QUEEN TO YOU?

Describe and/or sketch here. Feel free to 'break' the bounds of this worksheet and experiment with poetry, drawing, photography, music, makeup, and more!

Your city/town	Your age	Your name and/or social media	Consent to share publicly and/or publish? Yes No
----------------	----------	-------------------------------	--



NYU | GALLATIN

#queensymposium
@nyugallatin
@makeupmuseumofficial