

## Programmatic text

From the social networks of aristocratic women to the mythological networks imagined by classical authors, from religious sisterhoods to political protests, and from medical practitioners to sex workers, women's collectives and networks, literary associations and communities in the ancient world were multiform and complex.

How were women in the ancient world represented as banding together and why?

In teaming up, how did membership of a collective affect a woman's own agency and standing – what were the advantages and disadvantages of group membership?

How can we understand the balance of interests between social collectives and literary representations of them?

When we know of ancient women's existence only through their membership in a collection of writings, how do we know them as individuals? What is the role of the compiler who collected women's works or the author who ventriloquized their voices?

What kind of reception have classical women's collectives spurred in art, literature and politics? How have representations of Sappho's school, for example, or the Amazons informed women's artistic and political movements?