

Title: Female Mobility in Diplomatic and Military Practice during the Roman Expansion in the West (III-II BC).

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Short Bio:

Hatın Boumehache is a graduate in History and a master's degree in Ancient History and Classical Archaeology from the University of Malaga. Since 2018 he works at the Department of Classical Studies of the University of Basque Country as a Predoctoral Researcher through a research grant by Government of Spain. His Doctoral Thesis focuses on Hellenistic Queens as Political and Diplomatic Agents with the Roman World. He has also been Academic Visitor at Faculty of Classics, University of Oxford (2019).

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Short Bio:

I have studied a degree in History at the University of Malaga, then a Master in Historical and Literary Heritage in Antiquity, also in Malaga (Spain). In 2020 I started my PhD studies at the University of the Balearic Islands in the framework of a research contract of the Spanish Government under the tutelage of Enrique García Riaza. My field of research is diplomacy and political interaction in the setting of Roman camps in the Republican period along the Mediterranean.

Abstract:

Throughout the Roman-Republican expansion, female mobility was inserted into the itinerant sphere of the Roman camp. This war and diplomatic space assumed functions beyond the strictly military. In this context, the camp also functioned as an administrative centre and political headquarters. The scene of contacts between members of the army, the *consilium* and foreign interlocutors, the camp was a place for the admission and reception of embassies from various peoples and states.

As a consequence, within this context of war and masculinity, the forced mobility of foreign women was encouraged under Roman diplomatic and military practice. In this way, an inherent contradiction was generated between the Roman *mos maiorum* and the intervention of women in the public sphere. This sphere was forbidden to them in Rome, where their actions were limited to the private sphere. Their participation was limited to situations of crisis in the *Res Publica*.

We propose to analyse the different status/roles adopted by women as a consequence of their forced mobility either as hostages, captives, prisoners, prostitutes or as spoils of war; or their role as intermediaries in the political-diplomatic ritual. Examples within this military scenario are Scipio's treatment of Spanish hostages in Carthage Nova (209 B.C.), the case of Sophonisba in Carthage (203 B.C.), or the repeated cases of expulsion of prostitutes from the camps themselves. Situations that justified female mobility in these scenarios of warlike-male power.