

Mastrorosa, I.G. (2006) "Speeches pro and contra women in Livy 34,1-7: Catonian legalism and gendered debates", *Latomus* 65, 590-611.

The contribution focuses on Livy's account of the debate brought about in 195 B.C. by the proposal to abrogate the *Lex Oppia*, through the analysis of the speech made by the consul Cato in favour of keeping the law in force and the reply of the tribune Lucius Valerius, promoter of the *rogatio*. Although one cannot identify the exact wording of their orations, the speeches attributed by the historian to Cato and Valerius both reveal the subordinate role ascribed to women in the Roman society. Furthermore, Livy's text lets us compare the over austere defense of the *mos maiorum* by Cato and the more reasonable line of Valerius, sensitive to the changes in historical circumstances. Based on their opposite arguments, it is possible to hypothesize Livy's intention to reaffirm the traditional role of women, probably reflecting the legislative choices of Augustus precisely in the years during which "Libri ab urbe condita" were composed.