Mastrorosa, I.G. (2016) "*Matronae* e *repudium* nell'ultimo secolo di Roma repubblicana", in F. Cenerini e F. Rohr Vio (ed*s*), Matronae in domo et in re publica agentes. *Spazi e occasioni dell'azione femminile nel mondo romano tra tarda repubblica e primo impero*, Trieste, EUT, 65-87.

The meaning that matrimonial dynamics have acquired in the development of the late republican political conflicts and in parallel the role played by the *matronae* in those contexts have been repeatedly explained, both in a prosopographical studies and from the gender studies perspective. However, a careful analysis of the cases of *repudium* involving key figures such as Silla, Pompey, Caesar, Cato of Utica, Cicero, Antony and Octavian reveals that the reasons underlying their decisions to break their marriage bonds were not always consistent with earlier practice. This was witnessed in paradigmatic terms by memorialist and antiquarian sources (Valerius Maximus and Gellius), according to whom the dissolution of a marriage would be allowed in the case of female *sterilitas* or would not be considered inappropriate in the case of licentious behavior of the women. Nonetheless, certain episodes involving the above mentioned major figures of the late Roman Republic denote a use dictated by a concern for protecting their public image and their need to regain the faculty of contracting new marriages that would be politically or financially more advantageous. Overall, the male tendency to make an instrumental use of *repudium,* in the context of marriages contracted from time to time according to contingent convenience, in addition to revealing a marked change from the older tradition, can be considered a direct reflection of the unilateral nature of the dissolution of marriage in Roman practice. It is also an indication of the reduced scope for action of the *matronae,* occasionally forced away from their domestic domicile by their spouse, despite their important role in the context of marriages arranged in view of the utility of marriage in the public sphere.