

**Mastrorosa, I.G. (2016) “Declinazioni tardoantiche della maternità: il protagonismo di Augustae, reggenti e regine”, in F. Cenerini - I. G. Mastrorosa (eds) *Donne, istituzioni e società fra tardo antico e alto medioevo*, Lecce-Brescia, Pensa Multimedia, 263-305.**

Already documented by the conduct of Livia and some of the Severan empresses, the increasingly strong meaning, not limited to procreation, acquired by maternity in the Imperial Age, was further consolidated in Late Antiquity (4th– 6th centuries). From a diachronic examination of episodes and circumstances in which some famous mothers belonging to the imperial family (such as Helena, Fausta, Eusebia, Faustina, Iustina, Serena, Galla Placidia) were in the foreground, or in various contexts in the Romano-Germanic kingdoms (such as Amalasantha, Chlothild, Brunhild, Fredegund), we note that although the women in some spheres continued to be considered instrumentally and used for dynastic purposes, on the other hand, some of them, from a status of widowhood reached while still young or otherwise as regents, were able to exploit the possibilities given by the changed political context to carve out an opportunity to be involved in decisions concerning their children, not only in questions regarding property, taking on significant roles and positions, well beyond the private dimension of maternal affectivity.