

Hemelrijk, E.A. (2022) “The Empire of Women. How Did Roman Imperial Rule Affect the Lives of Women?”, in H. Cornwell and G. Woolf (eds), *Gendering Roman Imperialism*, Brill, Leiden and Boston, 18-38.

This paper discusses what Roman imperialism and imperial rule may have meant to women. How did they affect the lives of women of different classes and background? What do we gain by trying to integrate women and gender issues into the debate of Roman imperialism? The chapter focuses, on the one hand, on women of the elite in Rome and Italy during the period of expansion and, on the other, on women of various classes in the newly conquered provinces of the Roman West, both in the northern more peripheral regions and in the Mediterranean core provinces. It is argued that there were great differences in responses to Roman conquest and rule between, and among, these groups of women depending, among other things, on their class, wealth and ethnic identity. Though Roman rule did affect all women, it did not have the same effect on all.