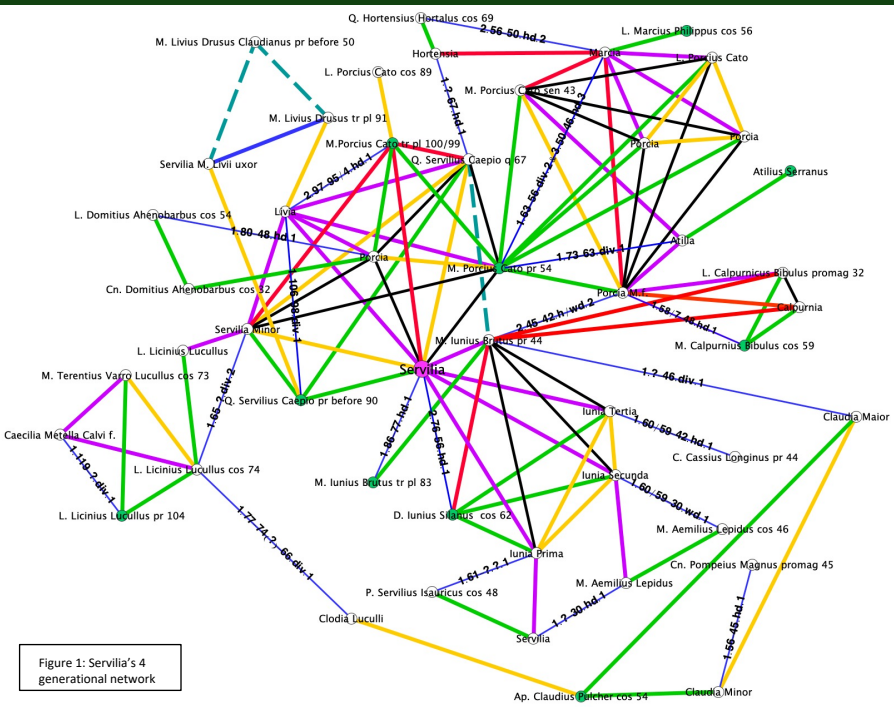


This PhD thesis visualises gynocentric networks, based on familial connections, from the late Roman republic. The originating source material was the [Digital Prosopography of the Roman Republic](#), but was augmented by a thorough scrutiny of the ancient literature & epigraphic data. The networks' legend details which familial characteristics were recorded, with marriage details also visualized on the [Visone networks](#).

12 women were used as focal actors in 11 different networks: Aurelia, Caecilia Metella Calvi f., Clodia Metelli, Iulia, Marcia, Cornelia Africani f., Terentia, Pomponia, Fulvia & Octavia Minor (1 combined network), Pompeia & Servilia (Figure 1). Each woman was selected for her central role within her family & because of her attested level of agency. The networks were created in order to discern patterns of female agency in late republican Rome & aid in answering the following questions:

- Were marriages mainly used to cement, &/or initiate, political alliances between powerful men &/or families?
 - Were all late republican Roman senatorial elites related? Is this evidence for an *ordo matronarum* amongst elite women?
 - Was the, often, great age disparity between spouses intentional & the norm?
 - How often, & under what circumstances, did an elite widow or divorcee remarry?
 - Did stepmothers play an active role in the upbringing of their husband's other children?
 - At what life stage was an elite Roman woman most likely to demonstrate her agency?
- The networks, & their corresponding statistical measures were used to answer these questions, supplemented by historical context & evidence of female agency.



■ Spouse	■ Full sibling	■ Half sibling	■ Step-parent
■ Mother	■ Father	■ Adopted son	

Key to marriage label:
 1.110-86.hd.2
 Wife marriage number (1). Dates of marriage (110-86). How it ended (husband/wife death or divorce). Husband marriage number (2)

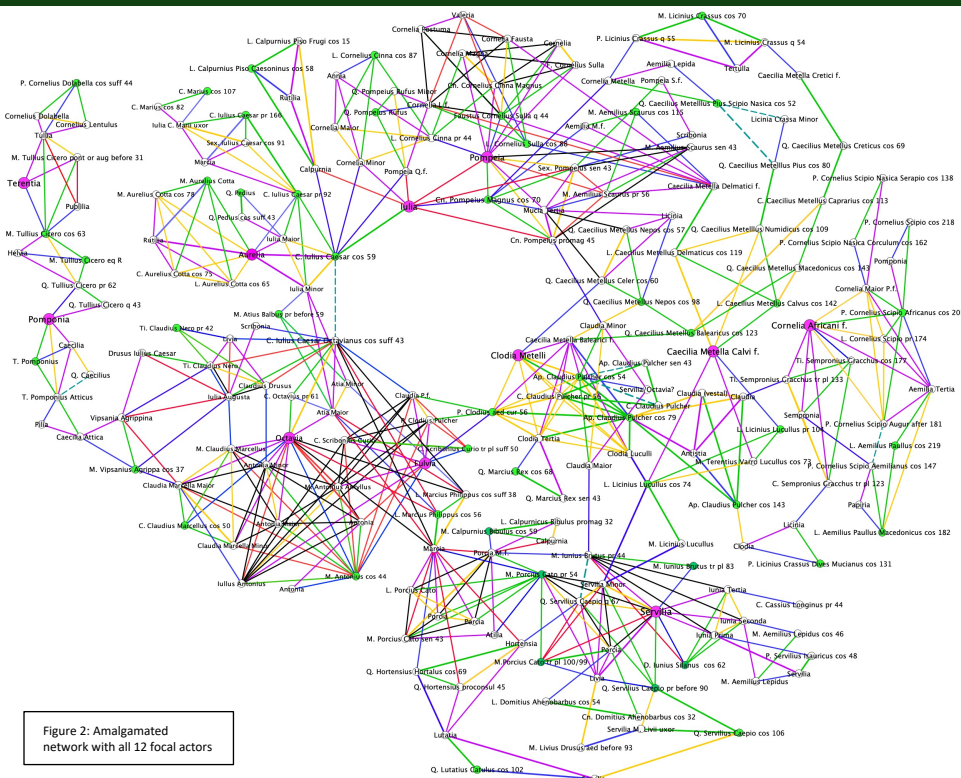


Figure 2: Amalgamated network with all 12 focal actors

Case Study: Were all late republican Roman senatorial elites related? Is this evidence for an *ordo matronarum* amongst elite women?

Figure 2 is an amalgamated network map that combines all 12 women used as focal actors in their individual networks, with connections dating to the middle of the 2nd century BCE to the start of the 1st century CE. It clearly demonstrates that all senatorial elites were related to each other, proving what a "Small World" the late republic was & that all elite women would have known each other, even if only distantly. Many bridging actors can be identified in this network, that would not have been discernible from the ancient sources alone. The biggest surprise is that Terentia and M. Tullius Cicero, who provide us with the most personal & intimate details of daily life in the late republic, do not have any direct familial connections with any of the members of Rome's elite families that were included in the individual networks. What this indicates is twofold. Firstly, that the elite *gentes* of late republican Rome were truly insular in their marriage decisions, preferring to marry into similar family groups, or with the occasional powerful political man, such as L. Cornelius Sulla, Cn. Pompeius Magnus & C. Iulius Caesar. Secondly, it demonstrates how a *novus homo* was never really integrated into the inner fabric of elite society.