Graffiti of nuance than one might initially assume. However, graffiti scholarship still tends to cluster around dishonorable transgressors. Since the inception of Roman history as an academic discipline, predominantly male ideas have been provided by the AGP and Varone. Thanks also to CAMWS, for offering the opportunity to present my research.

How do we determine a female audience or author? Other means of ascertaining female engagement fall loosely under the category of factors to identify a female author.

To better understand their lives, we must turn away from the traditional upper-class, male-authored perspective. To give one example, information via graffiti at Pompeii, so long as they were possessed of a sharp tool. This is Faustilla, which exact terms of repayment for loans, and the already extensively discussed Pompeiiian poetess who seems to have written some of the more common examples. Her divinity was fluid and interpreted differently by the authors, who sometimes incorporated her image.

Pompeian Venus is a unique avenue by which to interpret the lives of women in Pompeii. Her popularity transcended the confines of the traditional social orders is certain; one need only contrast CIL X.183 with the bustling image found near CIL 2457 to draw this conclusion. For the Favor of Venus Pompeiana: A Gendered Analysis of Venus Graffiti and Inscriptions from Pompeii

Analysis & Conclusions

Analysis of the first grouping of traditional Venus images in the Pompeian epigraphic landscape demonstrates diversity in representations of Venus in the Pompeian epigraphic landscape as well as widespread functional-literacy in the city. In just this small sample, we can observe differences in social stands, space, and concept of divinity. The text represents both Venus’ social role in the Pompeian landscape and the free acceptance of the god’s power throughout the city. The text is both informal and formal, and demonstrates a strong bond between the artist and the deity. It should follow, then, that they took part in inscribing, as an ability to read usually indicates capability in writing. We have to be careful in this regard, however. The argument is circular in reasoning and difficult to prove with certainty. Minus probably included in higher numbers. Nevertheless, we can at least argue women authored some inscriptions. This is a few of the more certain examples.

Who is Pompeian Venus? The study of women, categorizing them limitedly in societal, cultural, and religious terms, is an exercise in reducing complex individuals to less common stereotypes. The lives realities of women, however, are not so easily defined. To better understand their lives, we must turn away from the traditional upper-class, male-authored perspective. To give one example, information via graffiti at Pompeii so long as they were possessed of a sharp tool. This is Faustilla, which exact terms of repayment for loans, and the already extensively discussed Pompeiiian poetess who seems to have written some of the more common examples.

This is Isabella Blanton, University of Michigan.