

JUDITH P. HALLETT : **Intersections of Gender and Genre: Sexualizing the *Puella* in Roman comedy, lyric and elegy**

My paper examines the use of the Latin diminutive noun *puella*, literally meaning “sexually immature” young girl, in Roman comedy, lyric and elegy. It considers how and why Catullus, Horace and the Augustan love elegists employed this noun for mature women they depict as sexually active and emotionally valued. Its analysis builds upon and critiques two earlier linguistic studies: one on the nouns *puella* and *virgo*, the other on *puella* as a term for “prostitute”. By so doing, it argues for the importance of analyzing Latin texts concerned with gender issues through traditional philological as well as innovative theoretical lenses.

**Mots-clés :**

*puella* – sexual – comedy – lyric – elegy – prostitute – philology