

15 Patronage and Leadership of Women

- What is leadership?
 - The ability to get others to change—or not
 - Formal and informal

Patronage

- Informal leadership in a society without strong central structures
- Exercised in first place by the educated and elite, but also with “trickle-down” effect
- Patrons and clients
- One formal patronage structure in Roman society: patron and freedman/woman. *Obsequium et operae*

- Participation of women in the patronage structure,
both formal and informal

The examples of Junia Theodora, Eumachia



Eumachia of
Pompeii

Plankia Magna of Perga



Women patrons in Early Christianity

- Phoebe
- Other house church hostesses, like Nympha
- In the communities encountered by Ignatius of Antioch: Tavia, etc.