

Elite Female Connections and Influence in Mid-Tudor England

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Personal connections and networks were important for elite women in sixteenth-century England, as reciprocal relationships based on economic patronage. These connections and networks were based in the household, locality, scholarly circles, and amongst the nobility, and could link together these spheres. This paper will demonstrate the patron-client nature of their relationships and argue that they were based on mutual obligations. Drawing on these connections allowed women to mobilise their contacts and exercise agency.



Mary Tudor, NPG 428

Emily Chambers is a final year PhD student in history at the University of Nottingham and based in Perth, researching the importance of personal connections to eight mid-sixteenth century English noblewomen.



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