

# Finding Cleopatra: A Public Discourse

For the last few decades, people have been constantly going back and forth about Cleopatra's race. Some argue that she is Macedonian/Greek, while others argue that she is Egyptian. These debates were recently sparked again during the announcement of a new Cleopatra film starring Gal Gadot.

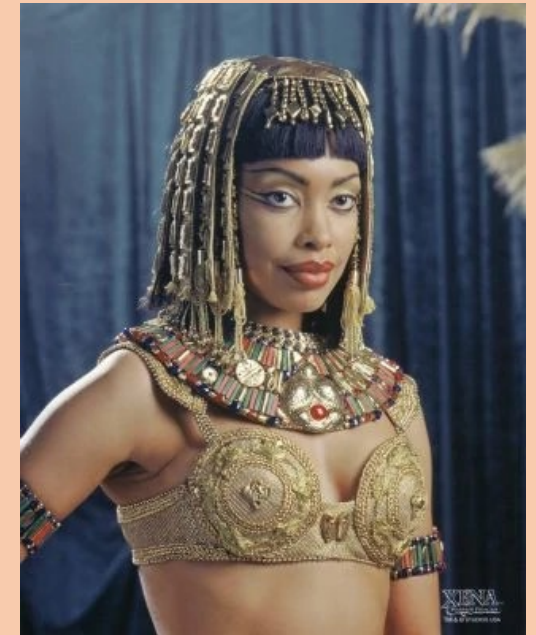
**My blog series *Cleopatra and the Public* aims to investigate the public debates about Cleopatra's race as they occur on social media and among academic scholars.** Not only are people discussing Cleopatra's race, but they are also very passionate about the historical evidence. Reddit users seem to overall agree that Cleopatra is Macedonian/Greek.

Cleopatra is a popular media figure for both Egyptians and Arabs. She serves as a symbolic figure for African Americans based on a shared culture and history of oppression and exploitation rooted in Pan-Africanism. Finally, she is a popular ancient historical figure in Western society.

However, classical scholars have inserted themselves to say that identifying Cleopatra's race is a tricky subject from a modern perspective. Film adaptations of Cleopatra are based on people's desires and fantasies.



**What are the nature of these debates? How do classical scholars insert themselves within them?**



There is something enchanting about Cleopatra as a figure that leaves hundreds of people discussing her race and identity.