

## Panel Proposal for ISECS 2023, Rome

### Phillis Wheatley: Rethinking Legacies of the Enlightenment through Antiquity

2023 will mark an important anniversary of the publication of the 1773 *POEMS* by Phillis Wheatley (Peters) in London. This roundtable seeks to think through how Phillis Wheatley used the classics and antiquity, among other ideas, to complicate and subvert hegemonic ideals of the time and how her work encourages us to rethink the legacies of Antiquity and Enlightenment now.

Wheatley scholars have remarked on her use of classical texts and forms of writing. For example, Maureen Anderson has shown that in “Liberty and Peace,” and “A Hymn to Humanity,” Wheatley draws parallels between antiquity, the eighteenth-century, Rome and America, to astutely manipulate the myth of Aeneas and critique eighteenth-century practices of enslavement and patriarchy, while creating distance from both England and America. How might inclusive frameworks, methodologies, and traveling theories help us further understand this brilliant writer?

Participants from different disciplines and geographic locations (or their standpoints) are invited to present papers, reflections, shorts (takes/views), digital and pedagogical projects. As the convener of this roundtable and the scholarship editor of the journal, [ABO: Interactive Journal for Women in the Arts, 1640-1830](#), I hope the roundtable can be developed and published as part of “Conversations” about Phillis Wheatley Peters’ work in the journal.

#### Short Bibliography

Carretta, Vincent. *Phillis Wheatley: Biography of a Genius in Bondage*. Athens: U of Georgia P, 2011 (Updated edition forthcoming in 2023).

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Jeffers, Honorée Fannone. *The Age of Phillis*. Middletown, CT, Wesleyan UP, 2020

Lavender, Isiah, III and Lisa Yaszek. *Literary Afrofuturism in the twenty-first century*. Columbus, OH: Ohio State UP, 2020.

Shields, John C. and Eric D. Lamore. *New Essays on Phillis Wheatley*. U of Tennessee P, 2011

#### **ISECS**

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