

## 2017-2018 AALAC Faculty Research Workshop

### Women's Bodies as Sites of Social Negotiation: The Cultivation, Display, and Consumption of Female Beauty and Sexuality

The AALAC workshop “Women’s Bodies as Sites of Social Negotiation: the Cultivation, Display, and Consumption of Female Beauty and Sexuality” will consider how women’s bodies have been viewed in texts, images, and social reality. We are especially interested in women who lived as social outliers because of the real and/or perceived sexualized nature of their professional and personal conduct. Such women might include mistresses, courtesans, prostitutes, movie stars, and pagan mythological and epic characters. The overarching research areas of our current participants fall within two broad cultural-historical contexts: the Greco-Roman tradition, including its medieval persistence in the Byzantine world; and post-Enlightenment (eighteenth- to twentieth-century) Western Europe and North America. Our participants represent several disciplines, including art history, archaeology, film studies, history, literature, and theater studies. We welcome expanding the geographic and/or cultural scope of the workshop with additional faculty participants from AALAC institutions.

The workshop participants will collaborate in two modes. Over the course of the 2017-2018 academic year, we will come together virtually once a month to comment on a salient reading that reaches across our common interests. During the summer 2018, we will converge in person to present works-in-progress and hold roundtable discussions over the period of one week. In both virtual and actual meetings, we will incorporate discussion of strategies for teaching the material that is the focus of our research. The summer 2018 meeting will be hosted by Bryn Mawr College.

The workshop currently consists of the following faculty participants: Grace An, Oberlin College (workshop co-leader), Alicia Walker, Bryn Mawr College (workshop co-leader), Kate Bredeson, Reed College; Eve D’Ambra, Vassar College; and Lisa Jane Graham, Haverford College. In addition, we will be joined by two guest speakers/moderators, who will deliver presentations and contribute to discussions over the course of the week: Mireille Lee of Vanderbilt University, a scholar of ancient Greek archaeology and art history, who focuses on issues of gender, bodies, and female sexual agency as evidenced in material culture; and Patricia White of Swarthmore College, a scholar of LGBT representation in film and media.