

**Monday, September 12, 5:30-7:30 pm EST**

**William Wood's Portrait of Joanna de Silva:  
Looking into the Visual Histories of Colonial Child-Carers**

**A Virtual Workshop with Dr. Adam Eaker, Associate Curator,  
The Metropolitan Museum of Art, NY**



**Zoom registration link:**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZIudO-tqzkrHtR74Aa4oDAp1evqx0x54gZA>**

*Ayahs and Amahs: Transcolonial Servants in Australia and Britain 1780-1945* (2020-2022), an international research project supported by the Australian Research Council (ARC) Discovery Grant, is proud to host a workshop on an exciting recent acquisition of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York – British artist William Wood’s 1792 portrait of Joanna de Silva, an Indo-Portuguese nurse from Bengal who journeyed to London in 1791.

Join us to hear Met curator Dr. Adam Eaker, who was instrumental in acquiring the painting, present his findings on Joanna de Silva, the sitter of the portrait, grounded in both art historical analysis and recent archival discoveries about the sitter’s life.

The panel will also bring together the *Ayahs and Amahs* project team. In responding to Dr. Eaker’s talk, they will reflect on the diverse range of visual sources that shed light on the extraordinarily mobile women who accompanied employer families along circuits of empire between Australia, Asia, and Europe over two centuries.

**Program:**

Adam Eaker: *Autonomy and Inscription: William Wood’s Joanna de Silva*

Discussant: Swapna Banerjee. Professor of History, Brooklyn College and The Graduate Center of the City University of New York

Commentator 1: Victoria Haskins. Professor of History, University of Newcastle (Australia)

Commentator 2: Claire Lowrie. Assoc Professor of History, University of Wollongong.

Commentator 3: Lauren Samuelsson. Digital exhibition curator, University of Wollongong.