

Woman in the Margins: Reconfiguring Pastoral Space in Ann Yearsley's "Clifton Hill"

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*UNM Feminist
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Series*

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12:00-1:00pm
Refreshments served*

Composed in January of 1785, "Clifton Hill" is considered the last poem written by Ann Yearsley before the publication of her 1785 collection *Poems Upon Several Occasions*. The poem brings together various experiences from Yearsley's walks in Bristol. The lack of obvious generic model for "Clifton Hill" and the reconfiguration of the pastoral mode within in it, serve as an advantageous platform through which Yearsley is able to articulate and critique her own status as a laboring poet. This talk offers a close focus on the position of the poem's speaker, the ways she resists dominant, patriarchal modes of poetic construction, and her inclusion of domestic space as a location of simultaneous comfort and confinement.