

## **Early Career International Research Fellowship 2014**

**Laura Kounine**

**'Representations of Emotions in Witchcraft Images in Germany, 1500-1750'**



**As part of its international research collaboration, the ARC Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions funds outstanding international scholars in the field to visit one or more of the Australian nodes for a period of between four weeks and two months, to work with members of the Centre on a research program of their choice. Visitors are invited to present their work in lectures or symposia, where they will receive feedback from and engage in discussion with members of the Centre, promoting collaborative research.**

**Laura was awarded an Early Career International Research Fellowship in February 2014, and travelled to Australia to work with the Centre for a period of approximately eight weeks. She is a post-doctoral fellow at the Centre for the History of Emotions at the Max Planck Institute for Human Development in Berlin. Laura recently completed her PhD on "The Gendering of Witchcraft in Early Modern Württemberg" at the University of Cambridge. She is preparing her doctoral dissertation for publication and working on her current project, entitled "Theories of Emotions in Early Modern Witch-Trials". She is particularly interested in questions about gender, the body, the process of being on trial, self-narratives and personhood in the early modern period.**

**Laura comments on her time as an Early Career Research Fellow with CHE below.**

I spent two months, from February to April 2014, based at the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions at the University of Melbourne, Australia. My research project for the ECIR fellowship was to examine representations of emotions in seventeenth-century witchcraft images. The aim of this project was to develop my work on theories of emotions in German witchcraft beliefs, which is the subject of my project for my three-year post-doctoral fellowship at the Centre for the History of Emotions at the Max Planck Institute for Human Development in Berlin (October 2013 – September 2016). The other key aim was to work in collaboration with Professor Charles Zika, who has published extensively on visual representations of witchcraft and is the leading authority in this field. A

further collaborative objective of my proposed research project was to further links between CHE and the History of Emotions centre at MPIB.

Working with Charles Zika on representations of emotions in witchcraft images was a highly valuable experience. Together with his guidance, I have focused this project in scope (to the seventeenth century, which has been often neglected in the scholarship of witchcraft images). I have also compiled a corpus of witchcraft images on which to base my study. The aim is to publish an article on this research, potentially in collaboration with Charles Zika, and to also present together on representations of emotions in witchcraft at the Renaissance Society of America Annual Conference in Berlin in 2015. This research will also be incorporated into my forthcoming book on *The Gendering of Witchcraft in Early Modern Germany*.

The ECIR fellowship was an incredibly productive, stimulating and fruitful experience. During my fellowship, I was able to travel to two other nodes of the Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions in Australia: Sydney and Brisbane. This gave me the opportunity to present on different aspects of my work to different audiences: I presented seminar papers both at the University of Melbourne and at the University of Sydney; and presented a 'Work in Progress' chapter at the Centre for the History of European Discourses in collaboration with the CHE in Brisbane, at the University of Queensland. The seminar papers were based on research from my doctoral thesis, which I am currently in the process of turning into a book, and the feedback generated from discussions in both these seminars has been incredibly helpful. The chapter I presented at the 'Work in Progress' in Brisbane will be published in a forthcoming edited collection with Ashgate, and this too was a highly productive experience. Moreover, during my travels to these different nodes, I had the opportunity to meet other academics working on emotions in the early modern period, which has led to fruitful discussion and exchange (for instance, with Una McIlvena at the University of Sydney; Michael Ostling at the University of Queensland; Charles Zika, Sarah Randles and Charlotte Millar at the University of Melbourne).

I have embarked upon a number of long-lasting collaborations as a result of the ECIR Fellowship. First, Charles Zika and I are planning a joint international conference on 'Witchcraft and Emotions' in partnership between the Centre for the History of Emotions at the Max Planck Institute in Berlin, and the CHE at the University of Melbourne. This will take the form of two conferences, one in Melbourne and one in Berlin, in 2015 and 2016. This will further strengthen ties between the two History of Emotions centres as well as facilitating international exchange, and hopefully pave the way for future collaborations.

Second, as a result of meeting and sharing ideas and work at the University of Queensland, Michael Ostling (a post-doctoral fellow at the Centre for the History of European Discourses) and I are co-editing a book on 'Witchcraft and Emotions', which will comprise contributions from established scholars in the field as well as early career academics. This book has recently been proposed for publication to the forthcoming *History of Emotions* series at Palgrave.

I would like to once again underline what a valuable, productive and fruitful experience my ECIR fellowship to the CHE in Melbourne has been, and I very much hope that these collaborations and networks will strengthen and develop even further over time.