

Early Career International Research Fellowship 2015

Jennifer Spinks

**‘Emotional Rollercoasters and Violent Processions: Indian “Juggernauts”
and the Polemical Expression of Sixteenth-Century Northern
European Religious Identity’**



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.

Jenny Spinks was awarded an Early Career International Research Fellowship in 2015 and travelled to Australia to work with the Centre for a period of two months. Jenny is a Lecturer in Early Modern History at The University of Manchester, and was previously an Australian Research Council Postdoctoral Research Fellow and CHE Associate Investigator at The University of Melbourne. She was awarded her PhD in early modern German history by The University of Melbourne and her MA in early modern French history by The University of Tasmania. Jenny has held research fellowships at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin, the Warburg Institute in London and the Herzog August Bibliothek in Wolfenbüttel. Her publications include *Monstrous Births and Visual Culture in Sixteenth-Century Germany* (London, 2009) and – co-edited with Cathy Leahy and Charles Zika – the exhibition catalogue *The Four Horsemen: Apocalypse, Death and Disaster* (Melbourne, 2012). She is currently completing a study of sixteenth-century northern European wonder books, and is co-curator of the ‘Magic, Witches and Devils in the Early Modern World’ exhibition at the John Rylands Library, Manchester, 21 January–21 August 2016.

Jenny comments on her time as an Early Career Research Fellow with CHE, below.

In July and August 2015 I was fortunate to be an Early Career International Fellow at The University of Melbourne node of the ARC Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions. I owe special thanks to Stephanie Trigg, Charles Zika and Leanne Hunt for making the visit run smoothly, and for welcoming me into the active program of seminars and reading groups taking place in Melbourne. My first week at the Centre included a memorable reading group trip to see a film that represented emotions using animated cartoon figures, and a chance to discuss it afterwards over coffee and cake with all of the Centre researchers. This warm collegiality and cross-disciplinary stimulation was typical of the entire two months of my fellowship.

The representation and generation of emotions via visual culture lies at the heart of the research project that was the focus of my work in Melbourne. I used this time to further my research into how sixteenth-century Europeans understood and represented the emotionally loaded religious processions that they encountered in southern India after the establishment of new European maritime routes across the Indian Ocean in the late fifteenth century. My project focused upon the emotional underpinnings of European visual and textual depictions of the ‘juggernaut’ – a form of religious procession notorious for the apocryphal crushing of the bodies of Hindu worshippers under the wheels of *Ratha Yatra* wagons bearing statues of Hindu gods. While in Melbourne I was able to focus on textual and visual (mis)representations in cosmographical publications by André Thévet, Sebastian Münster and Jan Huygen van Linschoten, amongst others, and to explore the Bacchic, pagan European roots that partly underpin sixteenth-century European understandings of non-European religious processions. These are crucial to the ways in which the ‘juggernaut’ was heavily freighted with emotional meanings that were grounded in domestic European religious tensions for Protestant and Catholics. It was immensely useful to discuss this material with colleagues in Melbourne.

My time as a CHE fellow coincided with the biennial ANZAMEMS conference in Brisbane, and I had the chance to speak, alongside CHE researchers Abaigéal Warfield and Charles Zika, on a panel organised through the Centre’s ‘Religion and Emotions’ cluster. I also had the chance to give a paper in Melbourne’s Early Modern Circle, receiving further feedback on my work in progress.

I look forward to reconnecting with many CHE colleagues at the ‘Emotions: Movement, Cultural Contact and Exchange, 1100–1800’ conference at the Freie Universität Berlin in mid-2016, where I will present on the research that formed the core of my time in Melbourne in 2015. I am extremely grateful to the Centre for providing ongoing intellectual and collegial engagement. In 2015 I co-founded a research cluster on ‘Embodied Emotions’

at The University of Manchester with my colleague, Dr Sasha Handley, and we are keen to build further connections.