

**Early Career International Research Fellowship 2016**

**Matthew Champion**

**‘Liturgy and Emotion in the Fifteenth-Century Low Countries’**



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.

Matthew Champion held an Early Career International Research Fellowship in 2016 and travelled to Australia to work with the Centre for a period of two months. Matthew is a Lecturer in the Department of History, Classics and Archaeology at Birkbeck, University of London, and was formerly a Junior Research Fellow at St Catharine’s College, Cambridge. He completed a PhD in medieval history at Queen Mary University of London. His recent publications include the book chapter, ‘Emotions and the Social Order of Time: Constructing History at Louvain’s Carthusian House, 1486–1525’ in *Gender and Emotions in Medieval and Early Modern Europe: Destroying Order, Structuring Disorder*, edited by Susan Broomhall (Farnham: Ashgate, 2015) and the journal article, ‘Symbolic Conflict and Ritual Agency at the *Vauderie d’Arras*’, *Cultural History* 3.1 (2014). His book, *The Fullness of Time: Temporalities of the Fifteenth-Century Low Countries*, is forthcoming in 2017 with the University of Chicago Press.

Matthew comments on his time as an Early Career Research Fellow with CHE, below.

My CHE Early Career International Research Fellowship commenced at an excellent [conference on emotions and global exchange](#) hosted by CHE and the Freie Universität in Berlin. The range of papers and keynotes at the conference and conversations with members of CHE and its Associate Investigators provided points of reference for my work in Melbourne and Perth on liturgy and emotions. It also provided me with a range of new approaches and questions that will feed into my current large research project on the sounds of time from 1300–1600, including my work on the relationships between emotions and time that can be traced through the manufacture and dissemination of musical clocks across the globe in this period.

During my fellowship, I had the opportunity to present some of my initial work on this project to the Melbourne Early Modern Circle in a paper titled '[The Emotional Resonances of Bells in Early Modern Europe](#)' (15 August 2016). Conversations with visiting fellows (particularly V. K. Preston), as well as with members of CHE in Melbourne and Perth including Charles Zika, Jacqueline Van Gent, Stephanie Trigg, Andrew Lynch, Kirk Essary, Jane Davidson, Susan Broomhall and Lisa Beaven were extremely valuable in pushing this work in new directions.

Conversations at the Melbourne node, especially through the history of emotions reading group, were a wonderful way to develop further my thinking about how to theorise the history of emotions. Reading Benno Gammerl with a transdisciplinary community of scholars interested in the history of emotions has helped me to think in new ways about the roles of space, agency, habit and practice in the history of emotions. But questions still remain unanswered: one critical question is how to think about mixtures of emotions and the ways in which we might see changes in mixtures of emotions over time. This question has become all the more pressing given the kinds of emotional mixtures and identities that are involved in current political upheavals across the world. My thinking about mixtures of emotions developed over the course of my time in Melbourne into a collaborative project with another visiting fellow, Miranda Stanyon. The first steps on this project were presented at a public lecture, the Sugden Lecture, titled '[How to Handel Mixed Emotions](#)', at Queen's College, The University of Melbourne (22 August 2016). I would like to convey my thanks to the Fellows and Senior Common Room at Queen's College and particularly the Master, David Runia, for hosting me as a Sugden Fellow for the course of the CHE fellowship. We continue to return to supportive and insightful questions and conversations with Jane Davidson, Stephanie Trigg and Charles Zika following this event as we develop the project.

The third strand of my work at CHE included continuing research on my project on the functions of the emotional narratives of the liturgy in forms beyond church ritual and devotional and theological works. My work here focused on the ways in which liturgical forms shaped both political relations between the Dukes of Burgundy and their powerful urban subjects in the fifteenth century and the ways that these relationships were mediated

in chronicles of the period. I presented aspects of this project in a paper at UWA, '[Liturgical Narrative in Fifteenth-Century Ghent](#)' (6 September 2016). This work will appear in part in my monograph *The Fullness of Time: Temporalities of the Fifteenth-Century Low Countries* (University of Chicago Press, 2017). I spent some time revising the text of this book in preparation for final proofs during the fellowship. Other parts of this work will appear in a chapter for the *Routledge History Handbook of Emotions in Europe, 1100–1700*, edited by CHE CIs Susan Broomhall and Andrew Lynch. Research towards this project also contributed to a lecture given at the Charles University Prague in early October, '[Broken Voice, Broken Soul: Conflicts over Music in Late Medieval Northern Europe](#)'.

My visit to the Perth node of CHE coincided with a second excellent international conference, '[Feeling \(for\) the Premodern](#)', where together with Miranda Stanyon and Jacqueline Van Gent, I contributed to the closing round table discussion. If any further evidence is needed that Australian scholars are leading the world in this field, this conference provided it: lively, unexpected and consistently thoughtful papers made this one of the best conferences I have attended. It drew my attention to a variety of patterns in the way that premodern societies have been, and are, remembered and evoked in the period from the sixteenth century to the present. As a result of conversations arising from this conference, I will include a new section in my project on the sounds of time dealing with the memories of medieval time measurement and its sounds, particularly the sounds of bells. Interesting in the Australian context are the continued resonances of bells in shaping national identity and political protest: the Federation Bells, for example, or the ringing of church bells in support of asylum seekers. Seeing these uses of bells as part of the way that modern societies seek to evoke feelings for the past will help the project contribute to a wider reevaluation of the usefulness of terms like 'modern' and 'medieval' in forging our shared historical imaginations.

The warmth, integrity and quality of scholarship at CHE has provided and continues to provide genuine inspiration for my research. I also want to express my gratitude to the administrative staff of the Centre for their warm welcome and for consistently going beyond the call of duty to support visitors like me. My thanks to CHE for offering me this opportunity I very much look forward to future collaborations.