

**International Partner Investigator
Louis C. Charland**



The ARC Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions is committed to creating and enhancing international collaboration. Partner Investigators are researchers whose work focuses on emotions in Europe in the time period 1100–1800, and who are based at institutions outside Australia.

Louis Charland is a professor in the departments of Philosophy and Psychiatry, and in the School of Health Studies, at Western University in Ontario, Canada. He became a Partner Investigator in 2012, and will continue to work with the Centre until 2017.

Louis has visited Australia on three occasions during his time as a Partner Investigator, working primarily with members of CHE based at the UWA node in Perth. He reflects on his time with the Centre below, highlighting the benefits and outcomes of such international collaboration.

Introductions in Kyoto

I first became aware of the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions (CHE) at a conference in Kyoto, Japan, in the summer of 2011. The conference was a biennial meeting of the International Society for Research on Emotion (ISRE). I was both the organiser and a presenter in a symposium on the three founding pioneers of the psychology of emotion, namely, William James, Willhelm Wundt and Théodule Ribot. During the course of the Kyoto conference, I attended a presentation by Professor Sue Broomhall, who was then Associate Director of CHE. She, in turn, attended my symposium, when we were introduced for the first time. After a brief but enthusiastic discussion, we exchanged business cards and promised to be in touch with one another. She mentioned

the possibility of my being invited to visit CHE at The University of Western Australia, in Perth.

Until this time I was completely unaware of the Australian CHE. But I had heard of and visited the Centre for the History of Emotions at Queen Mary University of London, where I had met Professor Thomas Dixon, the Director. On two occasions, he kindly offered to pay my expenses while I was attending other conferences in Europe, in order to give presentations at the Queen Mary centre. In her presentation, Professor Broomhall introduced us to CHE, its mission and vision, its programs and activities, all of which piqued my interest. Understandably, I was determined to follow up on our initial introduction as soon as I returned home from Kyoto.

Upon my return to the University of Western Ontario, I contacted Professor Broomhall. She referred me to Professor Philippa Maddern, who was then Director of the Centre. These exchanges led to my first invitation to CHE in Perth, a visit I undertook in the summer of 2012. This was to be the first of three visits as International Partner Investigator with CHE.

First Visit to CHE

My first visit to the Centre was an extremely exciting and busy trip lasting roughly one week. The entire visit was based at The University of Western Australia in Perth. During this visit, I delivered a large public lecture sponsored by CHE and the Institute for Advanced Studies (IAS) at The University of Western Australia. My talk was titled 'Resurrecting the Passions: Lessons from the History of Passion and Emotion'. It was based on research that was already in course, the result of a very innovative historical-clinical collaboration between me, a researcher interested in the history of psychiatry, and three psychiatrists with a special interest in anorexia nervosa. The lecture seemed very well received and there was a lively discussion at the end.

I was very fortunate in that my public lecture took place at a time when almost all the senior investigators from other nodes of CHE (Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide, Queensland) were present in Perth for a 'collaboratory'. As a result, not only was I able to attend the collaboratory, but they were able to attend my talk. Indeed, I was asked to participate in a workshop on the occasion of this collaboratory. It was on methods and challenges in the interdisciplinary study of emotion. During the collaboratory, I had a chance to get better acquainted with the work of the CHE and its diverse members. I was, and still am, extremely impressed by the unity of purpose and effectiveness of CHE members and their ability in generating concrete program outcomes.

At this point I would like to add that the 'glossy' brochure I was presented with on my arrival, was not only beautiful in design and execution, but also truly unique and exceptional in living up to its contents. I remember thinking: 'Oh my, they are really doing everything

they say, and documenting the results beautifully and effectively!' I have never seen better web and other communication productions than those of CHE. They are a very successful marriage of artistic design, academic content and intelligent and effective 'marketing'. Finally, another important component of my first visit was meeting current graduate students and postdoctoral fellows who were based at CHE. I attended an event where all of them gave brief summaries of their projects, and then met with many of them several times over lunch and coffee. This part of my first visit was especially delightful, since there is virtually no one at my own university who works in the history of emotion. On subsequent visits, I had the opportunity to meet some of these students and postdoctoral fellows again and to witness their progress and achievements.

The Centre has evidently done a superb job in attracting, selecting and promoting the work of young and early career scholars in the history of emotion. Local staff and faculty play an essential role in this success. This is definitely the warmest, friendliest and intellectually most stimulating centre I have ever visited. Everyone at CHE deserves credit for the personal effort they make in this regard.

In summary, I feel my first trip to CHE was extremely successful on many levels. I had several private meetings and lunches with Philippa Maddern during that visit and she invited me to join CHE as an International Partner Investigator for a five-year term. My own university, the University of Western Ontario, was very impressed with the letter of invitation and promptly complied with the administrative requirements of the proposed collaboration. It was clear to me, by then, that much of the vitality and success of CHE was a direct result of the very special person that Philippa was.

Second Visit to CHE

On my second visit to CHE in Perth in 2013 I got to know Philippa much better. This visit was considerably longer than the first and involved talks and workshops at other major CHE nodes, namely, in Sydney and Melbourne. During this trip I spent roughly three weeks at The University of Western Australia, where I provided an update on the 'Anorexia as a Passion' project and engaged in regularly programmed events and interactions with graduate students and postdoctoral fellows.

Importantly, this second visit enabled me to begin an entirely new project and collaboration on a joint article with Professor Robert White, a Chief Investigator and leader of CHE's Meanings Program. We had spoken at some length at the conclusion of my first public lecture and the collaboratory during the first trip. This second, lengthier trip, gave us a chance to begin on our new joint project in earnest. I really felt like I was living at the Centre as a local, and benefitted immensely from meetings with graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and staff. Again, everyone played a part in making my visit a pleasurable and very successful venture.

The collaboration with Professor Robert White has been extremely fruitful for myself and, I gather, for him as well. We have published one chapter already, at the intersection of the history of psychiatry and Shakespearean scholarship. This kind of work would be impossible to accomplish without the kind of support I have received from CHE. The lesson I have learned is that it requires time together in person to work out many of the required details. At least it did for me. The title of the chapter we published is: 'Anatomy of a Passion: Shakespeare's *A Winter's Tale*'. Appropriately, it was published in a [book of essays dedicated to Philippa Maddern](#), with the prestigious Brill Press.

Third Visit to CHE

In 2014 I was unable to visit the CHE because of local demands on my time and conflicting schedules with other research activities. Then, although I had planned to return to Perth to visit in 2015, I was prevented from doing so because of illness. The new director of CHE, Professor Andrew Lynch, proved to be very helpful and generous and kindly agreed to reschedule my planned 2015 visit for 2016. This is probably a good occasion to mention the fact that, despite the tragic loss of Philippa Maddern, I experienced no discernable change in the administrative effectiveness that was characteristic of CHE under Professor Maddern. During the entire course of my third visit, everything was running as smoothly as ever, under the very able and wise directorship of Professor Lynch, and the continued dedication and efforts of all CHE faculty and staff.

My third and last visit to the CHE was for a full two months in Perth, with a few days in Melbourne on my way back to Canada. The length of this visit – the longest of all – really made it possible for me to fully immerse myself in the work of doctoral students and postdoctoral fellows. I am tempted to say that I learned more from them during this time than they ever could have learned from me. This was a truly marvellous learning experience for me. I had numerous books and photocopies of articles on loan from my venerable tutors!

During this third visit, the preponderance of doctoral students and postdoctoral scholars familiar with Latin helped me greatly. As a result, I made unexpected progress on a planned article on the use of the term '*émotion*' in Descartes' *Passions of the Soul*. During this last visit, I also had a chance to meet with Professor Robert White on many occasions, and we have now begun work on our second joint project. This is a study of jealousy in *Othello*, where we examine Shakespeare's psychology in light of the distinction between 'passion' and 'emotion' which we have developed for that purpose.

On this third trip I convened a workshop in Perth. The workshop was titled: '[The Distinction Between "Passion" and "Emotion" – in Search of Case Studies](#)'. This was a very fruitful occasion for me, since the presence of many scholars familiar with Latin at the workshop helped direct attention to the origins of that distinction in Latin. That, in turn, has been a

great help to me in my new article on Descartes and his use of the term '*émotion*' in French, and its equivalents in Latin.

In contrast with this very academically specialised workshop, the public workshop I gave at The University of Melbourne later that summer had a very different aim: engagement of the general public in addition to the wider scholarly community. The workshop was titled ['Passions: Healthy or Unhealthy?'](#)

In my view this workshop was a great success and I hope that CHE members who were present will concur. There were over 50 people present and discussion went from 10:30am to roughly 1pm (with one break in between). Certainly, the workshop generated a lot of media attention, as can be seen in the media coverage records at the end of this report. It was both a great privilege and an honour to be highlighted in the Australian media, and a wonderful testimony to the value of CHE in nurturing innovative historical scholarship on the emotions that has immediate practical value and applications for science and psychiatry today.

Closing Statement

I cannot describe how grateful I am to have been selected as an International Partner Investigator with CHE. On both a professional and a personal level, I have benefitted greatly from the generosity and warmth of everyone associated with the Centre. It is truly an honour and a privilege to have participated in this innovative venture of the Australian Research Council. I just hope the quality and impact of my scholarly contributions to the history of emotion, produced as a result of the financial and scholarly support I have received through CHE, will stand the test of time and show what support of this sort can do to promote and support innovation in the humanities – so fundamental to innovation and progress in the sciences.

My deepest thanks to all of you who encouraged and supported my work during this marvellous scholarly and personal experience at the Centre.

Louis Cristian Charland PhD

Selective Bibliography and Record of Media Coverage

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