

Early Career International Research Fellowship 2016

Sarah Goldsmith

'Nostalgia, Melancholy and Death on the Eighteenth-Century Grand Tour'



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.

Sarah Goldsmith held an Early Career International Research Fellowship in 2016 and travelled to Australia to work with the Centre for a period of two months. Sarah is a Leverhulme Early Career Fellow in the School of History and the Centre for Urban History at the University of Leicester, and was previously an Associate Tutor with the History Department at the University of York. She completed her AHRC-funded PhD, 'Danger, Risk-taking and Masculinity on the British Grand Tour to the European Continent, c.1730–1780' at the University of York in November 2015. Her CHE research formed part of a larger project is titled, 'Embodying the Aristocrat: A History of the Eighteenth-Century Elite Male Body'.

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

In 2016, I was privileged to undertake an Early Career International Visiting Fellowship at The University of Adelaide node of CHE. I was based in Adelaide from 16 July to 22

September 2016, with a visit to the CHE node at The University of Western Australia (UWA) from 13–21 August.

In Adelaide, I was warmly welcomed into a lively collaborative research community. Alongside seminars and reading and writing groups, I enjoyed many opportunities for formal and informal discussions with David Lemmings, Claire Walker, Amy Milka, Abaigéal Warfield, Katie Barclay, Merridee Bailey and others. I had the opportunity to explore the viability of the suicide strand of my research through meetings with two leading scholars in this field (David Lederer, a former CHE Distinguished International Visiting Fellow and Marie Curie researcher, and Eric Parisot, a CHE Associate Investigator at Flinders University), and by selecting the topic at a History of Emotions Reading Group session (20 July) organised by Amy Milka and Abaigéal Warfield. I also ran a postgraduate workshop on the theme of 'Emotion and Distance' (19 September). Attended by PhD students from CHE, English and History (Elizabeth Connolly, Jessica McCandless, Mark Neuendorf and Dana Rehn), this generated a creative, wide-ranging discussion on how we might usefully apply concepts of emotion and distance to our different research areas.

The primary aim of my fellowship was to develop an article investigating the role of nostalgia, melancholy and death on the eighteenth-century Grand Tour. The emotional dimension of the eighteenth-century Grand Tour has rarely been considered, yet the letters, diaries and publications of travellers and their correspondents offer rich insights into eighteenth-century emotional culture and expectations, ranging through expressions of love, jealousy, grief and mirth. My PhD thesis considered one aspect of the Grand Tour's emotional culture by exploring how Grand Tourists structured their narratives of dangerous experiences and subsequent emotional reactions. The CHE fellowship presented a valuable opportunity to pursue and discuss other promising avenues of enquiry. Choosing to focus predominantly on nostalgia, I explored the emotional strains and states caused by travel, separation and distance. Using the frameworks offered by William Reddy's theory of emotional regimes and Monique Scheer's theory of emotional practices, I probed the complex, sometimes conflicting, narrations surrounding nostalgia, patriotism, cosmopolitanism, Enlightenment and the family in relation to the Grand Tour as an institution for elite masculine formation.

My fellowship was structured around the presentation of two papers. During my visit to Perth, I presented a work-in-progress paper on my project at the English and Cultural Studies seminar (16 August). Attended by scholars from CHE and other arts and humanities disciplines, this was an extremely valuable and informative exercise. I am particularly grateful for insightful questions and observations from Richard Read, Susan Broomhall, Yasmin Haskell, Andrew Lynch, Jacqueline Van Gent and Robin Macdonald during the seminar and subsequent meetings. Following further revisions, I then presented a pre-circulated paper, "'We have both of us suffered a good deal": Nostalgia and Melancholy on

the Eighteenth-Century Grand Tour', to the CHE seminar at The University of Adelaide (16 September). Once again, this generated highly useful, focused and challenging discussion, which has continued to help me refine my arguments in relation to this project and my wider research. I look forward to submitting my paper as an article for publication.

My time with CHE has been incredibly intellectually stimulating. I have been challenged to extend my engagement with history of emotions theory and methodology, and to find fruitful ways of applying this to my research on the Grand Tour and the history of masculinity. This had been a rich, rewarding task, which I intend to continue in future research projects.

These outcomes would not have been possible without the generous collegiality, creativity and friendship of the CHE scholars in Adelaide and Perth, and the outstanding organisational talents of Jacquie Bennett, Pam Bond and the other CHE administrative staff. I look forward to maintaining ongoing research relationships with individuals at both nodes, and hope to foster future collaborations and the possibility of combining my links with CHE and the University of York by attending the conference at York in June 2017.