

**International Visiting Research Fellowship 2016**

**Mark Seymour**

**‘Emotional Arenas in Time and Space: From Baroque Rome to the Celtic World’**



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.

Mark Seymour held an International Research Fellowship in 2016 and travelled to Australia to work with the Centre at The University of Adelaide and The University of Melbourne.

Mark is Associate Professor of History at The University of Otago, New Zealand. He received a BA (Hons) from The University of Sydney, and an MA and PhD from the University of Connecticut. His research area is nineteenth- and twentieth-century Italy, with a particular interest in the nexus between private life and more public, institutional forces. His first book, *Debating Divorce in Italy* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2006), reconstructed Italy's long struggle (1870–1970) to introduce a divorce law. He has since published articles in *Social History*, *Rethinking History*, *Gender and History*, *Storicamente* and the *Journal of Modern Italian Studies*. In 2012, with Penelope Morris and Francesco Ricatti, he co-edited a special issue of *Modern Italy*, on ‘Italy and the Emotions’, and also the volume *Politica ed emozioni nella storia d'Italia dal 1848 ad oggi* (Viella). He recently published a review essay for the *Journal of Women's History* (2015) on love and politics from

**eighteenth-century America to twentieth-century East Germany and is co-editor of the journal *Modern Italy*.**

**Mark reflects on his time as an International Visiting Fellow with CHE, below.**

Last year I was privileged to visit the ARC Centre of Excellence for the History of the Emotions as an International Visiting Research Fellow. I took the fellowship over two separate periods: a brief visit to The University of Adelaide (UAdel) node, and a lengthier visit to The University of Melbourne (UMelb) node. Both were highly rewarding.

Adelaide, 28 June–5 July 2016

The main purpose of my visit to the Centre's UAdel node was to participate in the workshop 'Romantic Rituals: "Making Love" in Europe, c.1600–present', organised by Katie Barclay and Sally Holloway. I arrived several days before the workshop and used the time to prepare my contribution, a paper titled 'Courting Bad Boys: "Making Love" at the Circus and Beyond in 19th-Century Italy'. Katie kindly provided a workspace for me in her office. I really enjoyed meeting the researchers during a morning tea, and was struck by the vibrancy and breadth of their work. I was warmly welcomed by the acting director Claire Walker, and was only sorry not to meet David Lemmings, who was overseas.

The workshop itself was excellent. In New Zealand, where I am based, working on European history already makes me part of a minority. Working on Italy and the emotions paints me into a very small corner indeed. The workshop provided academic oxygen, giving a broad chronological and geographical background against which to contextualise my own quite particular research. This helped me develop a better sense of where my findings about 1870s Italy are distinctive and where they fit more general long-term European patterns. It was also very stimulating to hear about the amazing research the other participants are doing. I appreciated the invitation to contribute a version of my paper to a special journal issue, but because the material I presented will form part of a planned book, I decided to keep that powder dry.

Melbourne, 24 October–11 November 2016

The genesis of my research fellowship lay in the discovery that Melbourne CHE Postdoctoral Researcher Fellow Lisa Beaven has expertise on an important Rome oratory, once known as the Oratorio de' Filippini, which began life in the 1650s. In the 1870s, the building was co-opted by the Italian state and became Rome's Court of Assizes. It was the site of several notoriously emotional murder trials, one of which is the focus of my current research. I had little idea about the court building's pre-history, and Lisa had similarly limited knowledge about its life after the baroque period. We decided to write the 'emotional history' of the building's multiple uses from the seventeenth to the nineteenth century.

In the first week of my visit I presented a research seminar titled 'Emotional Arenas:

Historicising Emotions through Space and Place in 19th-Century Italy'. That title reflected Lisa's and my decision to put questions of space and place at the centre of our collaborative work together.

We enlisted help to expand the boundaries of our understanding of space and emotions by organising a one-day workshop for specialists on Rome. The workshop, titled 'Space and Emotion: The Places of Rome', consisted of seven papers by individual researchers and culminated in a roundtable discussion between participants and audience members. Because the papers reflected on the emotional connotations of space in Rome from 50 BCE to contemporary reconstructions of ancient Rome in Las Vegas, we were initially worried that the workshop might fail to gel. In the end it went like a train, and turned out to be the highlight of my time in Melbourne, so stimulating did participants and audience seem to find it.

During the visit, Lisa and I had a number of useful discussions to hatch a broad plan for the article and discuss possible venues. Since we feel the article will breach traditional disciplinary boundaries between history, art history and architectural history, as well as casting its net over an unusually wide chronological span, we would like to submit it to a top-quality journal interested in paradigm shifts, such as *Rethinking History* or *Past and Present*. In each case the bar is high, and we decided to invest more time in the research and thinking necessary to produce an article of the requisite quality.

I spent the time I had to myself in Melbourne revising chapters for what should in the not-too-distant future appear as a monograph in the history of the emotions. To be published in Oxford University Press's 'Emotions in History' series, the book's current working title is 'Emotional Arenas: Life, Love and Death in Modern Italy'. The final few days of the Melbourne portion of my fellowship actually took me back to Adelaide, to attend the Centre's Biennial Research Meeting. That was another highlight of my fellowship – it was a splendid opportunity to witness the full panoply of work being done by the Centre's members, to hear fascinating keynote lectures and interesting debates, and to think about the future of the history of emotions in Australasia once the Centre's time comes to an end.

In the short term, ideas aired, shared and received during the fellowship will make their way into my book. In the longer term, Lisa and I will work together to create an unusual journal article on the emotional life of Rome's glorious Oratorio de' Filippini. Equally long-term will be my happy memories of a very exciting set of events and discussions, as well as several notably convivial social occasions during my visiting fellowship. I would like to take this opportunity to record my gratitude to the Centre for awarding me the fellowship, and to thank the key figures involved in ensuring my visits went smoothly and enjoyably – Lisa Beaven, Katie Barclay, Claire Walker, Grace Moore, Leanne Hunt and Katrina Tap.