

International Visiting Fellowship 2017

Kevin Curran

'Judgment and Emotion in Hamlet'



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.

Kevin Curran was awarded an International Visiting Fellowship in 2017. He visited the Centre nodes at The University of Western Australia and The University of Sydney during April 2017.

Kevin Curran is a Professor of Early Modern Literature at the University of Lausanne in Switzerland and editor of the book series 'Edinburgh Critical Studies in Shakespeare and Philosophy'. His publications include: *Shakespeare's Legal Ecologies: Law and Distributed Selfhood* (Northwestern University Press, 2017); *Marriage, Performance, and Politics at the Jacobean Court* (Ashgate, 2009); the edited collection, *Shakespeare and Judgment* (Edinburgh University Press, 2016); and, with James Kearney, a special issue of *Criticism* on 'Shakespeare and Phenomenology' (2012). He is also the founder and Director of the Lausanne Shakespeare Festival.

Kevin comments on his experience as a Visiting Fellow with CHE below.

I held a CHE Distinguished International Visiting Fellowship from 7–23 April 2017. I split my time between The University of Western Australia and The University of Sydney. The title of my project was ‘Judgment and Emotion in *Hamlet*’, part of a book on theater and judgment in the early modern period. My time in Australia was incredibly productive and it is a pleasure to be able to describe my visit in more detail here and to formally recognize the generosity of the Australia Research Council Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions.

The first week of my fellowship was spent at The University of Western Australia where my gracious host, Professor Bob White, organized a conference called ‘Hamlet and Emotions: Then and Now’. This conference created a wonderfully focused context for me and two other visiting fellows to share ideas with CHE members based in Australia. I gave a lecture called ‘Hamlet’s Unreasonable Judgments’ on which I received a great deal of smart feedback. Beyond the conference itself, Professor White – along with the CHE administrative team and UWA-based postdocs – did a superb job welcoming all the fellows and integrating us into the intellectual fabric of the Centre. We had office space throughout our visit and talked and socialized with other CHE scholars every day and evening. I left Perth invigorated, inspired and armed with a new set of research questions to help guide my project forward.

In Sydney, I was warmly welcomed by Dr Huw Griffiths who arranged for me to give a talk on Renaissance theater and emotion to The University of Sydney’s early modern research group, Early Modern Literature and Culture (EMLAC). I had an enthusiastic and engaged audience who again gave me very useful feedback. In Sydney I also had a chance to use the university library. There I managed to synthesize the notes I generated during my fellowship and rewrite my lecture into a viable draft chapter, which now forms a quarter of my book-in-progress.

Thanks to my CHE fellowship, I was able to clarify my thinking on the place of emotion in my book’s larger argument and make a number of valuable professional contacts that will, I’m sure, continue to enrich my professional and intellectual life. I wish to thank the ARC Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions for their generous sponsorship of my work. I also want to emphasize how grateful I am the administrators, professors and postdocs at the universities of Western Australia and Sydney who took their hosting jobs so seriously. I will, of course, acknowledge my fellowship, and the Australia Research Council Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions more generally, in all related published work.