

Early Career International Research Fellowship 2017

Daniel Barbu

“Jewish Emotions”: The Ascription of Emotional Types to Jews in the Late Medieval and Early Modern Periods’



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.

Daniel Barbu held an Early Career International Research Fellowship in 2017 and travelled to Australia to work with the Centre for a period of four weeks. Daniel is now a Senior Researcher with the Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS) in Paris and was a Visiting Fellow at the Cambridge Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (CRASSH) in 2016 and 2017. He was awarded a PhD in the History of Religion by the University of Geneva in 2012 and has held teaching and research positions at the University of Bern and the University of Zurich. Daniel is the author of *Naissance de l'idolâtrie: Image, identité, religion* (Presses Universitaires de Liège, 2016), and his current research examines the history and reception of Jewish traditions pertaining to the life of Jesus, or *Toledot Yeshu*.

Daniel reflects on his time as an Early Career Research Fellow with CHE, below.

I had the privilege of being an Early Career International Visiting Fellow at The University of Western Australia node of CHE in November and December 2017, with a visit to the CHE node at The University of Melbourne between 28 November and 5 December 2017. This fellowship provided me with an extraordinary opportunity to engage with an inspiring research community and develop new avenues for my own research. I am extremely thankful to CHE staff and colleagues for their kindness and hospitality.

My fellowship was structured around two masterclasses, in Melbourne and Perth, on 'Emotions in/and the Jewish Life of Jesus (*Toledot Yeshu*)'. My first three weeks in Perth were devoted to testing my research questions and drafting these presentations, trying to address the Jewish narrative on the life of Jesus and origins of Christianity known as *Toledot Yeshu* from a history of emotions perspective. I suggested three avenues for doing so: 1) by considering the emotions that appear in the different versions of the narrative, and asking how these may reflect the cultural worlds of those who copied, adapted and transmitted these texts; 2) by thinking about the emotions the narrative was expected to provoke amongst its audiences, and about the way in which it articulates specific notions of identity and alterity; 3) by looking at the way in which different readers reacted to the narrative, with a particular focus on the Christian reception of *Toledot Yeshu*. The first and second parts of this research were presented in Melbourne, where I also participated in a methodologies workshop (30 November–1 December) organised by Charles Zika and Stephane Trigg. The third part of my research, addressing in particular Luther's reading and use of *Toledot Yeshu*, was presented in Perth. The Perth masterclass, organised by Giovanni Tarantino, was followed by a discussion with Charles Zika, Anne Schwekenbecher and Suzanne Wijsman.

During my stay in Perth, I was also able to participate in the first conference of the Society for the History of Emotion, 'Emotions of Cultures/Cultures of Emotions: Comparative Perspectives' (11–13 December 2017). In that context, I presented a paper on *Toledot Yeshu* in early modern travel accounts, in relation to the question of religious tolerance and intolerance in the early modern period. I also took part in a seminar on emotions and objects (part of the 'Entangled Histories of Emotions in the Mediterranean World' seminar series) organised by Giovanni Tarantino on 14 December 2017. Both of these events provided me with further opportunities to meet wonderful people and exchange on a number of topics.

My time at CHE was immensely fruitful, as I was able fully to focus on my research and greatly advance my work, which will appear as a monograph, hopefully in the not-so-distant future. The papers presented during my stay at CHE will result in a chapter in Charles Zika and Giovanni Tarantino's volume on 'Feeling Exclusion: Emotional Strategies and Burdens of Religious Displacement in Early Modern Europe' as well as an article in the *Entangled*

Religion journal published by the Käte Hamburger Kolleg (KHK) 'Dynamics in the History of Religions' Centre at the University of Bochum.

As a CHE fellow, I discovered an extremely stimulating research community and greatly benefited from my exchanges and discussions, both formal and informal, with extraordinary colleagues: Paul Megna, Paul Gibbard, Lisa Beaven, Michael Barbezat, Robin Macdonald, Katrina O'Loughlin, Una McIlvenna, Erika von Kaschke and Kirk Essary, among others. I am extremely grateful to Giovanni Tarantino, Charles Zika, Yasmin Haskell and Andrew Lynch, for having supported my project and encouraged me to apply for this fellowship. I must also thank Pam Bond and Katrina Tap, who warmly welcomed me in Perth and made sure my stay was perfect. I only wish I could have stayed longer.