

Australian Academy of the Humanities

# HUMANITARIANISM & HUMAN RIGHTS

48th Annual Symposium

Western Australia · 15–17 Nov 2017



## SESSION

### Emotions, Human Rights, and Humanitarianism

WEDNESDAY 15 NOVEMBER, 5:00pm-6:30pm

LAWRENCE WILSON ART GALLERY, The University of Western Australia, Crawley

This event will showcase what new humanities emotions research can bring to understanding of the long history of human rights and humanitarianism, and opens the 48th Symposium of the Australian Academy of the Humanities.

This is a free public event, sponsored by the [Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions](#) and is followed by a reception hosted by The University of Western Australia at the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery.

## CHAIR

### Professor Susan Broomhall FAHA

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA AND SYMPOSIUM CONVENOR

**Susan Broomhall** is Professor of History at The University of Western Australia and Director of the UWA Centre for Medieval and Early Modern Studies. She was a Foundation Chief Investigator in the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions. She became an Honorary Chief Investigator in 2014, having taken up an Australian Research Council Future Fellowship. She is a historian of early modern Europe whose research explores gender, emotions, material culture, cultural contact, ecologies and the heritage of the early modern world.

## KEY NOTE

### Professor David Konstan FAHA

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

*Does respect for human rights and dignity involve emotions? If so, which ones? I will briefly consider the role of pity, sympathy, anger (elicited by the perception of injustice), shame, love, and hatred as factors that affect the way we regard the rights of others.*

**David Konstan** is Professor of Classics at New York University. Among his publications are *Greek Comedy and Ideology* (Oxford, 1995); *Friendship in the Classical World* (Cambridge, 1997); *Pity Transformed* (London, 2001); *The Emotions of the Ancient Greeks: Studies in Aristotle and Classical Literature* (Toronto, 2006); *"A Life Worthy of the Gods": The Materialist Psychology of Epicurus* (Las Vegas, 2008); *Before Forgiveness: The Origins of a Moral Idea* (Cambridge, 2010); and *Beauty: The Fortunes of an Ancient Greek Idea* (Oxford, 2014). He is a past president of the American Philological Association (now the Society for Classical Studies), and a vice president of the Bristol Institute of Greece, Rome & the Classical Tradition. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, an Honorary Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities, and member of the Advisory Board of the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions.

**KEY NOTE****Professor Anna Haebich FASSA FAHA**

CURTIN UNIVERSITY

*Colonisation was catastrophic for Nyungar people. After 50,000 years, it took only decades for its destructive forces to wreak havoc and devastation, dispossession, disease and death (80 per cent dead by 1900) followed by segregation of the few survivors, forced removal of their children, assimilation, incarceration, institutionalised poverty and the legacies of trauma and grief down the generations. What could have sustained Nyungar people during this catastrophe that affected everything? In this presentation, I look for answers in the rich Nyungar performance culture that animated their world. From Yagan's 1833 corroboree to Coolbaroo dances, Nyungar theatre to Noongaroke nights, we see the people performing combinations of the old and the new in performances of activism that expressed sovereignty and identity and community gatherings that healed broken bodies and spirits with memories of ancestors who overcame similar struggles with the power of song and dance.*

**Anna Haebich** is a multi-award winning Australian historian and author, who is recognised for her research and work with Aboriginal communities and, in particular, the Nyungar people. As a John Curtin Distinguished Professor at Curtin University, her career combines university research, community engagement and non-fiction writing. Her current projects are histories of Nyungar Performance and Nyungar Letter Writing in the Archive. Anna is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities and of the Australian Academy of Social Sciences, a former Vice President and Council member of the Academy of Humanities, and a member of the Advisory Board of the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions.

**SPEAKER****Dr Paul Gibbard**

AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR THE HISTORY OF EMOTIONS

*The campaign for religious tolerance in France in the late eighteenth century, led by Voltaire, relied on a careful appeal to the emotions of the public and the authorities: I will look at how the 'philosophes' made this appeal.*

**Paul Gibbard** is Senior Lecturer in French at The University of Western Australia and a Chief Investigator in the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions. He worked previously as an editor of the *Complete Works of Voltaire* and his research interests lie in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century French literature, the history of ideas and emotions, and the French exploration of Australia. His translation of Emile Zola's *The Dream* will appear next year in the Oxford World's Classics series.

**SPEAKER****Associate Professor Jacqueline Van Gent**

AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR THE HISTORY OF EMOTIONS

**Jacqueline Van Gent** is an Associate Professor in History and Gender Studies at The University of Western Australia and a Chief Investigator of the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions. Her research explores the role emotions play in shaping early modern and late colonial encounters with indigenous people and cultures in conversions and missions, in the acquisition, exchange and display of colonial objects, and in early ethnographic texts and collections.

---

**SPEAKER**

## Professor Andrew Lynch

AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR THE HISTORY OF EMOTIONS

*In medieval usage, 'violence' is an ethical category, identifying uses of physical force as 'against right': unnatural, abusive or tyrannical. Yet in literary representations judgements about right or wrong uses of physical force relate strongly to the emotional engagement of audiences with the poetic form of narratives. This prompts the question: how much do aesthetic factors, influencing emotions, create a sense of 'right'?*

**Andrew Lynch** is Professor in English and Cultural Studies at The University of Western Australia, and Director of the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions (Europe, 1100–1800). He has published widely on medieval literature and its modern afterlives from 1800 to the present, with an emphasis on representations of war, peace and emotions. Recent publications include *Emotions and War: Medieval to Romantic Literature* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2015) with Stephanie Downes and Katrina O'Loughlin, and *Understanding Emotions in Early Europe* (Brepols, 2015) with Michael Champion. He is also a General Editor of the *Bloomsbury Cultural History of Emotions*, and Co-Editor of the journal *Emotions: History, Culture, Society*.

---

**REGISTER**

Visit the [Academy's website](#) for more information on the program, speakers and to register.

Join the conversation via Twitter [@HumanitiesAU](#) and [#AAHSymposium](#)