

The ARC Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions (Europe 1100-1800) presents:

COMPASSION'S EDGE: WAR AND MARRIAGE IN SEVENTEENTH-CENTURY FRENCH FICTION

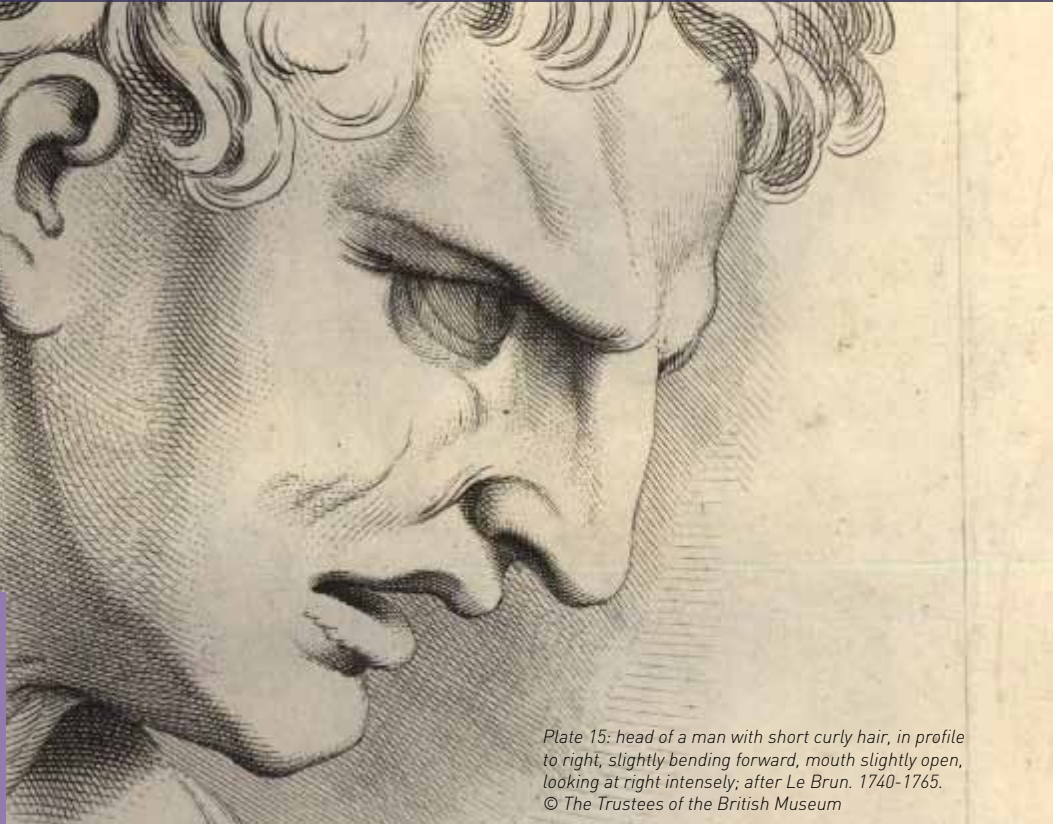


Plate 15: head of a man with short curly hair, in profile to right, slightly bending forward, mouth slightly open, looking at right intensely; after Le Brun. 1740-1765.
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Date: Monday 5 August 2013
Time: 1.00pm - 2.00pm
Venue: Stretton Room, Level 4,
Napier Building, The
University of Adelaide

When the French novel gets going as a genre in the late 17th Century, it repeatedly represents the crisis of the religious wars between Catholics and Protestants in the late 16thc. Equally repeatedly, the novel is drawn to scenes of passionate misunderstanding between men and women in aristocratic marriage. In this paper I'll consider the ways in which the early French novel explored these questions of compassion and toleration, and the limits of both.

Keynote Speaker

Dr Katherine Ibbett

University College London



Katherine Ibbett is Reader in Early Modern Studies in the Department of French, University College London; in 2012-13, she was a Fellow of the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University. Her BA is from Oxford University and her MA and PhD from the University of California, Berkeley; she was an assistant professor at the University of Michigan before taking her job in London.

Her publications include *The Style of the State in French Theater, 1630-1660* (Ashgate, 2009) and in December 2013 a volume co-edited with Hal Bjonstad entitled *Walter Benjamin's Hypothetical French Trauerspiel* will appear with Yale French Studies. Ibbett is currently working on a book about compassion in early modern France. The book draws on a range of genres—novels, tragedies, religious treatises—to pursue the political inflections of the language of fellow-feeling that flourished in the century or so after France's wars of religion. This is not an optimistic book: Ibbett suggests that far from demonstrating kindness toward the other, the language of compassion has historically pointed to a fracture in the social bond.

www.historyofemotions.org.au

ALL WELCOME!

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