

Many thanks for this award. I am humbled and honoured to receive it. This award is a monument to Philippa's leadership, but it is not the only one. The Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions is another aspect of her legacy. The Centre is particularly important not only for its collaborative ethos, but also for a focus on a topic that truly requires more attention in our contemporary context. What is the emotional climate in our universities as they become leaner and even meaner in response to funding cuts and the neoliberal colossus of every increasing corporatisation? In many ways the parameters of this award thus converge with a prime focus of the centre. That focus has been a continuing concern of mine. My first years of postgraduate education in the USA were funded by a Danforth Fellowship. This fellowship was primarily oriented to preparing, through workshops and other activities, educators who would teach in liberal arts colleges. That term educator has been a guiding one for me, as to me education should be the focus of not only liberal arts colleges, but universities as well. I have been appalled by the reorientation of the Australian tertiary sector toward training, the transmission of skill sets, even in terms of the very term used for many PhD scholarships – research training fellowships. To me education is a much more encompassing process oriented to the cultivation of critical and compassionate sensibilities. And in fostering those sensibilities the pastoral functions we perform as educators are paramount. While I agree that we must be professional in our workplace, much of how we foster those sensibilities must be through personal rather than just professional relationships. In many ways that has been my credo, however often I have come short in practice.

When I first arrived here in 1991, I was thrilled to come to an institution whose motto was 'Seek Wisdom', a motto I would put up there with my favourite, that of Cowell College in the University of California at Santa Cruz: 'The Pursuit of Truth in the Company of Friends'. I felt I had come to the right place. To me seeking wisdom is one of the fundamental aspirations in creating critical and compassionate sensibilities. As you might expect, I was appalled when that motto was backgrounded if not largely displaced by 'Achieving International Excellence', even more so by the imperative 'Achieve International Excellence', and most recently 'Pursue Impossible'. To seek wisdom is to aim toward balance, certainly ever to aspire toward improvement but to realise the limits within which such aspirations are practicable – to play in ever new ways with possibilities and, yes, impossibilities, but with a keen sense of what in that play has a chance of being practically realised and pursuing that realisation. To me the model of what we should be doing is the creative play of *Homo Ludens*, not the endless race – 'Just do it!' – of the Victory(i.e. *Nike*)-oriented competitor. And that play, the endeavour to seek wisdom, must be in its very nature a shared project, a matter of talking with people, engaging in activities with them, rather than racing past them. So, I'd like to end by thanking all my colleagues, proximately in Anthropology and Sociology, but more extensively throughout the University, colleagues in the other discipline groups with whom I've worked, especially Asian Studies, but also Linguistics, History, Geography, Anatomy and Human Biology, and many others, and all those on the boards and committees on which I've served, and the UWA Academic Staff Association itself, and most importantly all the students who have taken the time to talk with me, whether in my office, hallways, out on the walkways, a cinema lobby, a protest march, or in their field sites abroad. Collegiality, not the perpetual agon, is the foundational prerequisite of seeking wisdom, and I have been fortunate to be fostered in that respect by others (and I include students among my colleagues), as hopefully I have at times fostered them, here at UWA. So, I hope that this bestowal of the Philippa Maddern Award can be considered not an individual's achievement, certainly not mine, but an acknowledgement of the collaborative ethos, albeit recognised through the channel of one participating individual, that she did so much to foster, the spirit of collegiality that makes possible seeking wisdom. Thank you.