

It is with great sadness that the Australasian Council of Deans of Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (DASSH) received the news of the passing of Professor Philippa Maddern earlier this week.

Professor Maddern was a staunch supporter of the sector and an internationally renowned researcher in humanities and social sciences. Based at the University of Western Australia, Professor Maddern was the director of the ARC Centre of Excellence for the [History of Emotions](#). The Centre, a collaboration of five Australian universities as well as a number of global partners that was established in 2011, uses historical knowledge from Europe, from the period 1100 to 1800, to understand the long history of emotional behaviours and how they impact on modern Australian life. Professor Maddern's own work at the Centre focused on the late medieval period.

In a [statement](#), former UWA vice-chancellor Alan Robson said that Professor Maddern was "an excellent citizen of the university, a long serving and very committed member of the Promotion Committee, an excellent head of school, a very strong advocate for gender equity, an excellent teacher and supervisor of graduate students, a wonderful research leader and with a heart of gold.

"Philippa provided heart and soul to the university. She always argued her case with passion, vigour and we did not always agree but I regarded her as a friend," Professor Robson said.

[ARC CEO Professor Aidan Byrne](#) described Professor Maddern as being "passionate about her research field and while she always acknowledged the importance of science she was a strong defender of the importance of the humanities, in particular historians and genealogists, in our research landscape.

"Her role as the Director of the ARC Centre of Excellence for the History of the Emotions was vitally important.

The Centre for the History of Emotions invites friends, colleagues, fellow academics and the general public to celebrate Professor Maddern's life by leaving a message on their [website](#), which will then be conveyed to her family.

On behalf of DASSH, we wish to extend our condolences to Professor Maddern's family, friends and colleagues.