

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-05239-0 - Romanticism and the Emotions
Edited by Joel Faflak and Richard C. Sha
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

ROMANTICISM AND THE EMOTIONS

There has recently been a resurgence of interest in the importance of the emotions in Romantic literature and thought. This collection, the first to stress the centrality of the emotions to Romanticism, addresses a complex range of issues including the relation of affect to figuration and knowing, emotions and the discipline of knowledge, the motivational powers of emotion, and emotions as a shared ground of meaning. Contributors offer significant new insights into the ways in which a wide range of Romantic writers, including Jane Austen, William Wordsworth, Immanuel Kant, Lord Byron, Mary and Percy Bysshe Shelley, Thomas De Quincey, and Adam Smith, worried about the emotions as a register of human experience. Though varied in scope, the essays are united by the argument that the current affective and emotional turn in the humanities benefits from a Romantic skepticism about the relations between language, emotion, and agency.

JOEL FAFLAK is Professor of English and Theory, and Director of the School for Advanced Studies in the Arts and Humanities at Western University. He is author of *Romantic Psychoanalysis: The Burden of the Mystery* (2008) and co-editor of *A Handbook to Romanticism Studies* (2012).

RICHARD C. SHA is Professor of Literature and Affiliate Professor of Philosophy at American University in Washington, DC. He is author of *Perverse Romanticism: Aesthetics and Sexuality in Britain, 1750–1832* (2009) and editor of *Historicizing Romantic Sexuality* (2006).

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-05239-0 - Romanticism and the Emotions
Edited by Joel Faflak and Richard C. Sha
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-05239-0 - Romanticism and the Emotions
Edited by Joel Faflak and Richard C. Sha
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

ROMANTICISM AND THE EMOTIONS

EDITED BY
JOEL FAFLAK AND RICHARD C. SHA



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-05239-0 - Romanticism and the Emotions
Edited by Joel Faflak and Richard C. Sha
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107052390

© Cambridge University Press 2014

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2014

Printed in the United Kingdom by Clays, St Ives plc

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Romanticism and the Emotions / edited by Joel Faflak and Richard C. Sha.
pages cm

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-1-107-05239-0 (Hardback)

1. Romanticism—Great Britain. 2. Emotions in literature. 3. English literature—18th century—History and criticism. I. Faflak, Joel, editor of compilation. II. Sha, Richard C., editor of compilation.

PR448.E46R66 2014

820.9'353—dc23 2013031191

ISBN 978-1-107-05239-0 Hardback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication, and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-05239-0 - Romanticism and the Emotions
Edited by Joel Faflak and Richard C. Sha
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Contents

<i>Notes on contributors</i>	page vii
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	x
 Introduction: Feeling Romanticism	 I
<i>Joel Faflak and Richard C. Sha</i>	
1 The motion behind Romantic emotion: Towards a chemistry and physics of feeling	19
<i>Richard C. Sha</i>	
2 A certain mediocrity: Adam Smith’s moral behaviorism	48
<i>Thomas Pfau</i>	
3 Like love: The feel of Shelley’s similes	76
<i>Julie Carlson</i>	
4 Jane Austen and the persuasion of happiness	98
<i>Joel Faflak</i>	
5 The General Fast and Humiliation: Tracking feeling in wartime	124
<i>Mary A. Favret</i>	
6 A peculiar community: Mary Shelley, Godwin, and the abyss of emotion	147
<i>Tilottama Rajan</i>	
7 Emotion without content: Primary affect and pure potentiality in Wordsworth	171
<i>David Collings</i>	
8 Kant’s peace, Wordsworth’s slumber	192
<i>Jacques Khalip</i>	

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-05239-0 - Romanticism and the Emotions
Edited by Joel Faflak and Richard C. Sha
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

vi	<i>Contents</i>	
9	Living a ruined life: De Quincey’s damage <i>Rei Terada</i>	215
	<i>Bibliography</i>	241
	<i>Index</i>	259

Cambridge University Press
 978-1-107-05239-0 - Romanticism and the Emotions
 Edited by Joel Faflak and Richard C. Sha
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Notes on contributors

JULIE CARLSON, Professor of English at the University of California, Santa Barbara, is the author of *In the Theatre of Romanticism: Coleridge, Nationalism, Women* (Cambridge University Press, 1994) and *England's First Family of Writers: Mary Wollstonecraft, William Godwin, Mary Shelley* (2004), is guest editor of *Domestic/Tragedy* (1997), and co-editor (with Elisabeth Weber) of *Speaking about Torture* (2012). She is currently writing about books and friends in post-1790s British Romantic-era literary culture.

DAVID COLLINGS, Professor of English at Bowdoin College, is the author of *Wordsworthian Errancies: The Poetics of Cultural Dismemberment* (1994) and *Monstrous Society: Reciprocity, Discipline, and the Political Uncanny, c. 1780–1848* (2009), as well as co-editor, with Michael O'Rourke, of *Queer Romanticisms* (2004–5) and with Jacques Khalip, of *Romanticism and Disaster* (2012). His articles touch on authors such as Godwin and Thelwall, Coleridge and Malthus, and Bentham and Mary Shelley. He has completed a book for a general educated readership, *Stolen Future, Broken Present: The Human Significance of Climate Change*, and his work in progress is tentatively entitled *Disastrous Subjectivities: Romanticism, Catastrophe, and the Real*.

JOEL FAFLAK, Professor of English and Theory and Director of the School for Advanced Studies in the Arts and Humanities at Western University, is author of *Romantic Psychoanalysis: The Burden of the Mystery* (2008); co-author of *Revelation and Knowledge: Romanticism and Religious Faith* (2011); editor of Thomas De Quincey's *Confessions of an English Opium-Eater* (2009); and editor or co-editor of seven volumes, most recently *The Romanticism Handbook* (2011) and *The Handbook to Romanticism Studies* (2012). He is currently finishing a book on Romantic psychiatry, and working on two further monographs,

Cambridge University Press
 978-1-107-05239-0 - Romanticism and the Emotions
 Edited by Joel Faflak and Richard C. Sha
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

one on Romanticism and the psychopathology of happiness and the other on utopianism in American film musicals.

MARY A. FAVRET is Professor of English and Affiliate Faculty in Gender Studies at Indiana University-Bloomington. Her recent work has taken up questions of affect and history, especially the feeling of wartime, developed in *War at a Distance: Romanticism and the Making of Modern Wartime* (2010). Earlier works include *Romantic Correspondence: Women, Politics and the Fiction of Letters* (Cambridge University Press, 1993) and, with Nicky Watson, the collection *At the Limits of Romanticism* (1994). Two new projects now occupy her: one concerning the relationship between numbers and moral feeling, the other a history of the pains of reading.

JACQUES KHALIP, Associate Professor of English at Brown University, is the author of *Anonymous Life: Romanticism and Dispossession* (2009), as well as the co-editor of *Releasing The Image: From Literature to New Media* (2011) and *Romanticism and Disaster*, a special issue of *Romantic Circles Praxis*. He is also the editor of *Future Foucault: Afterlives of Bodies and Pleasures* (2012). Currently, he is co-editing, with Forest Pyle, a volume of essays on Romanticism and theories of the contemporary, as well as completing a book entitled *Dwelling in Disaster*, a study of Romantic reflections on extinction and wasted life.

THOMAS PFAU is Alice Mary Baldwin Professor of English and Professor of German at Duke University, with a secondary appointment in the Duke Divinity School. A native of Germany, he gained his PhD from SUNY-Buffalo in 1989 with a dissertation on self-consciousness in Romantic poetry and theory (Wordsworth, Shelley, et al.). Since then, his interests have broadened to include topics in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century literature, philosophy, and intellectual history. Besides translating and editing two volumes of theoretical writings by Hölderlin and Schelling, he has edited two essay collections on English Romanticism, two special issues of *European Romantic Review* (2010), and a special issue of *Modernist Cultures* (2005). He is the author of *Wordsworth's Profession* (1997) and *Romantic Moods: Paranoia, Trauma, and Melancholy, 1794–1840* (2005). He has published some thirty essays in numerous essay collections and scholarly journals. His latest study, *Minding the Modern: Human Agency, Intellectual Traditions, and Responsible Knowledge*, has just been published.

TILOTTAMA RAJAN is Canada Research Chair, Distinguished University Professor, and Director of the Centre for Theory and Criticism at Western University. In addition to over seventy articles on Romantic literature, Idealist and Romantic philosophy, and contemporary theory, she is the author of four books, among them: *Dark Interpreter: The Discourse of Romanticism* (1980), *The Supplement of Reading: Figures of Understanding in Romantic Theory and Practice* (1990), and *Romantic Narrative: Shelley, Hays, Godwin, Wollstonecraft* (2010). She has also edited or co-edited six books, including *Idealism without Absolutes* (2004). She is currently working on two books related to the present essay: *Zones of Entanglement: Encyclopedics, Theory, and the University from Hegel and Schelling to Foucault*, and *Reading between Hegel and Schelling*.

RICHARD C. SHA, Professor of Literature and Affiliate Professor of Philosophy at American University in Washington, DC, is working on *Imagining the Imagination: Science and British Romanticism*, for which he has received a National Endowment for the Humanities 2012–13 Fellowship and 2008 American Philosophical Society Benjamin Franklin Research Grant. His previous books and edited volumes are: *Perverse Romanticism: Aesthetics and Sexuality in Britain, 1750–1850* (2009), *Historicizing Romantic Sexuality* (2006), *Romanticism and Sexuality* (2001), and *The Visual and Verbal Sketch in British Romanticism* (1998). In 2014, he plans to team-teach a course on “Thinking Emotion: From Physiology to Ethics” with a neuro-psychologist and an historian.

REI TERADA, Professor of Comparative Literature at University of California, Irvine, is the author of *Looking Away: Phenomenality and Dissatisfaction, Kant to Adorno* (2009) and *Feeling in Theory: Emotion after the “Death of the Subject”* (2001). Her recent essays on various topics (Pasolini, Arendt, impasse, expropriation, student protest) have appeared in journals such as *New Formations*, *Qui Parle*, *South Atlantic Quarterly*, and *Studies in Romanticism*.

Acknowledgments

The editors first thank our contributors, whose generous and collegial feeling for, not to mention brilliant thought about the topic have made this an even greater success than we could have imagined. At Cambridge University Press we wish to thank Anna Bond and Vania Cunha for their always patient, punctual, and professional shepherding of the manuscript through to completion. We are indebted, too, to our copy-editor, Rebecca du Plessis. We especially thank our editor, Linda Bree, for recognizing and championing this project's timely and unique approach to its subject matter, and to finding this material a worthy home. We were very happy that external readers for the Press shared this view, and we thank them for invaluable feedback, which was crucial to helping us re-shape the volume's contextualization and representation of the field, all for the better. Joel Faflak wishes to thank the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada for funding research time related to the editing of this volume. Richard Sha wishes to thank American University for providing the sabbatical that enabled the editing of the volume, Deans Peter Starr and U. J. Sofia for providing indexing funds, Dianne Hosmer for the index, Trevor Levere for his encouragement, and Joel for endless good cheer and camaraderie. And Joel returns the thanks, in kind.