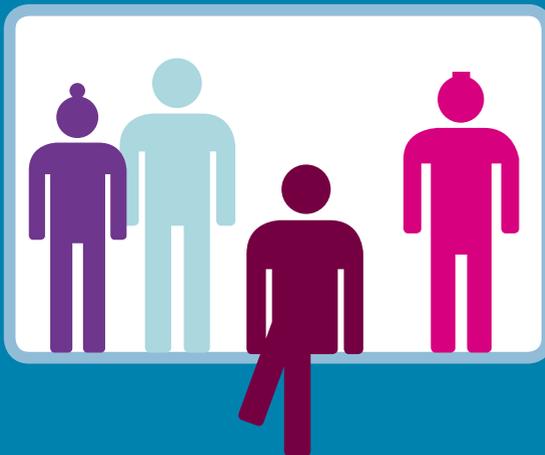


CALL FOR PAPERS

Don't Worry, Be happy!

Affect and Emotion in the Context of Neoliberal Subjectification

15th – 17th of April 2019 at the University of Cologne, Germany



CALL FOR PAPERS

Keynotes:

Dr. Brigitte Bargetz (Wien), Prof. Dr. Encarnación Gutiérrez Rodríguez (Gießen) & Prof. Dr. Jan Slaby (Berlin)

Feelings, emotions, and affects have gained increasing scientific and public attention since the 2000s. In many cases, they are used to describe current socio-political conditions (inter alia, Massumi 2010, Bude 2014, Rancière 2016), as well as popular culture, advertisement and consumption (Illouz 2018). Hereby, the focus has been on practices of subjectification, such as those aimed at the management of one's own feelings (Hochschild 2012 [1983]) or those that overlap with personal growth and entrepreneurial behaviour (Bröckling 2007).

How can the rampant growth of these discourses on feelings, emotions, and affects be explained? Are the debates about them really new or have they simply changed? After all, the works of Max Weber and Norbert Elias have already demonstrated the function and regulation of emotions in the constituting society. Since Aristotle, many philosophers have been concerned with affects and passions when dealing with the ancient Greek theatre or ethical and rhetorical questions (cf. Landweer 2009). In recent research publications, affective work (Penz/Sauer 2016), gender relations (Bargetz/Sauer 2010) or the handling of diversity (Ahmed 2014) are prominent. The degree of capitalization (Illouz 2007; Han 2014) is also connected to the way we talk about emotions and affects: subjects' inner lives are commodified and exposed to continuous capital influence. In addition, new technologies – made possible not least by neurophysiological research findings (von Scheve 2009) – allow us to harness, transmit and associate feelings.

This conference takes up the rich history of research on emotions and affects. Yet, we want to go beyond the previous attempts to ontologically determine emotion and affect that have shaped many current debates. Instead, we aim to prioritize the social functioning of feelings: how do emotions and affects guide the actions of late or postmodern subjects and how do emotions and affects assign identities and positions in social space? What conclusions can we draw from experienced feelings to underlying social norms? Social norms that are culturally and historically specific – as is their internalization (Frevert 2014)? In what ways and in what areas is work demanded on, and with, emotions and from whom (Ahmed 2014)? And what is the significance of feeling rules in social struggles (Hochschild 2016)? Therefore, the diverse mechanisms, variants and discourses of subject constitution, related to affects and emotions, as they can be found in the current 'neoliberal age' (Foucault and others) shall be guiding here: how do, for instance, forms of cultivation and/or enclosing of feelings and moods connect with concepts like the entrepreneurial self (Bröckling 2007)? Further, what consequences does this have for the handling of emotions in interpersonal relations in the sense of emotional (Illouz 2007) or affective (Penz/Sauer 2016) capital? What discourses (on education, media etc.) are such mechanisms of subject constitution integrated into? And finally, how can affects, feelings and emotions be thought of in conjunction with practices of resistance or the critique of neoliberalisation?

POSSIBLE TOPICS

In the course of this conference, we want to enquire about the social functioning that emotions and affects fulfill in neoliberal times. Thus, the following central thematic fields arise which can either be based on theory or exemplary case studies of particular feelings:

- **Felt power:** Which actors, institutions and practices produce what emotional/affective effects? How do emotions and affects connect to forms of governance (e.g. by cultivating emotionality or rationality) and to contemporary political transformations (e.g. the rise of populism)?
- **Work on and with affects:** How do techniques that aim to regulate feelings or affects function (e.g. in the context of work)? What influence does the design of environments have on subjects feeling well or unwell? What new professional fields does the management of feelings create?
- **Mediality of emotions:** How are emotions labelled and imparted socio-culturally and through media? What roles do different media (e.g. video games, books, social networks, smartphones) and their further technological development play?
- **Normativity and feeling:** Which emotional styles (Illouz 2007) are assessed to be valuable, right and good in emotional capitalism, which of them are considered as legitimate or reasonable ways to feel in diverse social and class-specific contexts?
- **Critique with feeling:** Which forms of resistance against oppressive narratives of feeling are thinkable? How do critique and emotions interconnect? Do spaces of deviant feeling exist, Foucauldian heterotopias?

INFORMATION ON PARTICIPATION

The scientific conference of PhD students 2019 serves as a platform for fellows of all German scholarship systems and junior academics from all disciplines (e.g. Humanities, Social Sciences, Neuro Sciences) to discuss the above mentioned phenomena with ex-perts in an intercultural as well as international setting.

We kindly invite people from Germany as well as from abroad to actively participate with a presentation. Please send an abstract of max. 500 words plus a short academic CV to WT2019@boeckler.de by the 14th of January 2019.

The abstract should cover the following:

- Title and scientific discipline(s)
- Objective(s) and research question(s)
- Socio-political relevance
- Contact data
- Short CV

We will inform you about our decision by the 10th of February 2019.

We plan to publish the conference proceedings in some format.

An active contribution is not required to partake in the conference. Instead, we kindly ask for a motivation letter that covers your interest to participate and your expertise. The Hans Böckler Foundation covers all travel, catering and accommodation costs. No conference fee is charged.

PROGRAMME AND ORGANISATION

The conference will be organised by:

- Christofer Schmidt, PhD-Scholarshipholder of the Hans-Böckler-Foundation
- Frederik Metje, PhD-Scholarshipholder of the Hans-Böckler-Foundation
- Yvonne Wechuli, PhD-Scholarshipholder of the Hans-Böckler-Foundation
- Dr. Jens Becker, head of the department for PhD-scholarships at the Hans-Böckler-Foundation

Contact Information

Hans-Böckler-Stiftung
Abteilung Studienförderung
Referat VI: Promotionsförderung
Dr. Jens Becker
Hans-Böckler-Straße 39
40476 Düsseldorf
WT2019@boeckler.de

SOURCES

- Ahmed, Sara** (2014). Not in the Mood. *New Formations*, 82, 13–28.
- Bargetz, Brigitte u. Sauer, Birgit** (2010). Politik, Emotion und die Transformation des Politischen. Eine feministisch-machtkritische Perspektive. *Österreichische Zeitschrift für Politikwissenschaft*, 39(2), 141-155.
- Bröckling, Ulrich** (2007). *Das unternehmerische Selbst*. Frankfurt am Main.
- Bude, Heinz** (2014). *Gesellschaft der Angst*. Hamburg.
- Frevert, Ute et al** (Hrsg.) (2014). *Learning how to feel. Children's literature and the history of emotional socialization, 1870-1970*. Oxford, United Kingdom.
- Han, Byung-Chul** (2014). *Psychopolitik. Neoliberalismus und die neuen Macht-techniken*. Frankfurt am Main.
- Hochschild, Arlie Russell** (2016). *Strangers in Their Own Land. Anger and Mourning on the American Right*. La Vergne.
- Hochschild, Arlie Russell** (2012). *The Managed Heart. Commercialization of Human Feeling*. Berkeley.
- Illouz, Eva** (2018). *Wa(h)re Gefühle. Authentizität im Konsumkapitalismus*. Frankfurt am Main.
- Illouz, Eva** (2006). *Gefühle in Zeiten des Kapitalismus. Adorno-Vorlesungen 2004*, Institut für Sozialforschung an der Johann-Wolfgang-Goethe-Universität, Frankfurt am Main. Frankfurt am Main.
- Landweer, Hilge** (Hrsg.) (2009). *Gefühle - Struktur und Funktion*. Berlin.
- Massumi, Brian** (2010). *Ontomacht*. Berlin.
- Penz, Otto u. Sauer, Birgit** (2016). *Affektives Kapital. Die Ökonomisierung der Gefühle im Arbeitsleben*. Frankfurt am Main.
- Rancière, Jacques** (2011). *Der Hass der Demokratie*. Berlin.
- Von Scheve, Christian** (2009). *Emotionen und soziale Strukturen. Die affektiven Grundlagen sozialer Ordnung*. Frankfurt am Main.