Symposium: ‘Affect(ing)/Effect(ing)’

The emergence of the concept of affect in recent scholarship raises important questions for research programs, strategies and positions across the humanities and social sciences. One effect of this recent scholarship on affect has been the articulation of alternatives to cognitivist approaches. By emphasizing and exploring moments of commitment and passion – as opposed to understanding, neutrality and rational elaboration – affect theory offers both a new social epistemology and new relationships between academic research/ers and the/ir ‘objects’ of study. These are characterized not so much by distanciation, universality and objectivity, but rather by entanglement, accountability and reflexivity. A renewed interest in affect – emotions, feelings, passions – has also led to new ways of thinking critically about problems of the contemporary moment, such as post-factualism.

The symposium seeks to explore how social and cultural research might navigate between theoretical and political calls to take seriously the epistemological challenges to paradigms of rationality posed by the dimension of affect on the one hand, and the potential for relapse into a destructive confrontation between rationalist-empiricist and affect-oriented approaches on the other. Affect may well be a useful concept in critical analysis of certain contemporary developments in public political deliberation, but it cannot be reduced to a label for anti-rationalist public politics. Rather, affect should be seen as an epistemological device and a dimension of social life that is entangled in co-constitutive dynamics with its (self-declared) respective others, such as rationality, neutrality, or cognitivism. The valorization of affect as part of co-constitutive dynamics located beyond ‘mere’ affect is at the core of the symposium’s program.

In short, the conference deals both with affect as an effect of meaning- and knowledge-making practices, and with affect as effecting these practices.
Symposium schedule

Monday 28 August – C10, Level 3, Campus Hub

9.00 Arrival and morning tea

9.30 Welcome by Martina Mollering: Executive Dean of the Faculty of Arts

9.45 – 11.15 Panel 1: Affective/effective politics (Chair: Prof Nicole Anderson)

Prof. Dr. Regina Kreide (JLU): ‘A sense of (in)justice. Why political philosophy needs cultural studies and vice versa’

Prof. Joseph Pugliese (MQ): ‘Julie Gough’s Forensic Archaeology of National Forgetting: Hunting Ground (Pastoral) – Van Diemen’s Land’

11.30 – 1.00 Panel 2: Cinema and the social imaginary (Chair: Prof Catriona Mackenzie)

Prof. Dr. Jörn Ahrens (JLU): ‘The filmic social imaginary: The case of Kathryn Bigelow’s “Zero Dark Thirty” as imagination of history’

Dr. Robert Sinnerbrink (MQ) ‘Historical moods in film’

1.00 – 2.00 LUNCH

2.00 – 4.00 Panel 3: Affect, narrative, empathy (Chair: Prof Catriona Mackenzie)

Prof. Dr. Katharina Stornig (JLU): ‘Saving distant children in need: affects, narrative and the creation of transnational relationships of aid in historical perspective’

Dr. Wibke Schniedermann (JLU): ‘Credibility, Empathy, Inequality: The Relationality of Affects and Veridity in Narratives of Destitution’

Dr. Justine Lloyd (MQ): ‘More than the message: Exploring political listening in rhetorical spaces’
Tuesday 29 August – C10, Level 3, Campus Hub

10.00am – 11.30  Panel 4: Becoming other: affective relationships; effective communities
(Chair: Prof. Nicole Anderson)

Prof. Dr. Uwe Wirth (JLU): ‘After Hybridity: Grafting as model of cultural translation (Postcolonial Studies meet Herder, Schleiermacher, Benjamin)’

Dr. Kate Lloyd and Dr. Sandie Suchet-Pearson (MQ): ‘Co-becoming Bawaka: mobilising knowledges, identities and places by working with and learning from Country’.

11.45 – 1.15  Panel 5: Assembling security? (Chair: Prof Gabrielle Meagher)

Prof. Dr. Andreas Langenohl (JLU): ‘Beyond the ‘state of exception’: Political Securitization, Financial Securities, and the Probing of Chance’

Dr. Peter Rogers (MQ): ‘Resilience as assemblage: affect, security and urban space’

1.15 – 2.15  LUNCH

2.15 – 4.15  Panel 6: Material, emotional and psychological injustices (Chair: Prof Gabrielle Meagher)

Prof. Dr. Encarnacion Gutierrez-Rodriguez (JLU): ‘Affective materiality: ideology and representable justice’

Prof. Nick Smith and Assoc. Prof. Jean-Philippe Deranty (MQ): ‘Affective workplaces’

Assoc. Prof. Amanda Wise (MQ): ‘Temporalities of accommodation and encounter: situated contours of affect in everyday multiculturalism at work’
**Postgraduate research day**

**Wednesday 30 August – Australian Hearing Hub, 16 University Ave**

On Wednesday 30 August, postgraduate research students will have the opportunity to meet and discuss their work in a highly interactive small group setting with the visiting professors from JLU Giessen.

A series of parallel sessions have been organised, during which HDR candidates present an overview of their thesis projects to one of the visiting professors with relevant disciplinary expertise. Each group will consist of no more than 4 HDR candidates, to allow time for focused presentations and feedback. Postgraduate students will nominate for specific sessions in advance.

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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>9.30 – 10.30</td>
<td><strong>Co-tutelle information session, led by Professor Martina Möllering, Dr Ren Yi and Dr Noah Bassil</strong></td>
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<td>10.45 – 12.45</td>
<td>Andreas Langenhol Encarnación Gutiérrez-Rodriguez Katharina Stornig Regina Kreide</td>
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<td><strong>12.45 – 2.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>LUNCH</strong></td>
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<td>2.00 – 4.00</td>
<td>Jörn Ahrens Uwe Wirth Wibke Schniedermann</td>
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