

Gender, Affect, and Politics

A 3-Part Series by the Intimate Readings Research Group at the University of Graz

In this series, the Intimate Readings Research Group discusses how narratives in different media establish a sense of identity and community through shared emotional experiences, how they mobilize publics and counterpublics, and how they create potential affective worlds that allow readers and audiences to question dominant ideas of gender and sexuality.

The 3-part series “Gender, Affect, and Politics” is a feature for the monthly queerfeminist magazine “genderfrequenz” (Gender Frequency) at the Graz-based free radio station Radio Helsinki (92,6 MHz). You can stream the episodes on Sundays at 5 p.m. or listen to them later on the website of the Cultural Broadcasting Archive (CBA).

Streaming:

<https://helsinki.at/program/shows/gender-frequenz-sozialpolitisch-feministisch-unbeugsam>

Episode 1 | Feb. 21st, 2021 | Public Feelings and How to Study Them

Episode 2 | March 21st, 2021 | Literature, Social Media, and Affective Worldmaking

Episode 3 | April 18th, 2021 | “Feeling Bad? It Might Be Political!” – Interview with Ann Cvetkovich



Episode 1 – Public Feelings and How to Study Them

In the first episode, Silvia Schultermandl and Dijana Simić give an introduction to the academic field of affect studies in order to illustrate the potentials of studying emotions as political phenomena. By introducing different creative writing tools, affect studies scholar Ann Cvetkovich invites us to reflect on how certain historical and political events feel. Furthermore, May Friedman and Ahmet Atay explore particular public feelings of loneliness and fear by discussing the heightened struggles already marginalized communities face in times of a pandemic.

Hosts: Silvia Schultermandl, Dijana Simić

Music: Planningtonrock – “Let’s Talk About Gender Baby”, K. Flay – “Sister”

Literature: Rita Felski – “Beyond Feminist Aesthetics”, Nancy Fraser – “Rethinking the Public Sphere”, Michael Warner – “Publics and Counterpublics”, Brian Massumi – “Parables for the Virtual”, Deborah Gould – “On Affect and Protest”, Ann Cvetkovich & Karin Michalski – “The Alphabet of Feeling Bad”

The Intimate Readings Research Group at the University of Graz

Literary and cultural studies scholars Jana Aresin, Heike Paul (University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, Germany), Silvia Schaltermandl, Dijana Simić, and Si Sophie Pages Whybrew (University of Graz, Austria) form the Intimate Readings Research Group. The group emerged in 2020 as part of the Elisabeth-List-Fellowship-Programm for Gender Research at the University of Graz. They use affect studies as a means to discuss the relationship between emotions and politics on the one hand and representations of gender and sexuality in different media on the other.

Further information:

<https://fellowship-geschlechterforschung.uni-graz.at/en/projects/affective-and-gendered-belongings/>