

FEELING CULTURES / CULTURING FEELINGS: EMOTIONS AND AFFECTS IN CULTURAL PRACTICES

Organized by: Department of Anglophone Literature, Culture and Comparative Studies, Institute of Literary Studies, Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń

Conducted in: English

Took place on: 9-11 April 2025

Took place in: Toruń / MSTeams

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The conference “Feeling Cultures / Culturing Feelings: Emotions and Affects in Cultural Practices” took place between 9th and 11th of April 2025. The main purpose of the event was to create a space for a discussion concerning recent developments in affect studies and to utilise it as a starting point for further conversations about affects and emotions in various fields, including literature, culture, psychology, art, drama, games, music, and journalism. The hybrid nature of the conference allowed for truly international exchange of ideas, with each session happening simultaneously in person and online.

The conference began with a plenary lecture by Dr Nicole Falkenhayner, Associate Professor of Contemporary Anglophone Literature at the Department of Language and Literature, Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), Trondheim, who specialises in affect and viscosity as feminist practice in literature, art, and culture. During the lecture, Dr Falkenhayner discussed the notions such as sense of safety, unsafe spaces, and the affect of fear in the context of 21st century British fiction with child and adolescent protagonists. The second plenary lecture was given by Dr Xavier Aldana Reyes, Reader in English Literature and Film at Manchester Metropolitan University, UK, whose academic interests include 20th and 21st century literature and

cinema, particularly gothic and horror fiction. In his plenary lecture, Dr Aldana Reyes discussed cinematic horror and feelings associated with watching horror films, as well as positive affects associated with empowerment, representation, and social justice, that may be experienced while watching horror films.

The conference consisted of twenty themed sessions comprising almost seventy papers. Sessions were divided thematically and participants could engage in discussions on topics that centred around: Affect and his/herstory; Communities and bodies; Trauma, gender, race, (post)colony; Climate affects / eco-emotions; (Post/Non)human / anthropocenic emotions; Empathy; Audiences and participants; Gothic affects; Horrors and notoriety; Affect and philosophy; Affect and art; Grief; Feminine and feminist affects; Marginalization and affects; Positive affects: hope and joy; Negative affects: anger, shame, fear; Genre and affects; Ethnography and affects; Gendered affects: masculinity; and Experience, experiment and affects. The participating scholars represented numerous academic institutions from Poland, the United Kingdom, Norway, Lithuania, Austria, India, the United States, Ireland, France, Italy, Albania, Portugal, Slovakia, and Spain.

The international conference “Feeling Cultures / Culturing Feelings: Emotions and Affects in Cultural Practices” provided space for productive discussions and exchange of ideas. The hybrid nature of the event helped to connect a variety of scholars from different parts of the world. Thus, the conference proved to be a successful event.¹

Endnotes

1. A more detailed description of the event, along with its programme, book of abstracts, and other information can be found at www.feelingculturesconference.wordpress.com.