

SESSION 12. Intra-Affective Collaborations

Ana M. González Ramos, Beatriz Revelles Benavente, Felicity Colman

PANEL

This panel brings together four researchers to explore concepts of collaborative affects, and the affective nature of collaboration. Collaboration occurs in every aspect of life; in nature, in science; in everyday interactions. Ecosystems grow and mutate according to their synergies and differences. Societies change through their member interactions. Feminist new materialism researchers repeatedly highlight the intra-actions between things, while the feminist vocabulary of affect, percept, and action, critically draws attention to the discourses of power constructing the intra-affect. Combining these methodologies, the panel reflects on intra-active moments and platforms of collaboration; exploring how affects generate controlled and contingent political systems; how affective collaborations can lead to the generation of new practices; new expressions and new vocabularies; and ultimately shift the perception of what life is. Papers in this panel respectively address ethical protocols and habits; knowmadic pedagogies; the queer nature of proximity; and ethical modalities. We each discuss how collaborative platforms of technologies – whether written, performed, recorded, spoken, analog or digital – control, generate, and entangle affects; of eating; of speaking; of touching; of knowing. Worlds are made through such collaborations of affect. What kinds of ethics are to accompany the affects we generate today is the question that we hope to collaborate on with the panel audience.

Autobiographical blurb:

Ana M. González Ramos is senior researcher at the IN3 (Internet Interdisciplinary Institute) of the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, and secretary of AMIT-CAT (Association of Women's Researchers and Technicians). In the last five years, Ana M. has conducted competitive projects regarding women and careers and excellence, women's careers in academia and private companies, gender and ICT, international mobility of highly skilled professionals. Currently, her lines of research address the Internet studies on gender perspective.

Helen Palmer is a Senior Lecturer in English Literature and Creative Writing in the Department of Humanities at Kingston University London. She is the author of *Deleuze and Futurism: A Manifesto for Nonsense* (Bloomsbury, 2014). She has recently published work on new materialism and interdisciplinary practice, *Deleuze and Alice in Wonderland*, and some poetry in the *Minnesota*

Review. She is currently writing a book called *Making Strange: Writing Queer Materialism* and a novel called *Pleasure Beach*.

Beatriz Revelles Benavente is lecturer at the Faculty of Fine Arts in the University of Barcelona. She is currently co-editing two special issues on new materialism, feminism and pedagogies in *Social Sciences and ReldoiCrea*. Her publications and research interests are about communication, feminist new materialism, and affective pedagogies.

Felicity Colman is Professor of Media Arts at the University of the Arts, London. She is the author of *Film Theory: Creating a Cinematic Grammar* (2014), *Deleuze and Cinema* (2011), and editor of *Film, Theory and Philosophy: The Key Thinkers* (2009), and co-editor of *Sensorium: Aesthetics, Art, Life* (2007). Prof. Colman is Vice-Chair of the EU funded COST [European Cooperation in Science and Technology] Network Grant Action IS1307 on *New Materialism: Networking European Scholarship on 'How Matter Comes to Matter'*; and the Coordinator of the European Commission Horizon2020 funded 'Ethics of Coding' [EoC 732407].

SESSION 13. Womxn in (e)motion: feminist contestations in/of the neoliberal university

Xin Liu, Lenka Vráblíková, Viwe Ndayi, Elspeth Mitchell

PANEL

Scholars working in the humanities and social sciences have been focusing on the critical examination of the so-called corporatization of higher education. Yet, after reading recent reports on events taking place in the universities all over the world, it becomes evident that the forces that animate the current configurations of the paradoxes defining the university are not only economic, or political, but also sexual, distinctly manifesting the phallogocentric logic. Reflecting this, the work of feminist ethnographers of the university such as Sarah Ahmed, Amina Mama or Maria do Mar Pereira suggests that - for those who pursue what feminist theorist M. Jacqui Alexander calls "teaching for social justice" - these institutions are becoming unliveable.

The six contributions presented in the panel *Womxn in (e)motion: feminist contestations in/of the neoliberal university* explore how feminists mobilize and employ activist, artistic and scholarly practices in order to work through the paradoxes that define the current university. Drawing from the notion of corporeality as produced by the traces of experience and the affective excitations along the nexus of desire, sexuality as well as gender and race, these contributions explore how

the effects of the phallogocentric logic - currently augmented by the so-called neoliberalization - can be contested.

In her contribution, Tau explores how South African women contest the 'culture' of rape on university campuses, exploring the intricate linking between patriarchy and colonialism. Snodgrass looks at sexual violence in the South African context, women's emerging voices and the emotions of shame and humiliation. Perrier focuses on the collective survival kit that she is developing in collaboration with artist Alice Tatton-Brown inspired by Ahmed's KillJoy Survival Kit. Drawing from her autoethnographic accounts on productivity, practices of knowledge sharing and politics of citation in a symposium, Liu's contribution reconsiders the questions of feminist knowledge production and its decolonization. With a focus on afrocentric symbolism, Ndayi explores Doeks (head wraps) and Protests as an entry into the understanding of the relationship between gender, culture, and activism in higher education. Finally, Mitchell and Vráblíková's contribution follows the path laid out during a feminist reading & mushroom hunting walks undertaken during the University and College Union (UCU) strikes in 2017 and 2018 at the University of Leeds.

Autobiographical blurb:

Xin Liu is a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Helsinki. Her research interests include feminist theory, race and racism, economy and ecology, corporeality, feminist research methods and methodologies, and feminist materialisms. Liu Xin is on the editorial committee of *Asia in Focus Journal* and has published in *Australian Feminist Studies*, *Girlhood Studies*, *Nordic Journal of Migration Research*, *Sukupuolentutkimus- Genusforskning*, *NORA*, and *Feminist Encounters: A Journal of Critical Studies in Culture and Politics*.

Viwe Ndayi is a PhD candidate at the Nelson Mandela University. Her research focus is on the role of social media towards enhancing and communicating transformation in Higher Education Institutions. Her research interests include race, gender, and disability representation in media. Community development and indigenous knowledge preservation are at the centre of the initiatives Ndayi is involved in.

Elsbeth Mitchell is a Research Associate in Practices and Theories of Feminism and Art at Loughborough University (UK). She completed her PhD in 2018 at the University of Leeds (UK) with a thesis on theories of 'the Girl' and the moving image and recently published this work in *Australian Feminist Studies Journal* and in an edited volume with Luce Irigaray. In 2016, Elspeth co-founded Feminist Readings Network and is a member of the International Research Network World Gender: cultural and political translation of gender and gender studies.

SESSION 16. Teaching Sustainable Affects through Feminist and Trans Culture

Libe García Zarranz, Belén Martín-Lucas, María Platas Alonso, Andrea Ruthven

ROUNDTABLE

This roundtable proposes response-able ways to discuss sustainable affects in the cultural and/or literary studies classroom, examining case studies from diverse cultural media.

We will first lay out the theoretical genealogies behind the key terms discussed in this roundtable. We believe it is crucial to differentiate between complacent affects, which often become allies to market-oriented culture and normative ways of being, and sustainable affects, which Libe García Zarranz (2017) has described as modes of action that may offer an alternative politico-ethical path, particularly for the development of feminist, queer, and trans methodologies. Using such methodologies, the four discussants will examine selected cultural materials, considering their potential as response-able (Haraway 2012; Barad 2012) pedagogical resources that work as vehicles for inclusion from which to promote alternative modes of feeling, while simultaneously counteracting gender and racial discrimination in the classroom. Our first discussant will examine transgender picturebooks; the second will focus on African American feminist biopics of the 21st century; the third speaker will review feminist indigenous sci-fi; finally, the fourth discussant will offer a critique of Hashtag Feminism, and more specifically of the #MeToo or #BeenRapedNeverReported movements.

We will then invite discussion with the public on the potential reach and effectiveness of such cultural interventions for feminist activism.

Autobiographical blurb:

Libe García Zarranz is Associate Professor in English in the Department of Teacher Education at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU, Norway). Recent publications include the monograph *TransCanadian Feminist Fictions: New Cross-Border Ethics* (McGill-Queen's UP, 2017) and the co-edited special issue "Affecting Feminist Literary & Cultural Production" for *Atlantis: Critical Studies in Gender, Culture & Social Justice*. Her current funded project is on *Sustain-able Trans/national Literacies: Ethics, Affect, Pedagogy*.

Belén Martín-Lucas is Associate Professor at the University of Vigo (Spain) in the fields of Gender, Postcolonial, and Globalization Studies. Her research focuses on TransCanadian feminist fiction.

She is co-founder of *Canada and Beyond: A Journal of Canadian Literary and Cultural Studies* and co-organizer of its biannual conferences. She is currently directing the research project “Bodies in Transit: Difference and Indifference”.

María Platas Alonso works as a researcher at the University of Vigo within the group BiFeGa: Literary and Cultural Studies, Translation and Interpretation (University of Vigo). Her research focuses on feminist cinema, especially on films by African American women. Recent conference contributions include ‘Free Angela and All Political Prisoners: the biopic documentary in contemporary Black Feminist Reel-volution’ (42nd AEDEAN Conference, 2018) and “Luces sobre sombras: las precursoras cinematográficas afroamericanas” (VII Congreso Internacional “Investigación y Género”, 2018).

Andrea Ruthven is Assistant Professor of English in the Modern Languages Department of the University of Cantabria and researcher at ADHUC—Research Center for Theory, Gender, Sexuality (Universitat de Barcelona). Her research focuses on gender studies and feminist theory, and cultural and literary studies. Recent publications include the co-edited volume *Narratives of Difference in Globalized Cultures. Reading Transnational Cultural Commodities* (Palgrave 2017) and “The Contemporary Feminist Dystopia” in the journal *Feminist Review*.

SESSION 29. Teaching through Emotions: A Methodological Approach to the Feminist Pedagogies of the GEMMA Erasmus Mundus Masters’ Programme at the University of Oviedo, Spain

Carla Rodríguez González, Emilia María Durán Almarza, Andrea Fernández García

ROUNDTABLE

This roundtable focuses on the incorporation of affectivity as a methodological tool into the feminist pedagogies developed in the framework of the teaching and research activities carried out within the Erasmus Mundus Masters’ Degree in Women’s and Gender Studies (GEMMA), as put into practice at the University of Oviedo, Spain. The GEMMA consortium integrates universities from six European countries—University of Bologna, Italy; Central European University, Hungary/Austria; University of Granada, Spain; University of York, UK; University of Łódź, Poland; University of Oviedo, Spain; Utrecht University, Netherlands—bringing together feminist approaches from Southern, Central and Northern Europe with a firm transnational and post/de colonial outlook.

Since its inception, GEMMA has attracted students, visiting professors and scholars from all over the world, thus establishing as core curricula components recent developments in feminist scholarship and activism in the so-called 'Global South' and its diasporas.

The speakers will delve into the complexities of tackling affectivities from a transcultural perspective in an academic environment characterized by a great diversity, paying special attention to the experience of MA thesis supervision, to the teaching practice of modules taught in the first year (Teoría feminista; Diversidad cultural; diásporas y globalización; Literatura, identidad nacional y género) and second year (Postcolonialism, Diasporas and the Representation of Women; Nation and Gender; Specialized Research Seminar) of the programme. With the triple perspective offered by the participants—the coordinator of the programme (Durán Almarza), one of the lecturers (Rodríguez González) and a former student (Fernández García)—this academic dialogue will cover issues such as the promotion of affective engagements with the topics analysed in the modules, the production of situated research, the incorporation of affective decolonial pedagogies in the classroom and the effects of such methodological training in pursuing an academic or professional career after graduating from the programme.

Autobiographical blurb:

Carla Rodríguez González is Senior Lecturer in the Department of English, French and German of the University of Oviedo. She teaches in the GEMMA Erasmus Mundus and in the Gender and Diversity Masters' Programmes of this university. Her research focuses on contemporary Scottish writing, as well as on postcolonial, gender and cultural studies. She has published a number of books and articles in these areas, including the recent *Debating the Afropolitan* (Routledge 2019, co-edited with Durán and Kabir).

Emilia María Durán Almarza is Senior Lecturer in the Department of English, French and German of the University of Oviedo. She coordinates the GEMMA Erasmus Mundus program at this university, where she also teaches feminist theories, methodologies and cultural studies. Her research focuses on contemporary postcolonial performance art, with a special interest in West African and Caribbean productions. She has numerous publications on these topics, and she is the Treasurer of EACLALS (European Association of Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies).

Andrea Fernández García is Adjunct Lecturer in the Department of English, French and German of the University of Oviedo. Her research, which focuses on US Latina narrative, border studies and selfhood, stems from an ongoing journey that she began as a GEMMA student at the universities



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of Oviedo and Hull. She has presented research findings at international conferences worldwide and published articles in leading journals in the field of Latinx Studies. She is the author of the forthcoming book *Geographies of Girlhood in US Latina Writing: Decolonizing Spaces and Identities* (Palgrave Macmillan 2019).