

“The West and the Rest? Challenging the Emotions Research Agenda”

Monday 9 December 2019, 10am-5.30pm
London South Bank University (K2-V709)
BISA Photographer 4.30pm-6pm

Workshop programme

10am-10.30am: arrival, registration, tea-coffee / pastries

10.30am-12pm Emotions and Protest in non-Western contexts

Malte Kaeding (University of Surrey), Heidi Wang-Kaeding (Keele University)
“Emotions in Hong Kong’s anti-extradition movement”

Scott Edwards (University of Bristol) “Recognising non-Western emotional antecedents of trust: ASEAN as an emotional community”

Efser Coskun (Bilkent University) ‘Decolonial Conceptualisation of The Role of Emotions through Repertoires during the Arab Spring in Tunisia and Egypt’

12pm-13h15 lunch at the Ship – Borough Road (*pre-ordered food*)

13h15 – 14h15 Emotions in post-colonial relations

Frank Gerits (University of the Free State) “Modern’ IR Theory: How Modernisation Theory Redefined African Anticolonial Politics as Emotion (1945-1966)”

Ahlem Faraoun (University of Sussex) ‘Ressentiment and Mimetic Desire as an Explanatory Framework for Emotions in Contemporary Postcolonial Relations: The Case of the Japan-South Korea Trade Dispute’ (Can’t do morning panel)

14h15-14h30 – coffee/tea break

14h30- 16h00 Decolonising emotions and emotional experience

Orly Orbach (Goldsmiths) “Emotional uncertainty in the field: encountering dangerous emotions”

Althea-Maria Rivas (SOAS) “Decoloniality and Emotions in Global Spaces”

Audrey Reeves (Virginia Tech) ‘*Imagining Modern Warfare at London’s Imperial War Museums*’

16h00-16h15: break

16h15-17h30: Long table étiquette session

This will be a non-hierarchical conversation drawing on the ‘long table etiquette’. We ask you to prepare thinking about these questions:

1. To what extent have emotions studies included a variety of perspectives and empirical cases beyond the West?
2. How do emotions intersect with race, sexuality and gender?
3. How can decolonialism/postcolonialism inform the study and research of emotions in IR?

5.30pm-6.30pm: drinks and nibble reception

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Emotions research in Politics and International Relations is now a well-established and rich field, illuminating the political, cultural, and social work of emotions in a variety of global processes including war, peace and conflict resolution, trauma, security, social movements, public opinion, and diplomacy. Recent studies on the everyday politics of emotions have shed light on who gets to express emotions, which emotions are perceived as (il)legitimate or (un)desirable, and how and when emotions get circulated. Emotions and their expression do not, therefore, ‘float freely’; their articulation, perception and reception are contingent on where one is located. Why, for example, is ‘America’s anger’ toward China’s trading practices treated as more rational and legitimate than Afghan women’s anger at the presence of US military forces in Afghanistan? What role do emotions play in legitimating or resisting the forces of white supremacist politics? What role do emotions play in perpetuating or contesting the historical and racialised dynamics of power represented by the ‘refugee crisis’? This workshop seeks to explore some of these questions with the aim of engaging with critical, non-Western, and postcolonial perspectives on emotions. The discipline of IR is increasingly under the microscope for its role in reproducing global inequalities and violence and is being asked to look beyond the West to understand and study the world. This workshop seeks to explore: the ways in which the everyday politics of emotions is shaped by gender, race, and class; the extent to which emotions research to date has contributed to a more pluralist and radical vision of IR, and the ways in which (non-)Western perspectives on emotions shape the production of knowledge.