

SJE1465: Philosophies of Affect and Emotion

Dr. Megan Boler

Mondays 1-4 pm

megan.boler@utoronto.ca

416 978-1231

Course Description

This course offers an overview of theories and philosophies of emotion and affect, focusing particularly on the shift from locating emotion in the individual to feminist and poststructural accounts that understand emotions in their cultural, historical, and political contexts. Questions include: How have emotions, affect, and feeling been defined and theorized? How might theorizing emotion and affect inform new accounts of the public sphere and political philosophy, ethics, and epistemology? What is at stake in how we conceptualize emotions and affect in relation to subjectivity, public and private, race, class, gender, and agency?

Required Texts (available at University of Toronto bookstore)

Sarah Ahmed, The Cultural Politics of Emotion

Megan Boler, Feeling Power: Emotions and Education

Melissa Gregg and Seigworth eds, The Affect Theory Reader (ATR)

Mary Zournazi, Hope: New Philosophies for Change

Recommended Texts

Judith Butler, Giving an Account of Oneself

Kathleen Stewart, Ordinary Affects

Virginia Woolf, A Room of One's Own

Discerning Critical Hope in Educational Practices (V. Bozalek, B. Leibowitz, R. Carolissen & M. Boler, eds.; Routledge, 2014)

Pepper: Course website (weekly readings that are not in books above can be found on Pepper. Pepper is also where you will post your weekly responses)

CREATE YOUR ACCT ON PEPPER by accessing this url

<https://pepper.oise.utoronto.ca/sje1465>

and then click on “register”

Assignments

Attendance and Participation: **20%**

Threaded Discussion (Pepper): **35%**

- You will post on Pepper a “major post” 4 times during term. In the weeks you are not doing a major posting, post a response to 2 colleagues per week in the weeks you are not responsible for a major posting. Each week, you are required to read all posts.
- Posts = 5 pts max= total 25 pts; responses =1 pt max, total 10 pts

Final Paper (in two parts): **35%**

- Part 1: Outline and 5 page written argument: **10% DUE in class NOV. 16**

- Final Paper (15-20 pages, double-spaced, 12 pt font, hard copy) 25% ***DUE DEC 15***

Shared, co-facilitation of part of seminar: In-Class Presentation of Reading Response Themes, and concepts from assigned readings: **10%**

- On one occasion, you (and likely another colleague) are asked to present a brief overview of key points from the threaded discussion, and a presentation of 2 or more key concepts from the readings that raise questions you consider central to the theme(s) of the week.

(wk1) September 14: Introduction and Overview

1. Introduction to *What is an Emotion*, by C. Calhoun and R. Solomon, eds.

NB: Supplemental readings on **women, silence, violence, and voice** —please choose at least two to read, and then practice posting your responses in two places on pepper: (your dialogue contribution should reference what you chose to read, but ****please**** feel free to post/write in any medium or genre your that you are able to share via Pepper. You are invited to share your reactions, insights, emotions, thoughts, and actions related to the recent blog posts, especially sharing your perspective on current event as they are shaped by lens of the suggested authors.

From the course readings which were already on the syllabus, I recommend you take a look at some of these which are also posted on our course website Pepper or in one of the texts for the course:

1. Audre Lorde . “The Transformation of Silence Into Language and Action. “ from *Sister Outsider, 1984* <http://www.csusm.edu/sjs/documents/silenceintoaction.pdf>
2. Marilyn Frye, from *The Politics of Reality*
3. Boler, “All Speech is Not Free” (from M.Boler, ed., *Democratic Dialogue in Education: troubling speech, disturbing silence*)
<https://utoronto.academia.edu/MeganBoler>, scroll down to

All speech is not free: The ethics of “affirmative action pedagogy.”

4. HueyLi Li, “Silencing Silence” (from M.Boler, ed., *Democratic Dialogue in Education: troubling speech, disturbing silence*)
5. Sue Campbell, “Being Dismissed: The Politics of Emotional Expression”

Additional readings:

Valerie Walkerdine, “On the Regulation of Speaking and Silence,” from *Language, Gender and Childhood*, London: Routledge

Belenky, Mary Field. *Women's ways of knowing: The development of self, voice, and mind*. Basic books, 1986.

Adrienne Rich, *On Lies, Secrets and Silences*

Silence, Feminism, Power: Reflections at the Edges of Sound, Edited by Sheena Malhotra, Aimee Carillo Rowe

<http://www.palgrave.com/page/detail/silence-feminism-power-/?isb=9781137002365>

(wk2) September 21: Challenging Binaries of Emotion and Reason

1. Genevieve Lloyd from *The Man of Reason in Women, Knowledge and Reality*
2. Carole Pateman, "Feminist Critiques of the Public/Private Dichotomy" from *The Disorder of Women: Democracy, Feminism, and Political Theory* (1989)
3. Michelle Rosaldo, "Women, Culture and Society: A Theoretical Overview" from *Woman Culture and Society*, eds. Rosaldo et al, Stanford UP, 1974
4. Audre Lorde, "Poetry is Not a Luxury" and "The Master's Tools..." (1984)
5. bell hooks, from *Talking Back*

Recommended:

Grosz, "Feminism and the Crisis of Reason" from *Feminist Epistemologies* eds Code et al
Patricia Hill Collins, *Black Feminist Thought*
Fredric Jameson, "Postmodernism and Consumer Society" ("waning of affect")
Arlie Russell Hochschild, on Emotional Labor in *The Managed Heart* (1983)
Chapter 6: www.chass.utoronto.ca/~salaff/Hochschild2.pdf

(wk3) September 28 Challenging the Binaries, cont.: The Politics of Epistemologies

1. Introduction and Chapter One, Boler, *Feeling Power: Emotions and Education*
2. Sarah Ahmed, Introduction, *Cultural Politics of Emotion*
3. Maria Lugones, "World-Traveling and Loving Perception"
4. Alison Jaggar, "Love and Knowledge: Emotions in Feminist Epistemology" (1989)
5. Sue Campbell, "Being Dismissed: The Politics of Emotional Expression"
6. Gregg and Seigworth, "An Inventory of Shimmers"

(Wk4) October 5: Emotions, Culture, and Nationalism

1. Sarah Ahmed, *The Cultural Politics of Emotion*:
 - a. Ch. 1 "The Contingency of Pain"
 - b. Ch. 4, "The Performativity of Disgust"
2. Lawrence Grossberg, "Mapping Popular Culture" from *We Gotta get Out of This Place*, Routledge 1992.
3. Zemylyas and Boler, "On The Spirit of Patriotism" TC Record 2002
4. Brian Massumi, Ch 2 "The Future Birth of the Affective Fact" in ATR
5. Raymond Williams, excerpt on "Structures of Feeling" from *Marxism and Literature*

Recommended:

Lauren Berlant "The Epistemology of State Emotion" from A. Sarat, ed. *Dissent in Dangerous Times*, Univ. Michigan 2005
Brian Massumi, "Fear: The Spectrum Said"
Boler, Chapter 7, "License to Feel: Teaching in the Context of War"
Film: *A Place of Rage*, dir. Prahtibha Parmar

(wk5) October 12 THANKSGIVING NO CLASS

(wk6) October 19 Emotions, Identities, and Education

- Boler, *Feeling Power*, Chapter 7 “The Risks of Empathy”
- Zembylas: Dimensions of a Postmodern Culture of Emotions in Education from *Teaching with Emotion*
- Diana Fuss, “Essentialism in the Classroom”
- bell hooks, “Essentialism and Experience” from Teaching to Transgress
- Boler, “Teaching for Hope: The Ethics of Shattering World Views” from Garrison and Liston
- Kimberley Crenshaw, INtersectionalitis

(Wk7) October 26 The Politics of Emotions and Race

- Sarah Ahmed, Chapter 3 “The Affective Politics of Fear”
- Frantz Fanon, from Black Skin White Masks
- Jose Esteban Munoz, “Feeling Down, Feeling Brown: Latina Affect, the Performativity of Race, and the Depressive Position” (2006)
- David Eng and Han, A Dialogue on Racial Melancholia, in Loss: The Politics of Mourning (2003)
- Elizabeth Alexander, “Can You Be Black and Look at This?” *Public Culture* 1994 7(1):77-94

Recommended:

Audre Lorde, “The Transformation of Silence into Language and Action” and “Age Race Class and Sex: Women Redefining Difference” from Sister/Outsider

Elizabeth Ellsworth, “Why Doesn’t this Feel Empowering?”

Patricia Williams, An Alchemy of Race and Rights

Denise Riley, Am I That Name?

Patricia Williams, Black Feminist Thought

Sherene Razack, “Looking White People in the Eye”

VIDEOS: Tongues Untied, Marlon Riggs

Fanon, Isaac Julian

(Wk8) November 2 November 16 Affect Theory

Sarah Ahmed, Ch 1, “Happy Objects” in ATR

Lawrence Grossberg, “Affect’s Future,” in ATR

Other readings to be selected from *The Affect Theory Reader*

Recommended:

Boler, Chapter 5, “A Feminist Politics of Emotion”

Valerie Walkerdine, “On the Regulation of Speaking and Silence,” from *Language, Gender and Childhood*, London: Routledge

Changing the Subject: Psychology, Social Regulation, and Subjectivity (Methuen 1984) eds Henriques et al

(wk9) November 9 New Materialism, Feminisms, and Post-Humanism: the work of Karen Barad

1. Patricia Clough, "The Affective Turn: Biopolitics..." in ATR
2. Juelskjær, M., & Schwennesen, N. (2013). Intra-active entanglements—An interview with Karen Barad. *Kvinder, Køn & Forskning*, (12).
3. Barad, K. (2012). Interview with Karen Barad. *New materialism: Interviews and cartographies*, 48-70.
4. Barad, K. (2012). Intra-actions. *Interview of Karen Barad by Adam Kleinmann, Special dOCUMENTA*, 13.
5. Barad, K. (2014). Posthumanist performativity: Toward an understanding of how matter comes to matter. *Signs*, 40(1).

(wk10) November 16 Guest Speaker: Zofia Zaliwska, Cultivating Despair

1. Zaliwska, TBA
2. Berlant, selections, *Cruel Optimism*
3. Boler, Chapter 8, Pedagogy of Discomfort

(wk 11) November 23 Guest Speaker, John Horton, Philosophies of Hope and Education

1. Selections from Hope: New Philosophies for Change, edited by Mary Zournazi
2. Ahmed, Ch. 8. "Feminist Attachments"
3. Bernice Johnson Reagon, "Coalition Politics"
4. Ahmed Ch. 6, "In the Name of Love"

Recommended:

Lauren Berlant, "The Subject of True Feeling"

November 30: TBA, final class potluck and essay discussion

Seminar time reserved for any suggested readings from class members, as well as brief presentations of our final essay ideas

Further topics and recommended readings:

Eve Sedgwick, "Paranoid Reading"

Karyn Ball, "Wanted, Dead or Distracted: On Ressentiment in History, Philosophy, and Everyday Life" Cultural Critique 52 (2002) 235-267

postcoloniality, psychoanalysis and emotions

- Kelly Oliver, selections from Colonization of Psychic Space

- Judith Butler, Giving an Account of Oneself
- Slavoj Žižek, selections

Irony and Humor

Linda Hutcheon, Chs, 1 and 2 from Irony's Edge: the theory and politics of irony (1994)

Claire Colebrook, Irony selections

Alenka Župancic, The Odd One In: On Comedy—selections (pps.3-10;43-60;111-147)