

CALL

FOR

PAPERS



# Feeling the Archive: Affect as Method

*Center for International Gender Studies, Münster, Germany*

Two-day workshop  
24–25 September 2026

# Feeling the Archive: Affect as Method in Feminist Queer Research

Organised by Marie Lunau (Roskilde University), Rieke Schröder (University of Münster), Sophia Zisakou (Lund University)

This two-day workshop seeks to open a space for shared reflection and collective exchange on emotions as a way of doing research. In politically cruel times, marked by anti-gender and anti-migration affective mobilisations and sustained by infrastructures that marginalise affective ways of knowing, we ask what forms of knowledge emerge when affect is approached as method.

Drawing on affect as a relational practice and a world-making horizon, resistant to exhaustive definition and to colonial dichotomies such as body and mind, the workshop reflects on affective liminality and ambivalence as methodological orientations. We understand affect as a circulating, relational economy of feelings that brings bodies together, inviting conversations across feminist, queer, trans, decolonial, crip, disability, critical border and migration studies, as well as abolitionist, ecological and other emergent fields. Building on collective and coalitional practices, particularly in politically turbulent times, the workshop approaches affect as a methodological orientation that unsettles dominant epistemic frameworks grounded in individuality, neutrality and rationalism.

Rather than treating affect as an individual feeling or personal possession, we engage it as a modality of being dispossessed through and with others in the field (Butler & Athanasiou, 2013). In doing so, the workshop seeks to stretch normative personal, political and theoretical boundaries. Through forms of affective solidarity (Hemmings, 2012) that do not reduce emotions to identitarian or reciprocal attachments, we aim to analytically trouble the boundaries of the queer self, the limits of logocentric knowledge production and the borders of nation-states that organise mobility, belonging and exclusion.

Within these restrictive frameworks, we ask how working affectively with the notion of the archive might allow us to see knowledge not only as regulated or erased, but also as a site of potential, an archive of feeling (Cvetkovich, 2003), where embodied traces persist and unsettle linear temporalities. Attending to affect as a practice of staying with tensions and contradictions, this workshop explores what affects can do in research, and how they might become transformative vehicles for collective resistance and re-imagination within and beyond academia.

We invite contributions that engage questions such as:

- How can knowledge be imagined as a political and affective practice amidst genocidal, anti-migratory, and anti-queer times?
- What can emotions do in research as relational, circulating forces that shape both exclusion and resistance?
- How do we navigate the emotional terrain of working with archives and institutions that dispossess and defund critical methodologies?

### **Workshop Format**

The workshop will bring together 10–15 participants and will combine:

- Short presentations and discussions
- Collaborative writing sessions
- Collective work toward a special issue proposal
- Any other theme, question, or format that emerges from the workshop, corresponding to participants' concerns and reflections.

### **Keynote Speakers**

- Athena Athanasiou (Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences, Greece)
- B Camminga (University of Bristol, UK)

## **Call for Contributions**

Contributions can be personal, collective, theoretical or experimental. We invite participants at all stages from any research field, interested in the workshop's themes. We especially welcome contributions that are methodologically reflexive, experimental and/or collaborative.

Please send your abstract (no more than 250 words) to [cigs@uni-muenster.de](mailto:cigs@uni-muenster.de) before April 30th, 2026. For any questions, please contact Rieke Schröder at [rieke.schroeder@uni-muenster.de](mailto:rieke.schroeder@uni-muenster.de). Decisions on abstracts will be communicated three weeks after the deadline. If invited for the workshop, you have to submit a full draft of your paper (5.-6.000 words) before September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026.

## **Funding**

Eight fully funded participant places are available (covering travel and accommodation). Additional self-funded participants are welcome. The total number of participants will not exceed 15. Please indicate with your abstract that you are interested in one of the funded places. Priority will be given to applicants who do not have institutional funding.