

## Call for Papers

### **Whisperings of Love – Cries of Anger: Communicating Emotions in Antiquity, the Middle Ages and the Early Modern Age**

Emerging Scholars Workshop, Organized by the Interdisciplinary “Institut für Kulturgeschichte der Frühen Neuzeit (IKFN)” (Institute for the Cultural History of the Early Modern Age) Osnabrück | October 12–14, 2022

Emotion Studies have long been established as a field of cultural and literary research, not least as a consequence of the “emotional turn” of the late 1990s. This development is documented in a series of surveys and manuals published recently which encompass various periods and disciplines (e.g., Kappelhoff et al., *Emotionen. Ein interdisziplinäres Handbuch*, 2019; Pritzker/Fenigsen/Wilce, *The Routledge Handbook of Language and Emotion*, 2020; Schnell, *Histories of Emotion*, 2021; Zumbusch/Koppenfels, *Handbuch Literatur & Emotionen*, 2016).

The workshop, organized by the interdisciplinary Institute for Cultural History of the Early Modern Age at the University of Osnabrück, Germany, will focus on the issue of communicating emotions: we will discuss how emotions were expressed, transformed into discourse, and exploited for other purposes, in the various social and cultural contexts of antiquity, the Middle Ages and the Early Modern Age. How did people communicate emotions, and how did people communicate *about* emotions?

As historical emotion research has established, human emotions can on one hand be considered anthropological constants. Since antiquity numerous textual as well as non-textual artefacts have testified to the desire and cultural challenge to comprehensibly communicate personal sensations and feelings. On the other hand, feelings and emotions have varied a lot in the course of history. This variability does not just concern the definition of what is understood by ‘sentiment’, ‘emotion’, *passio* or related terms, but also, and particularly, the specific codes used to communicate emotions and emotion-led action.

The workshop thus proceeds from the assumption that a clear distinction needs to be drawn between emotions and the expression of emotions. We do not intend to discuss the historical prevalence of certain sentiments and emotions or the feelings the communication of these emotions produces in the recipient. What we rather wish to investigate is how emotions are expressed in specific situations (literary, historical, musical etc.), and what the communicative functions are which attend these expressions. While the historical reality of the emotional can hardly ever be grasped, their communicative and discursive expression can be investigated and described with a fair degree of accuracy by means of analyzing sources. This also applies to reflections on emotions, which in the areas of philosophy and theology gain a new significance in the Early Modern Age.

Questions to be asked in this context include:

- What is the part played by emotions in various communicative contexts (art, literature, music, but also law, politics and religion) of antiquity, the Middle Ages and the Early Modern Age?
- How are emotions communicated in various periods and cultures? In what way do media influence the perception and communication of emotions?
- Which are the traditions and new beginnings in the conceptions of communicating emotions attendant upon the transitions from antiquity to the Middle Ages, and to the Early Modern Age? And are there traditions and new beginnings in the ways emotions are reflected upon?
- What are the spaces and practices of communicating emotions?
- What are the purposes of transforming emotions into discourse in the respective contexts?
- How do the sources reflect the communication of emotions on a meta-level?
- How is the relationship of gender and emotionality conceptualized? Is the communication of emotions specific as to gender or social rank?
- What is the connection between (the communication of) emotions and corporeality?
- Does the communication of emotions carry a potential for displaying or inducing unexpected or illicit behaviour?

The workshop intends to inspire a discussion of these – and further – questions, to contribute to a better understanding of both historical and present-day forms of communicating emotions.

It is addressed to early-career researchers who are in the process of writing a PhD thesis or have obtained their PhD degree in the course of the last six years. We do not only wish to provide a platform for interdisciplinary exchange and networking but also to offer a chance to share work in progress with other participants. For this reason, there will not only be talks on specific subjects but also group discussions on projects the participants are working on. The Institute for the Cultural History of the Early Modern Age. will try to refund the costs of travelling and accommodation.

We invite proposals for 20 minutes' talks from the areas of literary and cultural studies, history, classical philology, musicology, history of art and theology. Talks and discussions can be in either English or German.

Please send your proposal together with an abstract (ca 300 words) and a short bio note (up to 150 words) to the following address: [affekte-ikfn@uni-osnabrueck.de](mailto:affekte-ikfn@uni-osnabrueck.de).

Deadline is **15<sup>th</sup> April 2022**.

Further information can be provided by the organizers:

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