

DESIGN AND GOALS

This interdisciplinary symposium on the emotions will bring together internationally renowned scholars working on the emotions at the university from a wide array of disciplinary backgrounds in order to deepen cross-disciplinary dialogue on the exact nature of the emotions, helping us to understand what scholars in the sciences, social sciences and humanities can learn from one another with respect to the emotions. In particular, the idea that emotions can be regarded as automatic responses, tapping into deep evolutionary and biological imperatives may appear to run counter to the notion that our emotions are largely an expression of our individual personalities and/or evocative of our place in a broader context or of the relationships in which we are embedded. Can these two broad perspectives be reconciled?

The goals of this symposium are threefold. In the first instance, we hope by the very interdisciplinary nature of the dialogue, as well as by the more informal structure of the symposium, to enhance opportunities to clarify the points of agreement and disagreement among scholars of the emotions in various fields of the humanities, social sciences, and sciences. The second objective of this symposium is to assess if or how the human is under pressure through the scientific experimental discourse on the emotions. The third objective is to explore positive roles emotions can play in our practice and understanding of collective life.

For further information, please see <http://www.humanities.utoronto.ca/events> or contact Rebecca Kingston at rkingsto@chass.utoronto.ca or James McKee at james.mckee@utoronto.ca

This event is sponsored by the Jackman Humanities Institute Program for the Arts.

CONFERENCE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE:

Rebecca Kingston (Political Science)
James McKee (Ph.D. Cand., Political Science)
Kiran Banerjee (Ph.D. Cand., Political Science)
Yi-Chun Chien (M.A. Cand., Political Science)
JHI Working Group on Emotions under Siege

If you are a person with a disability and will require accommodations, please contact Kim Yates at (416) 946-0313 or jhi.associate@utoronto.ca to make suitable arrangements.



EMOTIONS UNDER SIEGE?

An Interdisciplinary Symposium on the Emotions

14—15 May 2010
Jackman Humanities Building Room 100
170 St. George Street, Toronto
www.humanities.utoronto.ca

FRIDAY, MAY 14TH

The first day of the symposium will be centred around the following questions: How should we broadly characterize emotion, accounting for both its cognitive and preconscious attributes, and what are the implications of this view for an understanding of human life as unique? How should we conceptualise the relation among emotions, the body, language and reason? What experiences or examples should we take to be most revealing about the nature of the emotions and their relation to other aspects of the human person?

8:30 to 9:00 Light breakfast, coffee and tea

9:00 to 9:30 Welcome and introductory remarks

9:30 to 11:00 Panel 1

Chair: Rebecca Kingston

Panelists:

Keith Oatley (Human Development and Applied Psychology, OISE)

Brad Inwood (Philosophy and Classics)

Joseph Fletcher (Political Science)

Jennifer Jenkins (Human Development and Applied Psychology, OISE)

11:00 to 11:30 Break

11:30 to 1:00 Panel 2

Chair: Paul Saurette

Panelists:

Adam Anderson (Affect and Cognition Lab, Psychology)

Dr. Margot Taylor (Director of Functional Neuroimaging, Hospital for Sick Children)

Geoff Macdonald (Psychology)

Hannah Chapman (Ph.D. cand., Affect and Cognition lab, Psychology)

1:00 to 2:00 Lunch Break

2:00 to 3:30 Panel 3

Chair: Yi-Chun Chien

Panelists:

Curie Virag (East Asian Studies / Humanities, UTSC)

Martin Pickave (Philosophy / Medieval Studies)

Leonard Ferry (Ph.D. cand., Political Science)

3:30-4:00 General discussion

SATURDAY, MAY 15TH

The second day of the symposium will be devoted to a discussion of the following themes: What is the place for emotions in a normative account of the moral life, and is there something distinctly human about this? Is it right to suggest that there are certain emotions that should be deemed inappropriate for the public sphere of liberal democratic regimes? What can insights into the nature of human emotion contribute to social and political theory?

9:00 to 9:30 Light breakfast, coffee and tea

9:30 to 11:00 Panel 4

Chair: Hannah Chapman

Panelists:

Megan Boler (Theory and Policy Studies, OISE)

Jennifer Nedelsky (Political Science / Law)

Stefan Dolgert (Postdoctoral Fellow, Jackman Humanities Institute)

Dan Newman (Ph.D. cand., English)

11:00 to 11:30 Break

11:30 to 1:00 Panel 5

Chair: Kiran Banerjee

Panelists:

Ronald de Sousa (Philosophy)

Simone Chambers (Political Science)

Paul Saurette (University of Ottawa, Politics)

Sophie Bourgault (University of Ottawa, Politics)

1:00 to 2:00 Lunch Break

2:00 to 3:30 Panel 6

Chair: Curie Virag

Panelists:

Ryan Balot (Political Science)

Li Chen (History)

Garry Leonard (English / Cinema Studies)

Rebecca Kingston (Political Science)

3:30 to 4:00 Final discussion and closing remarks