Emotions, embodiment and affects are important drivers in the experience economy, in creative industries in general, in global digital forms of communication, in the performative impact of art works, sound, noise and atmospheres, in the manifestation of contemporary social and political movements, and in political communication becoming predominantly populist. The methodological challenges to investigate new materialities and infrastructures, more-than-representational layers and their affective impact have been addressed by a first generation of affective methodology books (cf. Coleman & Ringrose (Eds.) 2013, Knudsen and Stage (Eds.) 2015, Vannini (Ed.) 2015). This seminar’s aim is to zoom further in on critical moments in capturing/producing empirical material for the study of affect and emotion – in order to rethink how to “stay with the trouble of affects” without reducing affects to discourses and without opposing a representational thinking with a non-representational thinking and without being satisfied by working on affects as forces that cannot be approached. It is necessary to reconsider all the steps in a research design in order to take the leap into the affective realms and in order to fully embrace the empirical opportunities of affective methodologies research.

Questions and key issues guiding the seminar:

- How to develop an affectively attuned research question? – in relation to wider, theoretically informed conceptual repertoires (charisma, crowd, event, rhythm, contagion, assemblage, networks, flows, haunttings, and so on).
- How to balance analytical needs of definition, delimitation, description with theoretical and/or empirical openness, in-betweenness, excess, and so on?
- How to construct or capture empirical material for the study of affect or emotion in relation to repertoires of established methods or experimental approaches (e.g. auto-ethnography, creative methods, visual methods or practice-based research).
- How to analyze affects in mediated textualities (e.g. social media), across sensuous modalities (audio, visual, tactile etc.) or within milieus configured by rhythms, atmosphere or im/material practice?
- How to read for affects in different types and genres of texts?
- How to work with and through the researcher’s own body and bodily responses to the research environment?
Methodology I: What is affect and why is it a challenge to investigate it?
September 19, 13-16. Building 1465, room 215
Guest talk by Anu Koivunen (Stockholm Univ.) [45 min + 30 min discussion] The talk will be followed by an experimental workshop for members of the Body Politics Research Unit.
Responsible: Carsten Stage

Methodology II: How to develop an affectively attuned research question?
September 26, 13-16. Building 1465, room 215
Guest talks by Rebecca Coleman (Goldsmith) and Dorthe Staunæs (DPU) [each 45 min + 30 min discussion]
Responsible: Britta Timm Knudsen

Construction/capture of empirical material
October 10, 13-16. Building 1465, room 215
Guest talks by Sophie Hope (Birkbeck) and Martin Trandberg Jensen (AAU) [each 45 min + 30 min discussion]
Responsible: Signe Uldbjerg Mortensen

Analysing affects I: Mediated textualities
October 24, 13-16. Building 1453, room 229
Guest talk by Darren Kelsey (Newcastle Univ.) [45 min. + 30 min. discussion] The talk will be followed by shorter presentations by members of the Body Politics Research Unit: Stage, Knudsen, Kølvraa
Responsible: Carsten Stage

Analysing affects II: Milieu and im/material practices October 31, 13-16. Building 1465, room 215
Guest talk by Julian Henriques (Goldsmith) [45 min + 30 min. discussion] The talk will be followed by an internal workshop with short presentations by members of the Body Politics Research Unit.
Responsible: Mads Krogh

Art and methodology workshop: testing and rehearsing November 21, 12-18. Langelandsgade 143, building 1585, room “Lille Sal” Workshops by François Piquet (http://www.francoispiquet.com, Guadeloupe) and Jeannette Ehlers (http://www.jeannetteehlers.dk, Denmark)
Responsible: Britta Timm Knudsen

Organizing team:
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Readings

Preliminary readings:


Methodology I


Methodology II


Construction/capture of empirical material


Analysing affects I: Mediated textualities


Analysing affects II: Milieu and im/material practices


Art and methodology workshop: testing and rehearsing

- Mignolo, W. (2014): “Decolonial aesthetics/aesthesis has become a connector across the continents”. Contemporary And (C&}
Additional literature:

- Leys, Ruth (2011) ”The Turn to Affect: A Critique” i *Critical Inquiry*, vol. 37, nr. 3 (2011), s. 434-472