

Spaces of Affect in the Americas

33rd Annual Conference of the Postgraduate Forum (PGF) of the German Association for American Studies (GAAS/DGfA)

Call for Papers

The organizers of the 2023 Postgraduate Forum are pleased to announce the annual call for submissions for this year's conference to be hosted at the **Leibniz University Hannover** from **November 9-11, 2023**.

Conference Theme and Format

Since the 1990s, various fields, such as behavioral economics, psychology, neuroscience, sociology, philosophy, literary studies, and history, have increasingly engaged in the critical study of affects and emotions. The intensified engagement with emotions has been identified as an “affective turn”: Scholars register and interrogate the role of emotions as incentive or disincentive for human action, as sources of individual and social empowerment/emancipation, but also as a powerful political tool. Wider public discourses in North America are also marked by an attention to emotions. In 2016, Donald Trump's election made pundits question whether facts win voters over more effectively than affective truths. In 2020, Covid-19 brought a sudden focus on public health, but also on individual emotional well-being and the consequences of pandemic life in lockdown, self-isolation, or the throes of medical care. Social movements like #MeToo and Black Lives Matter refer explicitly to the affective charges energizing the activists (anger, frustration, repulsion). In light of these pressing discourses, the 2023 PGF-conference seeks to discuss how the scholarly focus on emotions clarifies individual and communal identity, experience and action, social and political movements, historic crises, change, and continuity.

We welcome submissions on intersections with affect across media, eras, and disciplines. Topics may include (but are not limited to):

- Emotions in literature, arts, film, video games, and other media
- Emotions and materiality (bodies, spaces, objects...)
- The spatial dimension of affect and emotions
- Trauma
- Affective encounters with the environment; climate/ecological emotions
- Politics and affect
- Emotions in English Language Teaching
- Challenges and limits of Affect Theory
- Queerness and affect
- Affective labor
- Memory and the affectivity of the past

Alongside submissions dedicated to the conference topic, we also invite and encourage contributions

from the broader field of American studies, including, among other disciplines, literary studies, cultural studies, history, political science, TEFL, sociology, and economics. Participants are very welcome to present their work in progress, give an overview of their project, present essays, discuss case studies with the group, or focus on methodological or theoretical questions. We especially encourage young researchers who have little or no conference experience to participate and present their current research.

Abstracts of no more than 250 words should be submitted along with a 50-word biography to pgf@dgfa.de by September 22, 2023. Selected participants can expect to be notified by early October 2023.

We are looking forward to seeing you in Hannover this November.

Your PGF-Team 2023

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