Public Feeling in Global Contexts
Following a broader ‘turn to affect’ (Patricia Clough) in the humanities and the social sciences, this conference seeks to investigate public feeling – as articulation, representation, and cultural and institutional practice – and the various functions it has in every-day life, in political communication, in allegedly private realms as well as in constructions of intimate public spheres (Lauren Berlant). The conference brings together scholars from different disciplines (sociology, literary studies, political science, art history, and media studies) in order to discuss the changing cultural specificities and the global impact of affective economies (Sara Ahmed) and feeling rules (Arlie Hochschild) in a framework of transnational and comparative cultural studies. In the course of our two-day conference, we will address phenomena such as a post-9/11 political culture and its repertoire of affects; strategies/processes of (political) inclusion and exclusion via affective protocols; fear, anger, and romantic love as, purportedly, global structures of feeling (Raymond Williams); the (re)turn to/of aesthetics and affect in contemporary (popular) culture and art; and the role of affect for contemporary protest movements and political opposition. From the various cultural and disciplinary angles involved, we will shed light on the ways in which public feeling-scholarship extends and still needs to be extended further - beyond its current US-centered/Euro-American framework. Topics include how affects and emotions impact individual and collective identity formation in the age of globalization; how affect and feeling are entangled with cultural difference and constructions of otherness, and what kind of political work they perform in every-day situations and in ‘states of exception’.

**April 9, 2016**

9am  Conference Opening

**Panel I** (Chair: Ingrid Gessner)

9.15 am  Elisabeth Anker (George Washington U): »Melodramas of Global Security«

10.15 am  Coffee Break


11.30 am  Coffee Break

11.45 am  Ian Burkitt (U of Bradford): »Emotions in Public Places: National and Sub-national Feeling in Relation to Extraordinary Events«

12.45 pm  Lunch Break

**Panel II** (Chair: Monika Sauter)

2 pm  Heike Paul/Katharina Gerund (FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg): »Civil Sentimentalism and Constructions of Solidarity in a Transatlantic Perspective«

3 pm  Coffee Break


4.15 pm  Coffee Break

4.30 pm  Bruce Robbins (Columbia U): »On Being a Beneficiary: Discomforts of Global Inequality«

7 pm  Conference Dinner

**April 10, 2016**

10am  Eva Illouz (Hebrew U): »Romantic Love as Public Feeling«

11am  Coffee Break

11.15 am  Elisabeth Bronfen (U Zürich): »Global Sentimentality: A Cinematic Challenge«

12.15 pm  Lunch Break

**Panel IV** (Chair: Florian Tatschner)

1.30 pm  Andrea Maria Zimmermann (U Basel): »I Am Antigone: Affective Coalitions in Contemporary Plays by Darja Stocker«

2.30 pm  Coffee Break

2.45 pm  Paul Giles (U of Sydney): »The Environmental Affect: Antipodean Genealogies of Planetary Scale«

3.45 pm  Concluding Remarks