Affect Theory and Praxis at NTNU: Transdisciplinary Methodologies
Two-day Workshop, November 19 & 20, 2018

Rationale:
The transdisciplinary field of Affect Studies has grown in popularity across the Humanities and the Social Sciences in the last two decades (Gunew 2016; Brinkema 2014; Pedwell 2014; Clough 2007; Stewart 2007; Ahmed 2004; Sedgwick 2003). As a response to and critique of the linguistic turn in cultural theory, affect theory has prompted dialogue between the humanities, psychology, and the natural sciences, as working with affect activates engagement with physical responses. Studies of affect and emotion, however, have a long-standing tradition in the work of early modern philosophy (Spinoza) and in the moral sentimentalist tradition of ethics (Hume, Smith), to name only one particular field of study in the Humanities.

This two-day workshop seeks to gather graduate students, teachers, and researchers and introduce them to affect theory in its multiple ramifications, traditions, and methodologies. The workshop sources capacities of staff and graduate students already working in these areas at the NTNU in order to build cross-disciplinary learning and competence in the areas of affect studies, led by the Humanities and the Social Sciences. The workshop will focus on feminist, queer, transgender, and decolonial approaches to affect theory from a range of transdisciplinary perspectives. We have interested participants working across the fields of literary criticism, pedagogy, media, cultural studies, gender, film, philosophy, and religious studies. The aim of the workshop is to bring NTNU scholars together to examine, from different disciplinary boundaries, how affect and emotion may shape our ways of seeing and acting in the world with important ethical repercussions. Ultimately, this workshop attempts to spark a discussion about affect theory understood as a complex assemblage of forces, entanglements, and ruptures; a complicated and fascinating archive that can offer participants an additional, and hopefully reinvigorating, critical lens from which to approach their own lines of research and teaching methodologies.

Format:
The workshop will take place in two NTNU locations, Dragvoll and Kalvskinnet, in order to have better reach to NTNU staff. The workshop format will include four types of elements suitably arranged in the programme.

- group activities and warmups: embodiment, affect, emotion
- short 10-15-min presentations followed by discussion: affect theory and its applications
- guest lecture (30-40 min) by Dr. Carolyn Pedwell, Associate Professor in Cultural Studies (University of Kent, UK)
- brainstorming on further strategic actions

We will follow up the last workday with a social event including dinner in the evening.

NTNU Research
The Norwegian University of Science and Technology is Norway’s largest university; one of Scandinavia’s foremost science universities, with specific strengths in the fields of neuroscience recently awarded a Nobel Prize. The Humanities and Arts hold great resources for putting science, and specifically neuroscience findings in context. The last decades have seen booming collaborations between artists, designers, and technologists at NTNU (for instance, through the ARTEC at NTNU) but also between scientists and humanists (for instance, through ELSA funded projects, and Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI), working groups at the Digital Life Norway center and the department of Biotechnology at NTNU). Our well-founded hope is that the workshop will build a solid foundation for transdisciplinary funding initiatives led by Humanities and Social Sciences scholars at NTNU.
References:

Main Organizers:
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Confirmed Participants by July 15, 2018:
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