

**PhD Course (student-driven):**

**AFFECT THEORY IN ORGANISATION AND MANAGEMENT STUDIES:**

**RELEVANCE, APPLICATION AND CRITIQUES**

Dates: 26-27 November 2018  
Place: CBS 'Kilen', Kilevej 14A, 2000 Frb., room K3.41  
ECTS: 2 points  
Number of participants: Min. 6 – max. 12  
PhD organiser: Jannick Friis Christensen  
Faculty facilitators: Sara Louise Muhr and Sheena Vacchani  
Language: English  
Registration deadline: 1 October 2018  
Abstract submission: 1 November 2018  
Fee: DKK 2,600 (incl. coffee/tea and lunch)  
Diploma/certificate: To obtain the diploma students must submit an abstract prior to the course and attend both days

***Aim/purpose of the course***

The aim of the course is to explore various conceptualization of affect, their relevance to as well as potential use(fullness) for research in the field(s) of organisation and management. The course offers a close reading of key affect scholars, including Sara Ahmed, Brian Massumi, Wetherell, and Stewart to facilitate discussion about similarities and differences in their approaches and the possible theoretical and practical consequences. Given the format of the course (student-driven with a small number of participants) there is ample time for introducing affect to each participant's project in order to also investigate methodological and analytical options in relation to the specific research material of each student.

Particularly critical scholarship of organization and management is theoretically grounded in what has been labeled the linguistic and material turns, and has also more recently leaned towards what could be called an affective turn or a turn to affect. But how may we define affect if it not reducible to discourse? If it is both discursive and non-discursive at the same time, is it then meaningful to conceptualise it as pre-discursive? How does affect become material without being the same as materiality, that is, how may we distinguish affect from matter while being sensitive to how it

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matters? Further, how do we position ourselves and our research in the extant literature; can affect, for instance, be situated as an extension of work on emotional labour, and should we in that case speak of a *return* to emotion instead?

### ***Abstracts and plenary discussions***

Each participant is required to submit an abstract of no more than five pages, presenting and positioning their PhD projects within the field(s) of organisation and management studies. The abstracts should furthermore include the participant's reflections on how concepts and/or theories of affect(ivity) relate to and may inform the project. Participants are also encouraged to address (some of) the questions posed in the course description above – and to introduce other open-ended questions for exploration during the course.

### ***Course structure***

*(You will receive a detailed programme when admitted to the course!)*

#### Day 1

09:00-16:00

#### Day 2

09:00-16:00

### ***Literature***

*(You will receive a prioritised reading list when admitted to the course!)*

Ahmed S (2004) Affective Economies. *Social Text* 22(2): 117-139.

Ahmed S (2014) Not In The Mood. *New Formations* 82: 13-28.

Ahmed S (2014) *The Cultural Politics of Emotion*. Edinburgh: Edinburg University Press, Introduction and Afterword.

Ashcraft KL (2017) 'Submission' to the rule of excellence: Ordinary affect and precarious resistance in the labor of organization and management studies. *Organization* 24(1): 36-58.

Berlant L (2011) *Cruel Optimism*. Durham: Duke University Press, chapter 7.

Fotaki M, Kenny K and Vacchani J (2017) Thinking critically about affect in organization studies: Why it matters. *Organization* 24(1): 3-17.

Just SN, Kirkegaard L and Muhr SL (under review) Uniform matters: Body possibilities of the gendered soldier.

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Kølvraas CL (2015) Affect, Provocation and Far Right Rhetoric. In: Knudsen BT and Stage C (eds.) *Affective methodologies: Developing Cultural Research Strategies for the Study of Affect.*

Leys R (2011) The turn to affect: A critique. *Critical Inquiry* 37(3): 434-472.

Massumi B (2015) *Politics of Affect.* Cambridge: Polity Press, chapter 1.

Staunæs D (2018) 'Green with envy:' affects and gut feelings as an affirmative, immanent, and trans-corporeal critique of new motivational data visualizations. *International Journal of Qualitative Studies in Education* 31(5): 409-421.

Stewart K (2007) *Ordinary Affects.* Durham, Duke University Press.

Wetherell M (2015) Trends in return to affect: A social psychological critique. *Body & Society* 2(12): 139-166.

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