

## The Sociology of Emotions & Affect (SEA):

# Emotion vs. Affect?

Workshop, 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2014,  
University of Wollongong

## CALL FOR PAPERS

The Sociology of Emotions and Affect group is a thematic group of the Australian Sociological Association:

<http://www.tasa.org.au/thematicgroups/groups/sociology-of-emotions-and-affect/>

**Our Third annual workshop** is to be held at the University of Wollongong (UOW), on **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> of November**. This event is supported by TASA, the Institute for Social transformation Research (ISTR), and the Centre for Research on Men and Masculinities (CROMM). The focus of this workshop will be on comparing and engaging with emotion and affect, but we also welcome general papers on the sociology of emotions and affect. The workshop will provide opportunities for researchers to present and discuss the differing conceptualisations of affect and emotion across sociology, social psychology and cultural theory, as well as the theoretical and methodological issues that arise in conducting this research. The workshop will also allow participants to establish or maintain contact with fellow researchers in the field.

**International Keynote Speaker: Jack Barbalet**, Professor of Sociology and Head of the Department of Sociology at Hong Kong Baptist University.

**Australian Keynote Speaker: Rick Iedema**, Professor of Communication, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Technology, Sydney.

### Emotion vs. Affect?

Sociologists of emotion are increasingly turning to theories of affect to deepen their conceptualisations of emotion in social interaction. However, this task is complicated by the many meanings and phenomena ascribed to the term 'affect.' Sociologists aligned with the 'affective turn' within cultural theory view affect as a 'pre-personal' phenomena (see Massumi, 1987), incorporating qualities ranging from 'atmosphere' to 'sound' to 'pheromones' that are empirically difficult to assess. Such conceptions provide relief from the cultural turn's overemphasis of social determinism and language. In contrast, sociologists who ascribe to 'affect-control theory' view affect as symbolic of a person's evaluation, power and liveliness. They see it as a pivotal element to understanding identity as well as measuring and predicting behaviour, which aligns with more conventional sociological accounts of emotion. Both keynote speakers will be invited to chair a panel comparing affect and emotions research.

### Contributions to the workshop

We welcome papers from sociology and related disciplines, including cultural studies, history, politics, criminology, work and organisations, and health and illness. Papers addressing ways of understanding and measuring affect are particularly welcome. We also encourage PhD candidates to submit abstracts.



## The Sociology of Emotions & Affect (SEA):

# Emotion vs. Affect?

Workshop, 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2014,  
University of Wollongong

### Abstracts

We invite researchers to submit abstracts of 300 words on social aspects of emotion and affect, and especially on questions around the theoretical implications of affect within the sociology of emotions. These will be organised in sessions grouped on related themes. Abstracts should be emailed to Ms Claire Seaman at UOW, by 15 September 2014: [cseaman@uow.edu.au](mailto:cseaman@uow.edu.au)

We will investigate interest in securing a special issue or edited collection for presented papers. Please note that we have had great success in turning proceedings from our workshops into academic outputs, with a special edition published in the *Australian Journal for Social Issues* (2012), and two special sections in *Emotion Review* (Forthcoming, 2015).

### PhD Prize

We are pleased to offer a \$300 prize for the best paper submitted by a PhD candidate this year, to go towards the cost of travel and accommodation for the workshop. Papers will be assessed by a panel at the conclusion of the workshop.

### Registration and Payment

A link where you can register and pay for the workshop will be circulated after abstracts have been received and accepted. Please email Claire Seaman ([cseaman@uow.edu.au](mailto:cseaman@uow.edu.au)) if you have not received it by 1 October 2014.

**Date: Friday 21 November 2014**

**Venue:** The Research Hub, Building 19, Faculty of Law, Humanities and Arts, University of Wollongong

**Cost:** \$60 Standard rate; \$30 Concession/student

### Inquiries

Please contact Roger Patulny or one of the other two SEA convenors if you have any further questions about the workshop:

Dr Roger Patulny, University of Wollongong – [r.patulny@uow.edu.au](mailto:r.patulny@uow.edu.au)

Dr Rebecca Olson, University of Western Sydney – [Rebecca.olson@uws.edu.au](mailto:Rebecca.olson@uws.edu.au)

Dr Jordan McKenzie, University of New England - [jmcken28@une.edu.au](mailto:jmcken28@une.edu.au)