



European
Sociological
Association



CALL FOR PAPERS: THE 8th MIDTERM CONFERENCE ON EMOTIONS, EDINBURGH, 2018

This is the call for papers for the 8th midterm conference of the [European Sociological Association's Sociology of Emotions Research Network \(RN11\)](#). This year the midterm will be organized jointly with the [British Sociological Association's Sociology of Emotions Study Group](#). The midterm conference will be hosted in the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, and will take place from **August 28th–30th, 2018**.

There will also be a **PhD student workshop on the 27th of August** with Stina Bergman Blix (Uppsala) and Mary Holmes (Edinburgh).

As in previous years, we will give serious consideration to all high quality abstracts on any emotion-highlighting topic. At the same time we would like to offer several focal areas of investigation in which abstracts are particularly welcome.

Proposed Sessions

Theorizing Affect and Emotion. Key theoretical frameworks for the sociological analysis of emotions have stood the test of time during more than thirty years since they launched the sociology of emotions. Nevertheless, the potential for sociological theorizing of emotions is far from exhausted. While sociological interest in emotions is swiftly growing, emotions are still not recognized by mainstream social theorizing as a fundamental aspect of social life. We want to encourage contributions that try to develop innovative theories of emotions as well as theories that demonstrate how (specific) emotions can be integrated into social theorizing more generally. Furthermore, what relates the term 'affect' prominent in Cultural Studies and elsewhere with the sociological concept of emotion? Are these terms exclusive or could their synthesis be of use to Emotion Sociology? What are the pitfalls and potentials of this (im)possible dialog between disciplines? In this session we want to connect to recent debates on these issues, while also

connecting with other theoretical approaches to affect and/or emotion, such as practice theory, new materialism, and beyond.

Emotions, Morality and Normativity. Although moral orientations and values have a long tradition in sociological thinking, current research on the relationship between morality and emotions is dominated by psychology, neuroscience, and philosophy. What does a sociological perspective contribute to this topic? How does sociology conceptualize the relationship between morals, norms and emotions? What do we learn about the normative constitution of groups and societies if we look at their emotional lives and dynamics?

Emotion, Discourse, Media, and Literature. Discourse theory, especially discursive psychology, contributed a lot to dismantle personal attitudes, attributes, stereotypes and identities as discourse dependent and highly situated features of social interactions. However, there are still not too many works addressing emotions in discourse(s). The theoretical question of what concept of emotions discourse theory needs to make the emotion research fruitful is strongly related to the practical empirical question of how to investigate emotions in the discourse. Included here might be literary works, and media (broadly defined) which can also be a valuable resource for emotion research. Not only do they reveal something about the emotional lives of their protagonists, they also shed light on complex emotional dynamics.

New Methodologies for Researching Emotions. We want to continue the thread from several previous network meetings and ask how emotions can be researched empirically. This remains an emerging subfield of the sociology of emotions and calls for expanded inquiry and debate about how emotions function in the research process; how to analyze emotions in empirical data; how to gather relevant data; how to devise methodologies for specific theoretical concepts, etc.?

Emotions, Civic Action and Social Movements. Research on protest and social movements has become a large and well-established field and within this, emotions have been received considerable attention recently. Other forms and domains of civic action, however, have not been analyzed from an emotions perspective. How can analyses in both fields be furthered and related to the workings of emotions in politics more generally? Are there emotions other than the 'usual' that need to be considered?

Collective Emotions and Identity. Much has been said on emotions binding groups and collectivities by the classics of sociology, but their contributions have not yet led to a coherent research agenda. In what ways and by what means groups and collectivities emerge and become sustained, paying particular attention to the role of emotions? And what is a still strongly discussed additional value of the term collective emotions in explaining these processes?

Digital Sociology of Emotion. In recent years a relatively new subfield has emerged and coalesced under the label of 'digital sociology'. Yet, with a few exceptions, the intersections between this work and the sociology of emotion remains underexplored. In this session we invite papers that critically explore our increasingly-mediated, always-on(line) lives through the emotion lens.

Emotion, Reason and Law. The idea of rationality as unemotional has persisted the longest within legal theory. However, research within law and social psychology has paid increasing attention to emotional patterns and practices in legal practice. How can a sociological perspective add to this emerging trend? What role does emotion play in everyday law practice? How are emotions integrated in the making of laws and in the laws themselves? Can scrutinizing these and other questions further our understanding of the changing role of law within modern societies?

Emotions in Organizations. An important development of emotional labour studies has been the examination of emotions within organizations, focusing how organizational norms and regulations can both further and hinder emotion management at work. This field is divided both methodologically and between disciplines and needs both empirical and theoretical integration.

Emotion and Religion. Some classics of sociology together with theologians and philosophers have analyzed religion with an eye for emotions. Yet, the sociology of emotions has paid little attention to religious affairs. What is the role of emotion in religion quite generally? How can contemporary religious life be understood in new ways through the analysis of emotions? How can we use different sociological theories of emotions for analyzing religion?

Emotions in Family and Intimate Life. Intimate life may seem like the primary sphere of emotions. While this notion could be contested on other grounds, closer analysis also shows how emotions in the intimate sphere are complexly embedded into larger social processes and macro-social structures.

Emotions, Power and Status. There is a long tradition of investigation within the sociology of emotions on the intersection between emotion, power and status. Central to this approach has been the work of Kemper, but these concepts and their interrelation remain important to both structural and interactionist approaches to emotion. In this session we welcome both theoretical papers that aim to interrogate these concepts and their interactions, and also empirical work that explores these ideas in specific situations and contexts.

Emotions, Finance and Political Economy. The global economic crisis and the growth of inequalities have brought political economy back to prominence in the social sciences. Yet, within this approach, the role and place of emotion are only now beginning to be investigated. Within both the economic and financial systems recurring speculation, economic and financial crises and growing inequality call for a more critical take on the financial world. What role or function does emotionality hold for the construction and maintenance of such inequalities, and what are the emotional costs?

Emotions, Politics and the State. While emotions in various ways might be said to have always been foundational to political life, in recent years there has been an upsurge in work exploring the connections between emotions and politics. Yet, while great strides have been made in both the political sociology of emotions and political psychology to understand and explain the ‘politics-emotion nexus’, less attention has been paid to the relationships between emotions, the state, state power and legitimacy. In this session we seek papers that address any of these or other issues that relate to emotions, power and politics, broadly conceived, including those relating to post-conflict and post-traumatic societies.

Migration, Globalization and Emotions. Despite the prominence of the term globalization, emotions have not been particularly prominent in global analyses. The role of emotions in transnational and supranational organizations, international NGOs, transnational migrant communities and global networks of mobile professionals is understudied, as have the new layers globalization adds to the person’s emotional attachments, emotion regimes and cultures. What challenges and opportunities for individuals, groups and organizations these new layers cause?

Abstracts not exceeding 300 words should be sent by the **2nd of March 2018** to Jonathan at: rn11midterm17@gmail.com. Please indicate whether your abstract is for a specific session listed above. If you want to participate in the PhD student workshop, clearly indicate this in the

subject line of the email, and also send a short (one page) description of your doctoral research project. Notifications about the abstracts selected for presentation at the midterm conference will be made by the end of April 2018. Also conference fees, keynote speaker, and links to accommodation will be announced then.