



**Communities of Fear:
Interdisciplinary and Diachronic Perspectives
on the Social Practices of a Strong Emotion Around the Mediterranean**

Call for Papers for the
International Conference at the University of Amsterdam, Netherlands
29 September – 2 October 2023

Fear is an unpleasant and powerful emotion that has played a significant role in the development and transformation of societies, politics, religions, and cultures throughout history. As a social emotion, it shapes the relationship with other people and communities and may lead to forms of collective identity making and acts of collective discrimination or solidarity. It also plays an important role in evaluating the past, present, and future and is therefore closely linked to individual or collective forms of interpretation, expectation, and action. Moreover, politics and media often use fear as a powerful tool to manipulate communities or stimulate their commitment. Fear and its related emotions and affects are critical to understand how communities feel, think, and interact with each other in the past, present, and future.

Focusing on the Mediterranean and its connected areas, this interdisciplinary and diachronic conference explores fear at the crossroads of Africa, Asia, and Europe. It sheds light on affective economies and emotional communities and discusses social practices and political performances of a highly ambivalent emotion. By bringing together a wide variety of disciplines, including but not limited to history, law, comparative literature, and political sciences, this conference aims to reveal the complexity and ubiquity of fear in societies, politics, religions, and cultures. Moreover, the diachronic perspective helps us understand emotional continuities and transformations throughout history. Drawing on emotion studies and the affective turn, this conference seeks to offer a fresh and critical look at social encounters around the Mediterranean.

The conference invites contributions from the fields of social sciences and the humanities on fear as a social emotion in the Mediterranean and its connected areas throughout history.

Suggested topics include, but are not limited to:

- the role of fear in social movement and nation states;
- fear and its relationship to socio-political discrimination and/or solidarity;
- fear as an aspect of trauma, repression, and migration;
- the use of fear as a tool of power in politics and religion;
- the rhetoric of fear in media and the public sphere;
- the affective economy and cultural capital of fear;
- fear and the perception of law;
- fear as a philosophical, theological or cultural concept;
- fear as aesthetic experience in culture and art;
- fear and its related emotions such as anger, shame, and empathy;
- cross-cultural, transregional, and diachronic dimensions of fear;
- theoretical and methodological approaches to fear in social sciences and the humanities;
- ethical and epistemical challenges for empirical research on fear in hostile environments.

Please submit your abstract (200-350 words including references) and a short CV (100-150 words) **no later than 15 May 2023** to: k.m.klein@uva.nl.

The conference is planned to take place in person from 29 September – 2 October 2023 at the University of Amsterdam, Netherlands. The accommodation and travel costs of all participants will be covered. The conference will be realized and supported by the Arab-German Young Academy of Sciences and Humanities (AGYA). AGYA is funded by the German Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and various Arab and German cooperation partners. The conference is organized by AGYA members Mohammad Alwahaib (Kuwait), Luise Fischer (Leipzig), Ikram Hili (Sousse), Mujtaba Isani (Berlin), Christian Junge (Marburg), Lando Kirchmair (Munich), Konstantin Klein (Amsterdam), Anne-Marie McManus (Berlin), and Suhair Sunoqrot (Amman). If you have any inquiries, please do not hesitate to contact us: k.m.klein@uva.nl.

Please note: the conference takes place subject to the receipt of third-party funding.

SELECTED REFERENCES

Ahmed, Sara (2004): *The Cultural Politics of Emotion*. Edinburgh University Press.

Appadurai, Arjun (2004): *Fear of Small Numbers. Essay on the Geography of Anger*. Duke University Press.

Demmerling, Christoph; Landweer, Hilge (2007): *Philosophie der Gefühle. Von Achtung bis Zorn*. Metzler.

Laffan, Michael; Weiss, Max (2013): *Facing Fear. The History of an Emotion in Global Perspective*. Princeton University Press.

Protevi, John (2009): *Political Affect. Connecting the Social and the Somatic*. University of Minnesota Press.

About the Arab-German Young Academy of Sciences and Humanities (AGYA)

The Arab-German Young Academy of Sciences and Humanities (AGYA) is based at the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities (BBAW) in Germany and at the Academy of Scientific Research and Technology (ASRT) in Egypt. It was established in 2013 as the first bilateral young academy worldwide. AGYA promotes research cooperation among outstanding early-career researchers from all disciplines who are affiliated with a research institution in Germany or any Arab country. The academy supports the innovative research projects and collaborative initiatives of its members in various fields of research as well as in science policy and science communication. AGYA is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and various Arab and German cooperation partners.

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