

GFK-Fellow Dr. Anu Korhonen

Workshop on

Bodies and Emotions in Cultural History

Thursday, February 23, 2012
Zentrum Gesellschaftliche Verantwortung der EKHN
Albert-Schweitzer-Str. 113-115
55128 Mainz

How should we approach bodies and emotions in cultural history? Are bodies in history made of matter or language – are emotions constructed or found in the past? In this workshop, we will discuss what kinds of concepts and approaches we can use when working on the history of the body and emotions, and think about how we should read our sources to unveil past interpretations and experiences. We can also discuss the role of historians' bodies and emotions in their work: what should we do about the emotions our own research may invite, for example, and should they have some role in our writing?

The workshop will consist of papers (15-20 minutes) given by participants and joint discussion.

Please think about what role the body or emotions, or both, play in your work. Are you studying bodies and emotions, or are they relevant for your topic in some other way? Are you thinking that the concepts might be useful but find it hard to actually do it? Do you want to comment on theoretical approaches, methodological viewpoints, earlier historians' work or specific problems within the history of the body and emotions? Not only polished research papers but also more tentative "works in progress" are welcome.

Send a title and abstract (no more than 500 words) in English **both** to hkw@uni-mainz.de and to anu.korhonen@helsinki.fi by **January 15**.

As inspiration, we will read two articles, Joanna Bourke's "Fear and Anxiety: Writing about Emotion in Modern History", *History Workshop Journal* no. 55, 2003, pp. 111-133, and Caroline Walker Bynum's "Why All the Fuss about the Body? A Medievalist's Perspective", *Critical*

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Inquiry, vol. 22, no. 1, 1995, pp. 1-33. You kind find these attached as pdf files; please read them before the workshop.

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