

## **Workshop Title: Decolonizing Affective Attachments in Global Politics**

**Workshop Organisers: Dr Sara Tafakori, LSE and University of Edinburgh**

**Dr Sabiha Allouche, University of Exeter**

### **Call for Participants:**

This workshop proposal responds to what has been called 'an affective turn' in IR and global studies, through addressing the relative inattention to the politics of emotional attachments, both human and non-human, centred in the Global South. The workshop aims to explore the intersections of the affective with embodied, gendered, racialized, and classed subjectivities, geographies and histories in their relation to structures of power. It will host contributions which investigate the relation between the politics and cultures of emotions and affectivities in the global South, especially papers which address translocal and transnational positionalities and geographies.

The workshop frames emotions, both as practices and as aspects of individual and collective identity, as operating differentially across a range of racialized and gendered contexts. We are therefore interested in approaches toward global politics and IR which reflect on and problematise universalistic ideas around emotional attachments and contribute to the decolonising of affect studies. We encourage submissions which, for example, examine emotions across the human-non-human boundary and incorporate the human's multi-lateral relationships to the environment, the animal or the speculative. This workshop poses the overarching question: to what extent is the 'turn to affect' in IR predicated upon an orientation towards Western and Eurocentric epistemes? To put it another way, how far have the spatialities and temporalities of the Global South been excluded from affect and emotion studies?

We propose, then, that although the 'affective turn' has been discussed as a phenomenon across the humanities, social sciences and sciences for the past decade or more, more consistently intersectional and postcolonial interventions are needed. We encourage submissions which explore aspects of these and other problematics of affect, through bringing to bear a critical attention to issues of racialized and gendered inequality, and to questions of universality and particularity, as they are articulated at local, national and global levels.

Our confirmed discussants are:

- **Dr. Naomi Head**, Senior Lecturer in Politics at the School of Social & Political Sciences at the University of Glasgow
- **Dr. Awino Okech**, Learning and Teaching Director of the School of Interdisciplinary Studies and Chair of the Centre for Gender Studies at SOAS University of London

Our confirmed speakers and topics so far are:

**Dr Sabiha Allouche**, University of Exeter - Speculative Writing with a Purpose: Re-Telling the Drone

**Dr Sophie Chamas**, SOAS University of London - The Affective Infrastructure of Lebanese Sectarianism

**Dr Sara Salem**, LSE - Remembering as Affect: Haunting, Emotion and the Complexities of Anticolonialism in Egypt

**Dr Sara Tafakori**, LSE and University of Edinburgh - Historicising the Suffering Present: Iran Sanctions and Emotional Refuge

Each paper will typically be 15-20 minutes long, followed by 25 minutes' discussion. Please email your proposed abstract to: Dr Sara Tafakori, [S.Tafakori@lse.ac.uk](mailto:S.Tafakori@lse.ac.uk), Dr Sabiha Allouche, [S.Allouche@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:S.Allouche@exeter.ac.uk)