

CALL FOR PROPOSALS, 2026 EWIS, Izmir, 1-3 July

The production and circulation of emotions and affect in a fractured world

Convenors:

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In the last 20 years, there has been a boom in the research on emotions and affect in IR. From being neglected and invisible in mainstream IR, it has become a growing object of research about foreign policy, conflict, diplomacy, and institutions. Initially, scholars explored the role of emotions in political decision-making, especially in contexts framed as crisis, as well as its centrality in diplomacy. The literature also investigated how political leaders and the public emotionally react to political events, prompting constructivists to incorporate emotions into their analyses. More recently, studies have investigated how emotions structure and shape global identities and communities, conflicts, and everyday practices. This scholarship focuses on the norms governing emotional expressions in rituals, symbolic performances, and social practices, as well as their interplay with ontological (in)security. It also examines how emotions and affect mobilize security narratives, memories, myths and securitization practices to legitimize security policies, as well as its interaction with visual images and representations. Today, as the field acknowledges its ‘Emotional Turn’, many gaps remain. In 2024, EISA approved the creation of a Standing Group to push forward this scholarship. As part of this effort, this workshop intends to tackle questions such as: How does one define emotions and affect? Are they universal? How to best observe and study them? Are new methods needed? How do people affectively invest in – and contest – emotional discourses? How do emotions contribute (or not) to social change? What is the role of history and historical change in emotion research? How are emotions governed and how can they be historicized? In a fractured world, how do emotions and affect help us deal with uncertainties, anxieties and persistent crises? As dramatic events occur, evolve and escalate to unparalleled levels of disruption, how do emotions ground – or unground? – our being in a fractured time and world?

We expect and encourage abstracts on the following topics:

- The politics of and behind the production of emotions and the circulation of affect
- Affective experiences in and beyond the Global North
- The emotional underpinnings of authoritarian politics
- Emotions, affect and the production of ontological security/insecurity in times of polarization, migration, conflict and war
- Global, national and local affective communities: the role of gender, race, ethnicity, religion and other identity constructions
- Affect and emotions fueling resilience and solidarity in disruptive times

We encourage submissions from scholars of all career stages and from diverse origins and backgrounds who are consistently pursuing research about emotion and affect in IR.