



Society for the Study of Affect Summer School

Subjection/Cosmology/Authority/Realism

August 6 to 8, 2025 (Wednesday to Friday)

University of New Mexico, Albuquerque

affectsociety.com/scar

Seminar #3

Unsettled Attunements, Discombobulations, and Palimpsests of Feeling: Sensing SCAR(s)

Asilia Franklin-Phipps & Bretton Varga

Across pluriversal worlds, ways of seeing, listening, touching, and writing have been contaminated by prescriptive flows of power, moving in overdetermining and constraining loops that produce and affirm realities. Importantly, there is an urgency and ethicality to disturbing dominant frames of understanding and sensibility that engage with the realities of others, atmospheres, geographies, and more-than-human conditions—noticing anew. As scholars inside (and outside) of educational contexts, we believe that in order to collaboratively stage ruptures—working to cleave such logics—takes practice and (re)new(ed) mechanisms of meaning-making and structures of feeling. When such means are encountered, frontality is disrupted allowing for subtleties and seepings to accumulate, whisperings to become amplified, and textures to be felt. Here, we are primarily concerned with modalities of thinking sideways that are not entrenched in commitments to pin down meaning and knowledge.

This three-day seminar will use creative and syncopating techniques such as photography, walking, recording, poetry, and collage to undiscipline academic outputs and framings of knowledge that tend to be stringent, static, and inherited. Participants will attune and attend to minor gestures, the background, the forgotten,



the overlooked, the haunted, and that which remains in the cracks of material *and* theoretical debris. Scratching at the intersection(s) of the visual, sonic, and haptic, this gathering invites participants to pursue alternative mediating channels, intertwined and adjacent to the writerly, that can lead to unstuck movements and leanings with overlooked surroundings and milieus. Along with a daily focus on three different modes of thinking (visual, sonic, haptic), participants will create (fragmented) forms of writing/collaging we are referring to as *100+1s*—inspired by Lauren Berlant and Katie Stewart’s reverberating and experimental text, *The Hundreds*. It is our intention to then suture these enlivened outputs together to form a zine which can be scattered across collectives and communities.

FORMAT

We aspire to create a proliferating space that acknowledges and honors the myriad ways that the event—and all of its intensities—is felt, expressed, and becomes indelible. The summer seminar is structured around three sub-themes in relation to SCAR(s): visual sensing, sonic sensing, and haptic sensing to collectively and collaboratively re-sense, re-member, and re-encounter space toward expansive conceptualizations of embodied noticing.

DAY 1

Participants will be invited to walk, talk, and photograph—drawing attention to that which is often overlooked or backgrounded, but relevant to thinking (and feeling) across space and place. We will use the images taken to assist in (affectively) writing about the encounter to consider how attention can be alternatively shifted toward seeing/thinking otherwise.

DAY 2

Extending the creative work of photography, the second workshop of the seminar will foreground the generative capacity of sonic movements. How might we listen in alternative ways in order to grapple with arising tensions between more-than-human continuities and impasses? Participants will be prompted to listen intently to Albuquerque, layering sonic intensities onto the photos that were previously taken during the first gathering.



DAY 3

This final day of the workshop brings into focus haptic encounters comprising our movements in Albuquerque. What might our photos and sounds invite us to touch? What, throughout the dynamic flows of these collaborative efforts, continues to touch us? Our work will conclude with the cultivation of a temporary archive of feeling—a palimpsest—that takes its (nomadic) form as a zine. Participants will be invited to contribute recordings, musings, writings, images, and art to document shared experiences and attachments made and unmade during our time together.

Please note that participation will require participants to bring their own photography/recording device.

APPLICATION TO THE SEMINAR

To apply to take part in the seminar, please email a brief writing (250 to 300 words) that describes your interest and the intersection of your work (writing, art practice, etc.) with the thematic focus of the seminar. Please submit your application to hello@affectsociety.com no later than Sunday, June 1st, 2025.

BIOS

Asilia Franklin-Phipps is an Assistant Professor of Educational Studies with affiliate appointments in Art and Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Inspired by art, film, and popular culture, Asilia's work explores affect, pedagogy, race, gender, sexuality, and visual culture.

Bretton A. Varga is an Assistant Professor of History–Social Science at California State University, Chico. His research and approach to meaning-making are shaped by a commitment to cultivate hope, imagination, speculation, care, love, and justice across more-than-human contexts. In particular, his scholarship works with(in) critical posthuman theories of temporality, materiality, and feeling to unveil harmful structures, logics, and practices that perpetuate racial injustice and ecological precarity.



SEMINAR READINGS

- Akómoláfé, Bayo. (2018). 'When You Meet The Monster, Anoint Its Feet,' *Emergence Magazine*, 16 October. Available at: <https://emergencemagazine.org/essay/when-you-meet-the-monster/>.
- Berlant, Lauren & Stewart, Kathleen. (2019). *The Hundreds*. Durham: Duke University Press.
- Campt, T. (2021). *Black Gaze: Artists Changing How We See* (selections). Cambridge: MIT Press.
- Doughty, Karolina & Danielle Drozdewski. (2022). *Emotion, Space and Society* 42: pp.1-8.
- Macón, Cecilia. (2023). Haunting Voice: Affective Atmospheres as Transtemporal Contact. In *The Affect Theory Reader 2: Worldings Tensions Futures*, edited by Gregory J. Seigworth and Carolyn Pedwell. Durham: Duke University Press., pp.346-363.
- Manning, Erin. (2019). The Politics of Touch. Youtube [video]: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l7yQaicWD_M
- Manning, Erin. (2017). For a Pragmatics of the Useless, or the Value of the Infrathin. *Political Theory* 45, no. 1, pp. 97-115.
- Sharpe, Christina.(2023) *Ordinary Notes* (selections). New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux.
- Sharpe, Christina. (2016) *In the Wake: On Blackness and Being* (selections). Durham: Duke University Press.
- Shomura, Chad. (2021). Vital Impasse: Animacy Hierarchies, Irredeemability, and a Life Otherwise. *American Quarterly* 73, no. 4: pp. 835-855.



Stewart, Katherleen. (2007). *Ordinary Affects* (selections). Durham: Duke University Press.

Taylor, Paul C. (2016). *Black is Beautiful: A Philosophy of Black Aesthetics (Foundations of the Philosophy of the Arts)* (selections). London: Wiley-Blackwell.

Varga, Bretton A. & Franklin-Phipps, Asilia. (2025). Inquiring *Artlessly*: Encounter(ing)s with Monstrous Materialities and Ecological Pollutants. *Qualitative Inquiry*. Advanced online publication.
<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/10778004251316183>