



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

Affect and be affected at the second Society for the Study of Affect Summer School (SSASS). Co-hosted by the Society for the Study of Affect and Dr. Michael Lechuga at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque from August 6 to 8, this intimate summer school is an opportunity to think/learn/feel in community with some of the finest folks working in/around affect studies.

The Theme: #Scar

SCAR: 1) a mark left on a part of the body after an injury;
2) a sign of damage to a person's mental state;
3) a sign of physical destruction in a place

What stories do scars tell? Scars are often invisible or interior. But they're also jaggedly present as a mangled landscape or relation. Our personal and collective bodies bear the mark of scars from events—even generations—long-past. Sometimes a scar is fresh, tender to the touch. Can bodies be hailed by scars yet to come? By ever-present scarrings that assail us from all sides?

The scar—as activating concept and as lived reality—is a key animating figure for this summer school. The notion of 'scar' will be traced and anticipated across various zones of elaboration – through all manner of swerves and suturings—between these three summer seminars and closely associated activities.



These are increasingly perilous and unprecedented times. Virtually no body, no place, no word or action can be presumed as somehow safe from the accelerating authoritarian and fascist upheavals of the present (is it even possible to overdramatize this?). To call it a 'shit storm' already feels inadequate at capturing the horrors, the sheer cruelty, and the unfathomable stupidity of those controlling the levers of power that shape and misshape our contemporary world.

Who among us hasn't—who wouldn't—seek counter-positions and tools of one sort or another, seek shelter, cast spells, extend protections against the encroaching darkness? And yet many among us have been, and will be, very nearly erased, deemed beneath value and thus declared—executive ordered—object, abandoned, disposable, deportable, disappear-able, killable. For those already living their lives at the world-historical necropolitical margins, the existential questions being raised are not particularly new but certainly have scaled up in volume and voicing. What's real anymore? How many times a day can you say: "WTF? Can this truly be happening? Are 'they' going to get away with this?"

How can we wrap our arms, our minds, our collective capacities to navigate, to narrate, to move out in front of this roil in ways that transcend flat-footed reaction, shared numbness, and disorienting shock? What shifting textures and contours will resistance and counter-movements/counter-imaginings/cosmologies/alterworlds—already-and-yet-to-come—need to take? Where and when must we learn and unlearn our practices of sense-making? How might we [re]gain some sense of balance and of wonder, ignite potentials to connect, coordinate, and organize? These seminars will serve to acknowledge that there is no readymade, one-size-fits-all answers or approaches to undertake (were there ever?) *and yet* there is a palpable necessity to act both in-this-moment and, in more sustained ways, for the long haul.



We Will Explore

- The complex affectual choreographies of authoritarian movements—those currents of exaltation, grievance, and celebratory nationalisms that shape collective bodies and political formations: atmospheres, environmental sensations, individual and shared dissociations.
- The radical potential of wonder that fractures linear temporalities and opens onto cosmic horizons as well as the everyday continuous fracturings into an emergence of terror and opportunity, the awe-full nature of destruction and radical right deworlding.
- The profound ways the original peoples of New Mexico engage their affective ecologies, where sensing-with-land generates possibilities beyond settler-colonial epistemologies.
- The way that care practices—with attention to how the intimate scales of relationship might seed different futures—might join with wider forces (more-than-human) as trans-ecologies and cosmologies of abundance and wonder and serious mischief-making and . . . more.



Welcome from our host:

University of New Mexico's Dr. Michael Lechuga

The University of New Mexico's Department of Communication & Journalism is delighted to welcome you to our vibrant city, where deep cultural tradition intersects with future-facing innovation.

Albuquerque is uniquely positioned between the majestic Sandia Mountains and the historic Rio Grande. Our multicultural population contributes to a rich tapestry of traditions reflected in our architecture, cuisine, and arts, from the adobe buildings of Old Town to the contemporary galleries of Nob Hill. The city's cultural landmarks, including the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, which offers an authentic perspective on the history and living culture of New Mexico's 19 Pueblos. Albuquerque's blend of historic sites and natural beauty provides numerous opportunities for discovery.

The Department of Communication & Journalism at the University of New Mexico takes pride in serving as your host. Our campus, situated in the heart of Albuquerque, reflects the unique architectural style of our region while housing cutting-edge research facilities and vibrant learning spaces. We hope this summer school provides you with opportunities for meaningful connection, intellectual growth, and a deeper appreciation of our unique corner of the Southwest.