

Seminar: Professor Michael Orsini

Institute of Feminist and Gender Studies | School of Political Studies (University of Ottawa)

Can You Feel It?

On the Complex Role of Emotions and Affects in Policy Making

This presentation focuses on some of the contentious policy narratives that circulate around fatness and ‘obesity’, and explores how these are structured by intersections of race, class, disability, and gender. Drawing on interviews with researchers, policy makers and people living with ‘obesity’ or who self-identify as fat, I am interested in how different orderings of emotions – or “feeling rules” — help us to think about the ways in which emotions and affects are discursively managed in complex (and emotionally charged) policy environments. Moving beyond conventional approaches to policy analysis that privilege rationalist forms of inquiry, I ask how processes of meaning-making are influenced by the ways in which certain emotions are deployed in contexts where the policy interventions themselves involve stigmatized populations about whom particular emotions might be attached.

Brought to you by the Agencies of Kindness Research Hub and the Public Policy Institute

Friday 6 March — 12.30-2.30pm
Pat Hanan Room (207-501)

