



EMOTIONS OF THE FUTURE

Friday 22 November 2024

Room C122, 25WWC,
Arts Building C, 25 Wally's Walk
Macquarie University, Sydney

To think about the future is to attend to temporality. The future lies ahead and so the emotions that we might anticipate are those that speak to what is to come. The go-to future emotion is often hope. We hope for a better world. Hope is the emotion – sometimes cruel – that fuels our fantasies and drives our action. But hope is not the only emotion associated with what is to come. We might anticipate or expect; we may feel joyful or despair; we might fear or feel anxiety about the unknown. The future might bear down, loom, or intimidate, and we might respond with despondence or indeed hedonistic avoidance. The future might be invested in families, lineage and children, or learning and education, commitments to the future through our investments in the now.

What we feel when we consider the future reflects how we come to imagine it and so too opens up histories and stories of how we have chosen to envision what is to come. Many cultures have prophesied and predicted, each with their own emotional resonances. Writers, artists and scientists have produced utopic and dystopic accounts of tomorrow, and such world-building often brings with it an underlying ‘tone’ or ‘atmosphere’ that disciplines how those who live in such worlds should feel. Invention and creativity are often explained as much through references to feeling – curiosity, passion, inspiration – as to reason and hard work. Historians, sociologists, anthropologists and psychologists alike have sought to articulate how emotions have changed over time, and so to lay out imaginaries of what the emotional subject of the future might look like (or *should*). Educators and businesses promote ‘emotional intelligence’ as a skill to learn and so propose a future world that would benefit from such learning.

Thinking about the future that we want seems increasingly pressing in the contemporary world, not least as climate crisis, war, and evolving demographics raise uncertainty. This conference speaks to this theme and pursues the question of how thinking about emotions might help us better understand how we think about the future.

Conference organisers: Katie Barclay, Dianne Hall, Dolly MacKinnon, Una McIlvenna, Charlotte-Rose Millar

This event is the first in a series by the organisers that press us to consider the intersections of future, feeling, children, temporality, crisis and our imagined responses. Please look out for further information.





Emotions of the Future

Friday 22 November 2024

9:00AM - 9:30AM

Registration: Room C122

9:30AM - 11:00AM

Session 1

11:00AM - 11:30AM

Morning Tea: Room C122

11:30AM - 1:00PM

Session 2

1:00PM - 2:00PM

Lunch: Room C122
w/ 1:30PM Film Screening

2:00PM - 3:00PM

Plenary Panel

3:00PM - 3:10PM

Afternoon Break: Room C122

3:10PM - 5:00PM

Session 3

5:00PM - 5:15PM

Closing Remarks: Room C122

5:15PM

Wine Reception

Registration, Room C122, 9:00AM – 9:30AM

Session 1 9:30AM – 11:00AM

Panel 1A Building New Futures: Activist Emotions

Chair: Charlotte-Rose Millar

Michelle Arrow <i>Macquarie University</i>	'My handsome, kind, gentle, treasure of a son - and yours too': Anne Deveson, motherhood and mental health advocacy in late twentieth century Australia.
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Susan Broomhall <i>Australian Catholic University</i>	(Girl) Statues of Peace: Rethinking Past and Future Global Solidarity through Humanities and Feminist Approaches to the Emotions [ONLINE]
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Gabriela Silva Loureiro <i>University of Wollongong</i>	Emotions, feminist activism and the search for redemption
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Panel 1B Feeling Better

Chair: Una McIlvenna

Leanne Downing <i>RMIT University</i>	Over the Rainbow Bridge: Facebook and the quest for continuing spiritual bonds with deceased pets
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Regina Fabry <i>Macquarie University</i>	Imagining Digital Afterlives: Deathbots and the Future of Grief
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Chloe Green <i>Australian National University</i>	Feel Better Tomorrow: The Aspirational Temporality of Wellness in Claire Stanford's Happy For You
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Panel 1C Fearful Futures

Chair: Dianne Hall

Penelope Carpentier <i>Macquarie University</i>	Fear from the Past, Solidarity for the Future: Jewish Literature of the Third Century BCE
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Elisabeth Heijmans <i>University of Antwerp</i>	Merchant Future: Hopes and Fears in French Eighteenth Century Business Letters [ONLINE]
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Sanne Hermans <i>University of Antwerp</i>	Anchored in the Fatherland: Navigating Real Estate Decisions Amidst Exile and the Aspiration for Return (1585-1609) ONLINE
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Morning Tea, Room C122, 11:00AM - 11:30AM

Session 2 11:30AM – 1:00PM

Panel 2A Politics of Emotion

Chair: Charlotte-Rose Millar

Helen Young
Deakin University

The Emotions of Contemporary Christian Nationalism

Stefani Deligiannis
Australian Catholic University

Emotional Strategies in Italian Fascist Propaganda: a case study

Michael Hanaghan
Australian Catholic University

Fixing the Future: Sidonius Apollinaris' Panegyrics and the Politics of Hope

Panel 2B Hope, Ambivalence and Navigating an Insecure Future

Chair: Chloe Green

Ash Barnwell &
Signe Ravn
University of Melbourne

Hoping against hope: a sociological speculation

John Cash
University of Melbourne

The Future is Ambivalence: Ambivalence and Its competing resolutions.

Panel 2C Narratives of Distress

Chair: Una McIlvenna

Madeline Jenkins
Macquarie University

Exploring Unfamiliar Wor(l)ds: Emotions in Ancient Egyptian Texts and the Implications of Lexical Variation

Laura Jayne Wright
Newcastle University

Standing in a Storm: Anna Trapnel Endures the Apocalypse [ONLINE]

Emma Seal & Tom Short
*RMIT University &
University of SA*

Tomorrow's quiet before today's distress: recovery narratives and the diagnosis of BPD [ONLINE]

Lunch, Room C122, 1:00PM – 2:00PM

1:30PM Film Screening

Ceridwen Dovey

Screening of Moonrise and Memorabilia, two films from the Archival Futures of Outer Space quartet

Plenary Panel 2:00PM – 3:00PM

Emotions and the Future Plenary Panel

Speakers: Katie Barclay, Georgina Drew and Sandy Sullivan

Chair: Una McIlvenna

Session 3 3:10PM– 5:00PM

Panel 3A Ecological Future Feelings

Chair: Dianne Hall

Bronwen Neil <i>Macquarie University</i>	Accommodating positive and negative affect for the Pacific in a climate-changing future
Cissy Namuddu Settumba <i>Makerere University</i>	Climate Change: A Smart City From An African Perspective
Marilyn Stendera & Emily Hughes <i>University of Wollongong & University of York</i>	The depths of time and grief: Ecology, affect and the temporalities of loss
Elizabeth Hale <i>University of New England</i>	Slowly into the future: hope, urgency, caution and conservation in children's stories about turtles and tortoises

Panel 3B Feeling Forward

Chair: Charlotte-Rose Millar

Rachel Yuen- Collingridge <i>Macquarie University</i>	Prospective emotions in the Greco-Egyptian magical papyri
Claire Walker <i>University of Adelaide</i>	Suffering Adversity for the Future: Atmospheres and the Emotions of Death in Early Modern Convents
Una McIlvenna <i>Australian Catholic University</i>	What If The End Is Not Nigh? The Predictions of the 'Great Flood' of 1524
Kath Apma Penangke Travis <i>Victoria University</i>	Hope Is Procrastination, Healing Is Now A First Nations Perspective On The Future

Panel 3C Imagining Emotions

Chair: Helen Young

Stephanie Russo <i>Macquarie University</i>	Everything Comes to Pass Eventually: Fixing the Future in the Counterfactual Historical Novel
Michèle Plott <i>Suffolk University</i>	Manufacturing Feelings on TV: Viewing Practices, Hope, and Detachment as Emotion Management in the 2020s [ONLINE]
Leigh Boucher <i>Macquarie University</i>	HIV/AIDS in Sydney's Gaybourhood, Historical Catastrophe and the Presence of Joy and Humour

Closing Remarks 5:00PM

Wine Reception 5:15pm