



Emotions, environment, and climate: Affects and the environmental humanities

7,5 credits, 3rd cycle, Fall 2023

Teachers: Karin Dirke, Staffan Bergwik and Nina Wormbs

The course explores issues concerning sustainability through analysing the societal, political, and affective dimensions of the climate crisis. It combines two lively research strands within the humanities and social sciences, namely environmental humanities, and the affective turn. The goal is to give the students an orientation in present day academic discourse on the relations between environment, society, culture, and nature. A central aim is how questions on the structuring, managing, and storying of the climate issue come about through collective, social and cultural registers of emotion.

Tentative schedule, on site at KTH and SU:

Seminar 1: 10 November 12.30 - 14.30

Introduction: Emotion and affect in historical disciplines.

Seminar 2: 16 November 13-16

How have emotions been studied historically? Examples of classics.

Seminar 3: 22 November 10-12

Emotions in other species.

Seminar 4: 1 December 13-16

Extinction, emotions and biodiversity.

Seminar 5: 7 December 13-15

Doom.

Seminar 6: 15 December 13-16

Apathy, sympathy, empathy.

Seminar 7: 12 January 13-16

Discussion on case studies.

After completing the course, the student should be able to:

Orally and in writing discuss central concepts in history of emotions and environmental humanities and how they relate to each other. Analyse how emotions are excluded or included, articulated, and regulated in historical processes concerning climate and environment. Reflect on historical and contemporary uses of emotions in environmental and climate debates.

Teaching language: English

Grading: P/F

To apply for this course, send a short letter (½-1 page) to nina@kth.se reflecting on why you want to take the course. The number of participants will be limited. Further information will follow during the fall.