

Professor Pamela Sue Anderson, University of Oxford, UK,
Seminar for Philosophy and Women's Studies Postgraduates, as well as invited Professors, Post-
Docs and Undergraduates (weekly seminars kept attendance at 30-35).

Syllabus 2

Michaelmas¹ Term 2016: this seminar was convened for the first time ('dry run') Oct-Nov 2016
Michaelmas Term 2017 a revised seminar will take into account what was learnt from the above.

Enhancing (Affective) Life, II: Dialogue, *Philia* and Grievable Lives

Week 1	Affection, Dispossession and Transformative Experiences
Week 2	Becoming Undone in Grief
Week 3	Becoming Undone in Rage
Week 4	Becoming Undone in Life-threatening Illness
Week 5	Becoming Undone in Desire [alternatively, in 'Decoloniality']
Week 6	Life as dynamic in 'enhance-able' relations
Week 7	Love as <i>philia</i> : friendship, dialogue and transformation
Week 8	Gender, Transgender and Shame (and other affections)

This seminar focuses its weekly readings and discussions on 'affection', 'affects', 'becoming undone' and 'transformation'; I hope to demonstrate that these might be 'new concepts to live by'. In dialogue with a selection of philosophical and feminist texts the eight-weekly seminars will consider transformative experiences – such as becoming undone in grief, rage and desire; these experiences will be seen through the lens of affection, dispossession and the possibility of enhancing life. As convenor of this seminar, 'Enhancing Life, II', it should be noted that 'Enhancing Life, I' seminar is not a prerequisite for this seminar (or vice versa). The requirements for participation are to read assigned texts, and be prepared to discuss them, as well as be willing to consider examples of transformative experiences which might enhance our affective lives. I am not interested, strictly speaking, in either biological or medical enhancement. Instead my project aims to transform what, I suggest, is becoming increasingly problematic in our global world: that some lives are not grieved, or even grieve-able (as Judith Butler has shown). The problem is that these are lives which do not 'count' because they are not liveable; that is, they are not given the value of life as dynamic and relational. The task is to create 'liveable' lives; this means striving to persevere in existence, while allowing one another to be transformed creatively. Only, then, will we be capable of enhancing our lives relationally and materially.

Methodology: 'dialogue' with texts and participants in seminars. Required texts are scanned and put on a google drive (as done for the Enhancing Life, I, seminar).

Proposed readings (at this stage of planning):

¹ Michaelmas is the 'Fall' term at the University of Oxford, UK.

- Ahmed, Sara, *Wilful Subjects*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2014.
- Arendt, Hannah, *On the Origins of Totalitarianism*. New York, NY: Harcourt, Brace & Jovanovich, 1973.
- Arendt, Hannah, *The Human Condition*, second Edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2013.
- Butler, Judith, *The Psychic Life of Power*. Stanford University Press, 1997, 'Psychic Inceptions: Melancholy, Ambivalence, Rage', pp. 167-198, 213-215.
- Butler, Judith, *Frames of War: When Is Life Grievable?* London: Verso Books, 2009; 2016, especially 'Survivability, Vulnerability, Affect', pp. 33-62.
- Gregg, Melissa and Seigworth, Gregory J. (eds), *The Affect Theory Reader*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2010, especially:
 'Happy Object' by Sara Ahmed, pp. 29-51.
 'Writing Shame' by Elspeth Probyn, pp. 71-90
 'Desiring Recognition, Accumulating Affect' by Megan Watkins, pp. 269-285.
- Grosz, Elizabeth, *Becoming Undone: Darwinian Reflections on Life, Politics and Art*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2011.
- Harding, Sandra, *Objectivity and Diversity: Another Logic for Scientific Research*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2015: 'Must Science be Secular', pp. 127-149.
- Lovibond, Sabina, *Iris Murdoch, Gender and Philosophy*. London: Routledge, 2011.
- Meszaros Julia, *Selfless Love and Human Flourishing in Paul Tillich and Iris Murdoch*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016.
- Sedgwick, Eve Kosofsky and Frank, Adam (eds), 'Shame in the Cybernetic Fold: Reading Silvan Tomkins', in *Shame and Its Sisters: A Silvan Tomkins Reader*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 1995, Pp. 1-29.
- Still, Judith, *Derrida and Hospitality: Theory and Practice*. Edinburgh University Press, 2013; especially: '3 Friendship and sexual difference: hospitality from brotherhood to motherhood and beyond', pp. 93-142; and '5 The dangers of hospitality: the French state, cultural difference and gods', pp. 187-218.