

1. Género, feminismos e estudos sobre as mulheres

OC - (23144) - “RAGE WOULD BE MY FAVOURITE COLOUR” – A CREATIVE EXPLORATION OF THE EMOTIONAL EXPERIENCES OF FEMALE AND QUEER STAFF WORKING FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE IN UK PUBLIC HERITAGE

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As we reach boiling point in numerous social justice movements, questions over memory and culture likewise reach fever pitch. As institutions that hold a great deal of public memory, identity, creativity, belonging, and meeting, museums have become highly contested sites where patriarchal, white supremacist, cis-heteronormative, classist, and ableist oppressions are debated, sustained, and combatted. Drawing on my PhD, this presentation will explore the emotional experiences of UK female and queer museums and heritage staff performing social justice work. It will consider the gendered dimensions and relations around this labour and uplift workers' calls for fundamental shifts in power and priorities in public heritage. It will share the project's feminist framework and craft-based methodology – in-depth, feelings-focused, compassion-based interviews constructed around poppet-making – and discuss the project's findings, contextualised by feminist theory on labour and emotion. Through a creative, participant-led approach centring emotion, the project explores the rage, passion, drive, joy, playfulness, anxiety, fatigue, and solidarity of female and queer workers and how those feelings and their identities are embodied and negotiated in daily working life in both individual and organisational terms. In sharing this exploration, the presentation will shed light on the lived reality of how social justice work is done, supported, and impeded – and how it can be healthily enabled and empowered – in sites of culture and memory. The presentation will further share these workers' visions of alternative working cultures, reimagining the rationalist, hierarchical heritage institution as one of empathy, connection, fulfilment, and redress and orienting the sector towards care and activism in this time of crisis. The presentation will close with a short creative activity to demonstrate the PhD methodology and give conference participants a moment to reflect on their own emotional working life and wellbeing.

Palavras-chave : Museums, Public heritage, Organisational studies, Work studies, Emotion, Social justice activism