

Families are marked and made – and sometimes also unmade – by forceful feelings. In the public sphere, however, such feelings shared, or supposed to be shared, among family members have often been considered separate from or even dangerous to society at large, and even democracy itself. On the other hand, the family is frequently appealed to as the basic unit of society: In public discourse as well as political rhetoric, family sentiments are instrumentalized to install a familial sense of belonging and solidarity in members of a society while closing off those ‘who don’t belong’ to the tribe. Family feelings can thus be understood as a crucial factor in all community building enterprises, national and sub-national, personal and political, always navigating the nexus between the public and private sphere, or what Laurent Berlant referred to as “the intimate public sphere.”

In this two-day workshop we seek to examine such ‘family feelings,’ engaging with a set of guiding questions: What affective relations are constitutive for the closely-bonded unit of the (nuclear) family and how are they addressed in the creation of a ‘national family’? How is their role and significance changing in the context of recent movements towards alternative kinship practices, especially in connection to new biomedical technologies and increased awareness of sex-gender options? How do such constructions of kinship shape traditional, normative positions of mother- or fatherhood? Where do familial sentiments originate and how are they transformed from an “obligation to love into a loving disposition” (Bourdieu)? Is a sense of performativity not only common, but necessary for creating and upholding familial affective bonds, on a personal and a national level? How do family feelings shape and are shaped in turn by narratives of the family? And how do they make us rethink the distinction of the public and the private? We invite contributions from literary, media, and cultural studies as well as the social sciences that interrogate the ways in which doing family on various scales involves, above all, ongoing affective engagements.



www.sentimental.phil.fau.de
www.familymatters.uni-muenchen.de



PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY, 3 JULY 2024

VENUE: LYRIK-KABINETT (AMALIENSTR. 83A)

18.15 **Lesung und Gespräch mit Elisabeth Bronfen**
zu *Händler der Geheimnisse*

Moderation:
Franziska Stolz (LMU),
Sarah Miriam Pritz (FAU)

19.45 Catering & Drinks

THURSDAY, 4 JULY 2024

VENUE: SIEMENSSTIFTUNG
(SÜDLICHES SCHLOSSRONDELL 23)

09.15 Welcome & Introduction:
Heike Paul (FAU), Tobias Döring (LMU)

09.45 **KEYNOTE Elahe Haschemi Yekani**
(HU Berlin):
"Sentimental Digressions on Feeling, Family,
and Enslavement: Ignatius Sancho and
Laurence Sterne"
Chair: Felicitas Mayer (LMU)

11.00 Coffee

11.30 **Talking Theory:** an open discussion
Chair: Sophia Rohwetter (LMU),
Dennis Hennebühl (FAU)

12.30 Lunch

14.00 **PANEL I: Performing Loss**
Chair: Sarah Sosinski (LMU)

Dominic Timm (LMU): "They grow up so fast": Outgrowing the Family and Dreaming of an Empire in the Mariinsky's *Nutcracker*"

Hana Vrdoljak (FAU): "Dear Mama, they sentenced me to death": Black Motherhood and Prison Abolitionism in Hip Hop Culture"

15.15 Break

15.30 **PANEL II: Public Management of Family Feelings**
Chair: Isabel Jacobs (LMU)

Ekaterina Kolevatova (LMU): "Not as a son, but as a pioneer"? The Image of an Ideal Family in Children's Theatre of Late Stalinism"

Katharina Gerund (FAU): "Married to the Military: Military Spouses in Post-9/11 U.S. Literature"

16.45 Coffee

17.15 **KEYNOTE Rebecca Wanzo** (St Louis):
"Abortion Temporalities and Sentimental Constructions of the Fetus and the Mother"
Chair: Andrew Wildermuth (FAU)

20.00 Dinner / Mariandl:
Café am Beethovenplatz (Goethestr. 51)

FRIDAY, 5 JULY 2024

VENUE: SIEMENSSTIFTUNG
(SÜDLICHES SCHLOSSRONDELL 23)

09.15 **PANEL III: Framing Feelings across Media**
Chair: Sonja Trurnit (LMU)

Isabel Kalous (FAU): "Save the World – Save the Family: Environmental Crisis and Family Matters in American Anthropocene Fiction"

Karen Oostenbrink (LMU): "Breaking the (white) frame: Family Photography in Jamaica Kincaid's *Annie John* and *Lucy*"

Elsa-Margareta Venzmer (FAU): "Feelings in Frames: Evolving Gender Portrayals in Animated Family Sitcoms"

11.15 Coffee

11.45 **KEYNOTE Elisabeth Bronfen** (Zurich):
"The Family and its Discontents:
Douglas Sirk's Late Melodramas"
Chair: Louis Breitsohl (LMU)

13.00 Lunch