

Gendered Anger Work in Progress Workshop Proposal

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In the wake of the #MeToo era there is a growing body of work around the theme of female rage and anger. I examine the gendered differences in representing negative emotions, especially anger and rage, in media. I start with traditional binary gender stereotypes regarding the perception of emotion prescribed to man and women. For example: man showing emotions are considered to be weak, whereas being angry and raging is considered part of a strong masculinity. On the other hand, women are associated with 'softer' emotional expressions - they are allowed to cry and weep, but not to be openly raging. There are experiments that show that the same expression on a baby face will be interpreted differently depending on the information given about the gender of the baby.

Moreover, the representation of gendered rage is even more complex in the intersectional matrix race, class or nationality. Soraya Chemaly points at these intersections: "While we experience anger internally, it is mediated culturally and externally by other people's expectations and social prohibitions. [...] So, for example, in some cultures anger is a way to vent frustration, but in others it is more for exerting authority. In the United States, anger in white men is often portrayed as justifiable and patriotic, but in black men, as criminality; and in black women, as threat."

In this collaborative experimentation, I would like to work with the participants on a shared digital whiteboard and invite gestures of the hand-made feminist film making. We will look at a specific sequence and using the tools given by the digital whiteboard we will annotate, scribble, visualize or emphasize elements in the context of the representation of female rage. We will develop together a creative-critical response to the sequence. The workshop experiment is based on my work in progress visualization project which creates visual annotation to various film sequences depicting emotionally charged dialogues between heterosexual pairs in a domestic situation.

Link to the visual materials:

<https://ruszevportfolio.cargo.site/Gendered-Anger>

References:

Chemaly, Soraya. *Rage Becomes Her: The Power of Women's Anger*. Atria Books, 2018.

Plant, Ashby & Hyde, Janet & Keltner, Dacher & Devine, Patricia. (2000). The Gender Stereotyping of Emotions. *Psychology of Women Quarterly*. 24. 81 - 92. 10.1111/j.1471-6402.2000.tb01024.x.