

Seminar Series 2024-2025

Emotional Grammars
of Globalization

Mediterranean Emotions



MEEM

A Global Research Hotspot



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**History as it
Actually *Seemed*:
Theorizing Lived
Experience**

**27 February 2025
17.00-19.00**

**University of Florence
Via San Gallo 10
Aula Parva**

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SOCIETY FOR THE
**HISTORY of
EMOTIONS**





ABSTRACT

How reality is perceived by humans is situated and contingent and mutable. Meaning is derived, shared, confirmed and reproduced in the interrelation of subjectivity, intersubjectivity and collectivity. An assessment of relative authenticity is found in this dynamic relation: references to ‘my lived experience’ or *my truth* are perforce appeals to those who will validate it as *the* truth. It is such a consensus, collectively formed and intersubjectively maintained, that underscores and underwrites the situated perception or reality. This is framed, delimited, defined, and scripted by a context that is in turn haunted by agencies of power and authority and by the legacies they leave: logics, technologies, systematic limitations and institutionalised conceits. Ultimately, people act on the basis of what their reality *seems* to be. This amounts to something like an historical lived-experience theory of social practice and power: history not *wie es eigentlich gewesen ist* – how it actually was – but history *wie es eigentlich erschienen ist* – how it actually seemed.

THE SPEAKER

Rob Boddice is Senior Research Fellow at the Research Council of Finland Centre of Excellence in the History of Experiences (HEX), Tampere University and Adjunct Professor in the Department of Social Studies of Medicine at McGill University. He has previously held positions at Bard College Berlin, Harvard University, the Max Planck Institute for Human Development, and Freie Universität Berlin.

Dr Boddice is chiefly known as an historian of emotions, experience, science and medicine, with special interests in pain, medical experimentation, and interdisciplinary engagement. He is the author or editor of 14 books of historical non-fiction, as well as dozens of articles, book chapters, and reviews. He published the monograph *Emotion, Sense, Experience* (Cambridge) in 2020, together with Mark Smith, and the second edition of *The History of Emotions* (Manchester) in 2024. His latest book, *The Power of Belief: Why the History and Science of the Placebo Effect Matters to Modern Medicine*, is forthcoming with Reaktion Books.