The cognitive and social sciences are rediscovering the emotions, as a component of deliberation and agency. We act because we are moved. This does not come as a surprise to readers of classical texts. The Ancients could not think of decision-making processes, especially in political circumstances, without including the passions among their causes. Early modern philosophers thought so as well. Passions are actions. Passions are reasons.

From Homer to Aristotle, and again for Niccoló Machiavelli or Thomas Hobbes, human characters enact their most intense feelings in words. Feeling is thinking, often aloud. This occurs not only when *eros* is involved, but when power, authority, and recognition are at stake. The experience of social relations is felt as either gratifying or humiliating, either exhilarating or mortifying. Egalitarian democracy too, by redistributing political agency, reconfigures its emotional experience. Politics is the place where the pleasures and pains derived from recognition, authority, and government find their ultimate expression: patriotic love, anger, or outrage.

This conference, organized by Professor Giulia Sissa (Political Science and Classics, UCLA) will address classical theories in philosophy, tragedy, or literature, and their reception in early-modern culture. It will focus on the cognitive nature of emotions and passions, and their effectiveness for action and deliberation.

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This conference is presented in conjunction with “Life! Motions Motives Emotions,” a conference on the emotional turn in the Humanities and the Social Sciences. For information about all the events visit http://lifeconference2011.wordpress.com
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2011

9:00-10:30 PLENARY SESSION: STATES ON STAGE
ROYCE 314, UCLA

Giulia Sissa (UCLA), moderator
8:30 Registration, Coffee
9:00 Welcoming Remarks
Massimo Ciavolella, CMRS interim Director
Giulia Sissa, Conference Organizer and President, Network of Italian Scholars Abroad (NiSA)
9:15 Davide Susanne (Padova), “Outrage and Political Crisis”
9:45 Pietro Pucci (Cornell University and NiSA), “From Philosophy to Rhetoric to Questionable Political Action”
10:15 Discussion
10:30 Break

11:00-1:00 SIMULTANEOUS SESSIONS
ROYCE 314, EROS, EGOS
Moderator to be announced.
11:00 Paolo Fasoli (Hunter College & NiSA), “Movere et delectare on the Libertine Rhetorical Scene”
11:30 Matteo Soranzo (McGill University & NiSA), “(Re)constructing the Elegiac Self in Aragonese Napels”
12:00 Shane Butler (UCLA), “De profundis”
12:30 Discussion

BUNCHE 4276, EPISTEMOLOGY
Libby Barringer (UCLA), moderator
11:00 Joshua Dienstag (UCLA), “Interpretation, Language, and Power”
11:30 Edoardo Zamuner (La Trobe University, Melbourne, & NiSA), “The Metaphysics of Emotions”
12:00 Andrea Borghini (College of the Holy Cross & NiSA), “I am, therefore I eat.”
12:30 Discussion

1:00-2:30 LUNCH
ROYCE 306

2:30-4:30 SIMULTANEOUS SESSIONS

ROYCE 314, POLITICAL PASSIONS
Moderator to be announced.
3:00 Megan Gallagher (UCLA), “Republican Passions in Cicero and Machiavelli”
4:00 Claudia Zatta (Northwestern University & NiSA), “Beyond Aristotle: Webs of Emotions in Tragedy”

BUNCHE 4276, EMOTIONAL COMMUNITIES: DOINGS & UNDOINGS
Allthea Sirca (UCLA), moderator
3:00 Gaetana Marrone (Princeton & NiSA) “Passionate Identities and Spectacular Politics in Diario napoletano”
3:30 Damian Stocking (Occidental College), “Being as Soul, Being as Hole”
4:00 Vincenzo Pascale (Rutgers University & NiSA), “Pirandello and the Crisis of Political Participation”

ROYCE 334C, AESTHETIC EXPERIENCES
Rebekah Sterling (UCLA), moderator
2:30 Andrea Fedi (SUNY Stony Brook & NiSA), “The Vertiginous Delights of Speed: Emotions in Movement at the Dawn of Automobilism (1900-1910)”
3:00 Davide Panagia (Trent University & NiSA), “Ten Theses for an Aesthetics of Politics”
3:30 Marcello Neri (Graft & NiSA), “Emotions in a Visible Space”
4:00 Maurizia Boscagli (UC Santa Barbara & NiSA), “The Aesthetics and Politics of Affect”

ROYCE 342, GENDERED PASSIONS
Heather Sottong (UCLA), moderator
2:30 Ombretta Frau (Mount Holyoke College & NiSA), “A Tale of Repressed Passions: Women and the Art of Silence”
3:00 Cristina Gragnani (Temple University & NiSA), “Se ci commuove ha vinto: the Role of the Emotions in the (Literary) Campaign for a Divorce Law (1902)”
3:30 Andrea Baldi (Rutgers University & NiSA), “Anna Maria Ortese’s Unsettling Encounters with Marginality”
4:00 Discussion

4:30-4:45 COFFEE
ROYCE 314

4:45-6:30 PLENARY SESSION: PATHOS IN THE POLIS
ROYCE 314

Victoria Kahn (UC Berkeley), moderator
4:45 Peter Stacey (UCLA), “Seneca and Anger”
5:15 Giulia Sissa (UCLA), “Politics of Pleasure from Athens to Utopia”

The Calumny of Apelles, Sandro Botticelli (1494)