

International Centre for Research in Events, Tourism and Hospitality

ICRETH Assembly



ICRETH Visiting Scholar Associate Professor *Jennie Germann Molz*

6th March 2019, 12.00 – 13.30 Macaulay Hall G10

Feeling Global: Mapping the Emotional Geographies of Family Travel

In this talk, I respond to calls for tourism scholars to pay more attention to the role of emotion by asking what it feels like for families to travel the world together. I begin by presenting findings from my research on the emerging phenomenon of worldschooling. Worldschooling is an alternative lifestyle practice in which families take their children out of conventional school settings and educate them while traveling the world. As I spent time with worldschoolers, and as a worldschooling parent myself, I became attuned to children's emotional ups and downs, to the emotional labor parents do on the road, and to the kinds of emotional competencies parents hope their children will develop in their quest to become global citizens. At the same time, I became aware that these specific emotional practices were a response to the more generalized mood of late modernity, a mixture of melancholy, exhilaration, and anxiety that sociologists Anthony Elliott and Charles Lemert have diagnosed as the "emotional consequences of globalization." In my analysis, I propose the concept of "feeling global" to think through and problematize these emotional contours of worldschoolers' lives. I then use this analysis as a jumping off point to consider how a focus on emotion and affect can expand our understanding of mobile encounters and experiences. In the remainder of the talk, I contribute to efforts to establish a critical research agenda in tourism and hospitality studies that takes emotion and affect seriously.

Bio:

Jennie Germann Molz is a sociologist at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts where she teaches courses on social theory, travel and tourism, global citizenship, and emotion. She completed her PhD in Sociology at Lancaster University, where she subsequently held a postdoctoral fellowship in the Centre for Mobilities Research. Since then, Jennie has been interested in questions of identity, belonging, and ethics in the context of mobile togetherness and has conducted research on round-the-world backpackers, travel blogging, food mobilities, network hospitality and the sharing economy, family voluntourism, and worldschooling. She is a former Fulbright scholar, a co-editor of the journal Hospitality & Society, and the author or co-author of several books, chapters, and journal articles on tourism, hospitality, and cosmopolitanism, such as the research monograph "[Travel Connections Tourism, Technology and Togetherness in a Mobile World](#)".

Working lunch will be provided.



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